

# Housing Stability for Homeless Schoolchildren Initiative

## Request for Qualifications Workshop

- Bill Aldinger, Director of Policy and Special Programs
- Elaine Roberts, Policy Administrator
- Zach Summerlin, Assistant Policy Director & Supportive Housing Coordinator

# Agenda

- Introduction to Florida Housing
- Housing Stability for Homeless Schoolchildren Initiative Overview
- Initiative Partnerships
- Targeted Geographic Area
- Eligible Participating Households
- Services to be Provided
- Partnership Roles and Responsibilities
- Anticipated Timelines
- Additional Information
- Questions

# Introduction to Florida Housing

- Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) is a public corporation of the State of Florida.
- Florida Housing administers the governmental function of financing or refinancing housing, which includes federal and state resources. This consists of the state affordable housing trust fund and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for the development of multifamily rental housing.
- Florida Housing is not a department of the executive branch of state government, but is an instrumentality of the State. Our responsibilities are described in Chapter 420, Florida Statutes.

# The Housing Stability for Homeless Schoolchildren (Initiative) Overview

- Florida Housing provides Federal HOME funds for rental assistance to small counties and/or rural areas through the competitive Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process.
- The Initiative assists families defined as “homeless” under the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program to obtain suitable rental housing by the provision of Federal HOME funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and support services.
- The Initiative is an expansion on Florida Housing’s TBRA demonstration pilots in Santa Rosa and Hernando counties, and from the 2020 RFQ that selected partnerships in Alachua, Bay, and Charlotte counties.
- Florida Housing expects to allocate and authorize the use of up to \$500,000 in Federal HOME TBRA funds for no more than 24 months each for up to three Respondents.
- A Respondent is the formal partnership of entities as described in the RFQ.

# Initiative Partnerships

- The Respondent of the RFQ will be a formalized partnership between the following entities:
  - The School District Homeless Education Program that provides services to schoolchildren under the McKinney-Vento Program;
  - The Public Housing Authority (PHA) that serves the targeted geographic area; and
  - A Nonprofit Community-Based Service Organization that is qualified to provide case management and supportive services to participating families in the targeted geographic area.
- Responses to the RFQ must include signed copies of the provided Memorandum of Agreement among the following:
  - County School District: signed by the Superintendent
  - Public Housing Authority: signed by the Executive Director
  - Nonprofit Community-Based Services Organization: signed by the Executive Director

# Targeted Geographic Area

- Small counties and rural communities tend to have fewer housing resources and/or options than larger, more populated communities.
- The geographic areas targeted by the RFQ include counties with populations up to 400,000.
- Florida Housing may set a preference for at least one qualifying county with a population that does not exceed 250,000.

# Eligible Participating Households

Eligible households must have schoolchildren that meet McKinney-Vento definition:

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelter; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.

# Services to be Provided

- Services to be provided in connection with the RFQ must include the following:
  - Identification of families with homeless schoolchildren by the School District's McKinney-Vento Program to participate in the Initiative;
  - Assessment of selected families to determine interest and capacity to participate in the Initiative;
  - Preparation and execution of participation agreements for the selected families;
  - Provision of support and case management for school-aged children participating in the Initiative;
  - Provision of support and case management for adult family members participating in the Initiative; and
  - Administration of TBRA and security deposits for families participating in the Initiative.
- Respondent answers to the submission requirements will be evaluated based on the experience and strength of the partnership.

# Partnership Roles & Responsibilities: School District

- Develop written household selection criteria based upon qualifying income and homeless household criteria;
- Build and maintain a pool of households for participation in the Initiative;
- Discuss the general parameters of the Initiative with families and prepare and sign a School District participation agreement with the selected families outlining the expectations of the Initiative and subsequent school requirements;
- Refer selected families to the Nonprofit Community-Based Organization for preparation of documents regarding Initiative participation; and
- Provide supports and case management for school-aged children participating in the Initiative.

# Partnership Roles & Responsibilities: Nonprofit Community-Based Organization

- Collect eligibility documentation for families, such as proof of income, and other relevant documentation;
- Provide case management support for the adults in the family, including post-move in period for the duration of the Initiative;
- Implement the housing stability plan as described in the RFQ;
- Conduct an initial home visit after the family is housed, and conduct at least quarterly home visits during the duration of the Initiative;
- Assist the School District and PHA as needed to identify, assess and address the housing stability needs of the households pre- and post-housing;
- Prepare and submit the following documentation to the PHA: school district agreement; proof of income; documentation of public assistance; and copies of photo ID, social security cards and birth certificates for all members of the family; and
- Conduct a Proof of Clerk of Court Public Records search.

# Partnership Roles & Responsibilities: Public Housing Authority

- Enter into a separate agreement with Florida Housing to locate and assist low-income households experiencing homelessness within the targeted geographic area in accordance with the HOME Program regulations (24 CFR, Part 92) and the Agreement with Florida Housing (allowable administrative costs will be outlined in this Agreement);
- Assist in the income certification and eligibility determination for participating households that have been referred;
- Pay the applicable deposits and TBRA subsidy through a contract with the local property owner; and
- Provide information on the available housing stock in the targeted geographic area that is available and ready for occupancy for participating households.

# Anticipated Timelines

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>
RFQ publishes on Florida Housing website	March 30, 2021
Deadline for Inquiries	April 14, 2021 at 2:00pm
Florida Housing Response to Inquiries	April 21, 2021 at 5:00pm
RFQ Responses Due	May 20, 2021 at 2:00pm
Review Committee Meeting	June 3, 2021 at 2:30pm
Recommendation to Florida Housing Board of Directors	June 18, 2021
Post Notice of Award	June 21, 2021

# Additional Information



<https://www.floridahousing.org/programs/special-programs/special-needs-housing-overview>

# Questions

For specific questions please contact:

Elaine Roberts, Policy Administrator

[Elaine.Roberts@floridahousing.org](mailto:Elaine.Roberts@floridahousing.org)