

Teri Johnston  
Mayor



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## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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January 6, 2022  
Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
227 N. Bronough Street #5000  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Attn: Zach Summerlin

Subject: Proposed use of HOME-ARP Funds

Dear Mr. Summerlin:

Monroe County is a small county in need of homeless housing development. In last year's Homeless RFA (2022-103), Monroe County was not allowed to apply. Therefore, we request that you consider allowing for the use of HOME-ARP alone OR with the use of Housing Credits and/or SAIL Financing in Monroe County.

One of the most challenging issues that Monroe County faces is the lack of affordable and workforce housing. This problem is due to the quadruple impact of high land values; land limited by geographic and environmental features; a tourism economy with a prevalence of lower paying, service-sector employment; and a limited housing supply. This lack of low-income affordable housing is broadening the gap for marginalized income households facing homelessness or households who have become homeless.

The chart below shows the results of the Point in Time (PIT) count performed by the Monroe County Homeless Continuum of Care (MC-CoC) for Monroe County from 2013 – 2018. Due to COVID-19, a PIT count by the MC-CoC wasn't conducted for years 2019 and 2020. However, a shelter count was conducted for the City of Key West.

Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
126	99	212	437

Non-profit agencies that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and supportive permanent housing programs are at capacity.

The City of Key West, along with two other housing providers (A.H. of Monroe County Inc. and Florida Keys Outreach Coalition) who currently own and operate transitional and permanent supportive housing in the city are working together to build a facility to address homeless individuals and households with

- Disabling Conditions
- Receiving SSI/SSD Benefits
- Mental Illness
- Youth transitioning out of foster care
- Survivors of domestic violence

This facility will represent a sustainable economic development and community revitalization project that provides access to resources for 195 individuals in need of a transitional housing program, including counseling for mental health and substance abuse, job training and community engagement. With this kind of continual support, the facility will provide 40 permanent housing units to transition individuals and families to a permanent housing unit and pathways to affordable housing. The City of Key West respectfully requests FHFC include in the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan financing for new construction of homeless housing.

Sincerely,

Teri Johnston  
Mayor of Key West