

From: [Paula Rhodes](#)
To: [Jean Salmonsén](#)
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I strongly support the flexibility built into this RFA through the removal of the Minimum Transit Score. For the first time, developments in Large Counties that are outside the transit footprint found in metro areas have an opportunity to obtain funding for much-needed affordable housing. However, this opportunity may be more hypothetical than real unless the proximity points required to receive the Proximity Funding Preference is reduced.

The Community Services proximity language in Section Four A.5.e of the RFA defines the allowed Community Services as Grocery Store, Pharmacy, Medical Facility, and School. Applicants are limited to three Community Services, and the maximum points per amenity is 4 for a maximum possible score of 12. Because Developments located in Large Counties must achieve 12.5 points to qualify for the Proximity Funding Preference, they must have at least .5 pts from Transit Services. In other words, even a perfect Community Services proximity score will not give Large County applicants enough points to obtain the Proximity Funding Preference. This disadvantages Developments in Large Counties compared with Developments in other counties.

Please reduce the number of Large County proximity points required for the preference so nonmetro areas of Large Counties like Orange (Tier 1), Hillsborough (Tier 2), and Palm Beach and Pinellas (Tier 3) get an opportunity to receive funding and are not disadvantaged relative to Medium Counties.

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