

October 18, 2023

Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC)
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Frances M. Esposito

Subject: Request for Funding Preference in Broward County for Upcoming Housing Credit and SAIL Financing to Develop Housing for Homeless Persons - RFA 2024-103

Staff / Members of Florida Housing Finance Corporation:

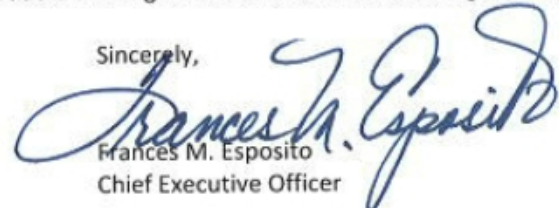
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to RFA 2024-103. In recent years, there has been a disproportionately high allocation of supportive housing funding for Miami-Dade County compared to Broward County. Over the past eight years, a Miami-Dade County application has been selected three times for funding, while a Broward County application has been selected once. However, when analyzing the homeless crisis in both regions, it is apparent that Broward County has a more acute need. According to the Florida Council on Homelessness, Broward County saw a 21 percent increase of its homeless population from 2022 to 2023 compared to 11 percent in Miami-Dade County. Moreover, despite Miami-Dade's larger overall population (approximately 2,673,000) compared to Broward County's (approximately 1,947,000), Broward County has a larger unsheltered homeless population of 1,624 people compared to 1,058 in Miami-Dade County according to Table 14 titled, "Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness by COC for the Year 2023" in the Florida's Council on Homelessness Annual Report for 2023.

These statistics underscore the pressing need for a more equitable distribution of funds between Broward and Miami-Dade. Simply said, Broward County requires additional resources to effectively combat this reality. The upcoming Request for Applications (RFA) for the Housing Credit and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) financing to Develop Housing for Homeless Persons provides an opportunity to address this disparity in allocation, and I write today to advocate for a preference to be given to Broward County.

We strongly believe that a preference towards Broward County in the upcoming RFA would be a significant step in addressing the homelessness crisis facing South Florida and contribute to a more balanced allocation of resources across Florida. We respectfully request the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to consider these statistics and provide an opportunity to award funding to a deserving Broward County application in RFA 2024-103.

Broward Partnership for the Homeless is eager to continue working alongside the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to make a positive impact on our community and the state at large. Thank you for your dedication to affordable housing in Florida and for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Frances M. Esposito
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Diana Mansur, Assistant Vice President of Operations – Green Mills Group
Andres Defelice, Development Associate – Green Mills Group

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North Campus, 1700 Blount Road, Pompano Beach, Florida 33069