

From: Drew Warren <drew@hopeofbrevard.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 10:41 AM
To: Marisa Button
Cc: Megan Howard; Teresa Kline; Steph; 'Stan Fitterman'
Subject: RFA 104 Comments

Good Morning Marisa,

Community of Hope has the land and preliminary plans for a nine unit project in the City of Titusville in North Brevard County. We are using Habitat for Humanity as our general contractor and are consulting with Ability Housing already. We will likely formalize this relationship as we have development experience but not in using SAIL Financing. Based on yesterday's RFA 104 workshop, I have three items I would like to bring up as they impact whether or not Community of Hope can apply:

- 1) The 50% one bedroom unit mix criteria would not be consistent with our family centered mission. We understand that many applicants for this RFA may be largely focused on independent living for single adults with disabling conditions. However, the 50% rule excludes and unfairly limits access to housing for families with children with disabling conditions like the mother raising three severely autistic children in one of our current units. Also, this does not seem consistent with the "Home Together" plan set forth by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness that has a specific goal "To end homelessness among families with children." We understand and appreciate the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's reasons for establishing this unit mix but hope you would reconsider this criteria given the needs of families experiencing both housing crises and disabling conditions.
- 2) I spoke at one of your workshops in Orlando during the Florida Coalition for the Homeless Conference a couple of months ago and mentioned this particular project. We have the land and the City of Titusville is very supportive of us moving forward. However, the site will only support nine units according to the City staff. Brevard is considered a medium size county, but Titusville and North Brevard are much more rural than the rest of the county and in many ways are more consistent with the designation of "small county". When I brought this up, you seemed favorably disposed to the possibility of being flexible and allowing a smaller build. Before we submit an application we would like to know if you would allow a nine unit build in Brevard.
- 3) I would also like to comment on the Hurricane Michael impacted areas per our workshop discussion. I cannot even imagine what some of those families impacted by Michael have gone through and I would certainly not fault you for using these resource to help. That said, I would suggest that you not alter your selection process. Impacted areas may still be awarded the funding based on the merits of their projects and the needs they fulfill anyway. This funding is to improve access to housing throughout the state. There will be separate pots of funding for disaster relief so changing your established processes is not necessary.

Thank you for all you all do. We are excited to enter into this process and I hope we can do so with 2019 RFA 104. If, however, this does not work out I look forward to working with you all on future endeavors.

Have a great Day.

Drew

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