



March 26, 2013

Mr. Steve Auger, Executive Director
Florida Housing Finance Corporation
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Mr. Auger:

In the comments sent to FHFC by the Florida Housing Coalition and 1000 Friends of Florida in May of 2012, we provided a great many comments in regard to the need to balance the playing field for nonprofit developers in Florida. The bulk of our comments were in regard to ways in which the Universal Application could be modified to this end. At that time the RFP with was authorized pursuant to SB 1996 for 10% of the allocation to be used for high-priority affordable housing projects for veterans and their families and other special needs populations was not being addressed by the FHFC, but we did provide the following comment:

FHFC should use this RFP process to fund nonprofit projects that combine housing with support services that include employment for special needs populations and veterans who would otherwise be homeless.

We also recommended that FHFC should set a goal to fund developments in rural areas (developments that are at a disadvantage in the UA) that meet the threshold requirements of the RFP, and that the developments should be predominantly for the special needs or veteran populations.

Now that FHFC is preparing to issue the RFP, I would like to reiterate those comments and stress that the RFP intended to serve special needs populations should either be limited to mission based nonprofits with experience in providing special needs housing or provide a substantial preference for such nonprofits.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaimie Ross".

Jaimie Ross
Affordable Housing Director

