



Florida Supportive Housing Coalition

P.O. Box 11242 • Tallahassee, Florida 32302 • www.fshc.org

January 14, 2022

Florida Housing Finance Corporation
c/o Zach Summerlin
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: HOME – ARP Allocation Plan public comments

Dear Mr. Summerlin,

Thank you for Florida Housing Finance Corporation's ongoing efforts to solicit public input into the development of its strategies for deploying resources. Please accept the following comments from the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition related to Florida's HOME – ARP plan.

First, we strongly support the draft plan's focus on the Development of Affordable Rental Housing. There is a dire need for affordable housing throughout Florida. Once the plan is adopted and it is time to develop specific strategies for deploying the resources, the Coalition recommends Florida Housing target a portion of the resources to the development of Permanent Supportive Housing for special needs and homeless populations.

Second, we support Florida Housing's proposal to utilize \$5,000,000 for Tenant Based Rental Assistance. Once the plan is adopted and it is time to deploy the resources, we encourage Florida Housing to prioritize non-participating jurisdictions where there is limited capacity to develop new units of housing.

Third, we recommend you utilize \$2,500,000 for Nonprofit Capacity Building. The Florida Supportive Housing Coalition has conducted numerous community convenings throughout Florida to assist localities in creating strategies to develop Permanent Supportive Housing. Universally, one of the greatest challenges faced by local communities is the lack of capacity to develop the housing. The HOME-ARP resources are a one-time infusion of funds that can be used to address a long-standing challenge faced by communities throughout Florida; a challenge Florida Housing has repeatedly lamented. We encourage you to include Nonprofit Capacity Development, as it will have a long-lasting systemic impact on Florida's nonprofit affordable housing development sector.

Fourth, we encourage you to utilize a portion of the resources for Supportive Services. Existing resources that fund supportive services do not meet the needs of all eligible households. Developing the strategy to deploy these resources is an opportunity to bring sharp focus on how Florida can improve collaboration amongst state agencies in integrating and aligning housing and services resources in the most effective and efficient manner. Thank you for this opportunity to comment and participate in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Olga Golik, Esq.
Board Chair