# **Questions and Answers from the Housing Stability for Homeless Schoolchildren Webinar**

**Q: What is available for counties with populations greater than 400,000?**

**A:** Florida Housing has found that resources are more limited and less readily available in smaller and more rural communities. Therefore, Florida Housing has chosen to invest resources committed to this Initiative in counties with populations below 400,000.

Many entitlement communities receive a direct HOME allocation from HUD which is eligible to be used in a similar manner should the local government choose to do so.

**Q: It appears that funding is available to those who are experiencing homelessness-especially the students and families; however, navigating and securing the funding for those who are in need is challenging. How can we streamline the funding for these families?**

**A:** Streamlining this process may look different in each community based on the resources that are available. The efforts of this Initiative are designed to be a true community-wide partnership, so a diverse group of stakeholders who can help with this coordination is important. Within the local partnership, the Nonprofit Community-Based Organization (Case Management Provider) will serve this function for participating families.

**Q: Are families who score Permanent Supportive Housing on the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index-Services Prioritization Decision and Assessment Tool) eligible for the program?**

**A:** The School District establishes the eligibility criteria for participating families. PSH scoring families may be eligible, however other considerations should be discussed with the local partnership and the homelessness Continuum of Care to ensure that this resource does not disqualify a family from later accessing PSH.

**Q: Will utility deposits be an eligible cost?**

**A:** Yes, utility deposits are an eligible cost should the local partnership choose to prioritize that. This would reduce the funds available for rental assistance.

**Q: Do you have a count of eligible counties that fall below the population threshold AND have a countywide PHA?**

**A:** Yes. See spreadsheet available on the Special Needs page and the RFQ page.

**Q: So, a PHA that covers the entire county with the exception of one city would be ineligible to apply?**

**A:** The intent of this program is to serve homeless schoolchildren throughout the School District.

Section 421.11(2), Florida Statutes, allows PHAs to enter interlocal agreements with respect to projects or programs located within the county, thus making counties with multiple PHAs eligible to participate.