

3225 Aviation Ave. Suite 602 Coconut Grove, FL 33133 Tel: 305.860.8188 Fax: 305.856.1475 www.htgf.com

September 21, 2017

Florida Housing Finance Corporation 227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000 Tallahassee, FL 32301

RE: RFA 2017-111 - "Funding Goals" - Hurricane Relief

Dear Mr. Price,

On Sunday, September 10, 2017, Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida as a Category 4 storm causing widespread destruction throughout dozens of counties across the state. Thirty-seven (37) counties in total were designated for Individual Assistance by FEMA. Florida's west coast counties were more directly affected by the eye-wall of the storm, including Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Pasco, and Citrus County (see "Exhibit A"). Housing Trust Group recommends that the Corporation considers implementing a funding goal or preference for these west coast counties that were more directly affected by Hurricane Irma.

"Irma is expected to cost over \$50 billion dollars for Florida." <sup>2</sup> This storm affected millions of Floridians who continue to deal with no food, power, and in some instances, homes. This is the opportune time as professionals who have the means and necessary resources to provide safe affordable housing to these residents who may have been displaced or affected by the storm.

If the Corporation deems it necessary or advisable to have funding goals in RFA 2017-111, we ask that the Corporation consider the addition or preference of a funding goal for these west coast counties that were directly impacted by Hurricane Irma.

Respectfully submitted,

Housing Trust Group, LLC, a Florida limited liability company

By:

Matthew Rieger, Manager

 $<sup>^{1}\,\</sup>underline{\text{https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2017/09/13/twenty-one-additional-florida-counties-designated-individual-assistance}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.aol.com/article/news/2017/09/13/the-actual-cost-of-hurricane-irma-may-surprise-you/23207848/

## Exhibit A

