



**FLORIDA
COUNCIL**
for Community Mental Health

ADVOCATES FOR QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH,
ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE SERVICES

October 27, 2017

Trey Price, Executive Director
Florida Housing Finance Corporation
227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Price:

As a member of the board of the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition (FSHC) and on behalf of the Florida Council for Community Mental Health, I want to express support for the policy and funding recommendations submitted to you by the FSHC on October 23rd.

Permanent supportive housing is a critical component of an effective system of care for persons with behavioral health needs – both severe mental illness and substance use disorders. Without permanent supportive housing, the prospect of long term recovery and independence for persons with behavioral health disorders is significantly diminished. Considering the financial, emotional and social investment involved in helping a person into recovery, it is tragic when that good work is undone because supportive housing is not available.

Just this week, during a Senate hearing on the Opioid Epidemic in Florida, members of the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee acknowledged the importance of supportive housing for individuals recovering from opioid addiction, noting that without an affordable and supportive place to live, the people who receive services for opioid use disorder will likely become homeless and relapse back into addiction.

We thank you in advance for your support of the FSHC's recommendations and we offer our assistance as you consider addressing the housing needs of persons with severe mental illness and substance use disorders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie Brown-Wofter".

Melanie Brown-Wofter
Interim President and CEO