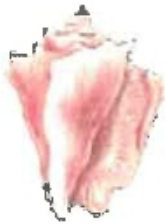


Teri Johnston
Mayor



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THE CITY OF KEY WEST

P.O. BOX 1409
KEY WEST, FL 33041-1409

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

August 8, 2022

Subject: Proposed use of HOME-ARP Funds

Dear Mr. Summerlin:

Monroe County is a small county in need of homeless housing developments. We requested that small counties be allowed to apply in last year's Homeless RFA (2022-103); however, small counties (specifically Monroe County) were not allowed to apply. Therefore, we request that you consider a set aside for funding similar to RFA (2022-103) allowing for the use of HOME-ARP alone OR with the use of Housing Credits and/or SAIL Financing in Monroe County or some combination thereof.

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. Point in Time (PIT) count by the Monroe County Homeless Continuum of Care (MC-CoC) conducted on 1/25/2022 reported the following:

Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
199	92	178	469

Non-profit agencies that provide emergency shelter, rapid rehousing 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 rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing in the city are working together to build a facility to address homeless individuals and households with

- Disabling Conditions
- Special Needs Housing
- 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 and housing for 195 homeless persons in need of a permanent supportive 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 70 permanent housing units to transition individuals and families from shelter type programs to a permanent housing unit and pathways to affordable housing.

The City of Key West respectfully requests FHFC allow for small counties to apply for HOME-ARP funds alone OR with the use of Housing Credits and/or SAIL Financing OR some combination thereof.

If you would like to discuss the need in the City of Key West further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Teri Johnston
Mayor of Key West