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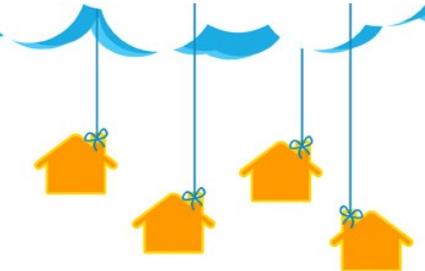
State News and Events

Florida Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing October 5 -October 7, 2016

From Dream to Reality Creating Permanent Solutions for All



ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 5-7, 2016
Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld*



Florida's only statewide conference focusing on supportive housing and treatment best practices for individuals who are homeless and/or have special needs is on schedule. Hosted by Florida Supportive Housing Coalition and Florida Homeless Coalition, the Institute offers a wide array of presentations from national and state experts. Plenary sessions include Steve Auger, Executive Director Florida Housing Finance Corporation; John Bryant, Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Department of Children & Families, and Elizabeth Dudek, Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration. Plenary sessions also include senior officials from HUD and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs, and Airlifting an organization helping homeless artists sell their art.

Wednesday, October 5, 2016 is set aside for in-depth, all-day preconference sessions. Sessions range from how to build supportive housing, legal issues everyone needs to know when helping consumers acquire housing, housing and homelessness best practices, and bootcamp for new Continuum of Care staff.

Set at the [Renaissance SeaWorld Orlando](#), the Institute promises lots of space and time to network, along with the chance to learn the latest in clinical, housing, and homeless best practices.

[Register or review the agenda here...](#)



AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is finalizing its 1115 Waiver amendment requesting approval of Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services for new housing benefits for persons with severe mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders. The amendment, if approved, will establish two pilots one in AHCA Area 5 serving Pinellas and Pasco Counties and the other in AHCA Area 7 serving Orange, Seminole, Brevard and Osceola Counties. The pilot program is designed to increase coordination and referrals between systems that fund housing and provide behavioral health services.

[Read more...](#)

[Download the 1115 Waiver amendment here](#)



Housing coordination by the Department of Children and Families' Managing Entities (MEs) is slowly progressing. Currently the MEs are in various stages of implementing their local housing assessments and strategic planning as outlined in their Housing Coordination contract. [Broward Behavioral Health Coalition](#), [Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.](#), [Lutheran Services Florida](#), and [South Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.](#) will discuss their assessment methodologies and results at the October Florida Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

[Download the Housing Coordination contract here.](#)



Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) announces an updated 2016-2017 Funding Time Line. The time line outlines the various release dates for FHFC RFAs by housing type such as permanent supportive housing and by geographic area. FHFC officials will be presenting at the Florida Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing October 6th to answer questions regarding the RFA's, the application process, and future goals.

On July 13, 2016, FHFC hosted a webinar on *Getting Ready for Housing Development: Process and Partnerships*. Listen to the webinar, the Chat File containing questions and answers received during the webinar, and the additional questions and answers received after the webinar.

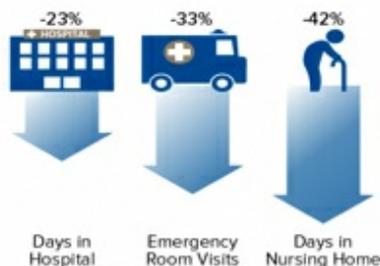
[Review the timeline here.](#)

[Review additional information regarding the webinar here.](#)

Chart Fact

Supportive Housing Can Produce Health Care Savings

Combining affordable housing with intensive services for a high-needs group saved an average of over \$6,000 a year per person in health care



Note: Intensive services include help finding housing, working with a landlord, physical and behavioral health care, assistance finding employment, and others.

Source: Anirban Basu, et al., "Comparative Cost Analysis of Housing and Case Management Programs for Chronically Ill Homeless Adults Compared to Usual Care," *Health Services Research*, February 2012, Vol. 47, No. 1, Part II, pp. 523-543.

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

Welcome New Members

The Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Board welcomes its newest members:

Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems Inc., Platinum Corporate Partner

Henderson Behavioral Health, Inc., Sustaining Member

LifeStream Behavioral Center, Inc., Organizational Member

Pine Ridge Holistic Living Center, Inc, Organizational Member

Ianella Mesa, Individual Member

Diana Schmidt, Individual Member

Resources

Medicaid Coverage of Social Interventions: A Road Map for States July 2015 Issue Brief.

This brief provides a practical guide for policymakers and stakeholders who want to know how states can use Medicaid to facilitate access to social services. The brief provides background information about why social support services are becoming more important. The brief also reviews relevant laws and regulations and interviews with leading state and federal experts. While the brief uses developments occurring in New York as an example it is national in scope and applicability.

[Read more of the issue brief here.](#)

Continuum of Care (COC) Program Competition

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness hosted a webinar on successful strategies for responding to HUD's FY 2016 Continuum of Care (COC) Program Competition. Although developed to assist COC's on applying for funding, the webinar provides data and a lot of general information regarding HUD's policy priorities, and how it supports the goals of *Opening Doors* and housing best practices. [Review the recording and slides here](#)

Housing Choice Voucher program

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities posted new state fact sheets on federal rental assistance per the Housing Choice Voucher program. The information is both general and specific and varies state to state. One consistent finding is that many eligible households that need assistance do not receive it due to inadequate funding. Of the households that are served by these programs, roughly 60% are elderly or disabled and 30% are families with children.

[Read more of this article here](#)

New approaches to financing health care

Partnering with hospitals to end homelessness is explored by consultant Carol Wilkins in this article based on facts showing housing is essential for achieving better health outcomes. Wilkins examines how new approaches to financing health care are creating strong incentives and new opportunities for hospitals to partner with community organizations to serve patients experiencing homelessness.

[Learn more about ways hospitals in your community can help prevent and end homelessness here](#)

Rental Market Study (aka Shimberg Report)

The 2016 Rental Market Study (aka Shimberg Report) was recently released. The data is used to help determine the geographic and demographic distribution of Florida Housing's rental housing resources. The report provides information about the housing needs of renter households that are low-income (incomes at or below 60% of area median income), or cost burdened (paying at least 40% of income) toward gross rent. The study, prepared for Florida Housing Finance Corporation by the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida, is conducted every three years.

[Read the study here](#)

Homelessness Annual Report

The Department of Children's Office of Homelessness annual report was submitted to the Governor July 1, 2016. The report summarizes the extent of homelessness in Florida, the characteristic of individuals who are homeless, and provides recommendations for reducing homelessness in Florida.

[Read the report here](#)

These and other resources are posted at www.fshc.org

Looking for Housing:

The best resource in Florida is Florida Housing Finance Corporation's online search FloridaHousingSearch.org. *FloridaHousingSearch.org* currently has more than 165,000 affordable rental units registered in its database by county, by major cities, and by rent. Ten thousand of the listed units are currently available. The public can search for available rental properties online 24 hours a day or by contacting the toll-free, bilingual search support call center at 1-877-428-8844 (TTD/TTY: 7-1-1) Monday through Friday, 9 am to 8pm EST. The call center staff can assist you in conducting searches, as well as provide affordable housing resources information and referral services.

Another option to get help is through your Congressional Representative. Every Representative has a staff member whose job it is to assist the people they represent with issues such as finding affordable housing. This person should know the local community and how you can best go about finding the services you need. To find out your Congressional Representative go to <http://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep> and enter your zip code. Call the Representative's district office nearest to you. Ask for the person who handles constituent services. Explain your situation, and ask for suggestions on how to best access affordable housing in your district. The constituent caseworker should be able to point you in the right direction or suggest resources in your area.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

**2016 Florida Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing
October 5 – 7, 2016 at the Renaissance Sea World, Orlando, FL**

[Visit the FSHC website here.](#)

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Annual Meeting

October 5, 2016; 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm.

Held in conjunction with the Florida Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Renaissance SeaWorld, Orlando, FL

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Board Meeting/Election of Officers

October 5, 2016; 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Held in conjunction with the Florida Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Renaissance SeaWorld, Orlando

Florida 2016 National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Conference

October 29 (Pre Conference Institutes); **October 30 – November 1** (full conference);

Hyatt Regency, 9801 International Drive, Orlando FL

[Visit the hotel website here.](#) [Visit the conference website here.](#)

Join or Renew

Become a member of the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition. Your membership will help FSHC fulfill its mission of expanding affordable supportive housing in Florida. FSHC has just begun a new year. Join now and receive a full year of benefits. Become a Sustaining Member and get one free registration to the October Institute.



[Visit the FSHC website to download a membership form.](#)

Donate

Don't want to become a member but support the mission? Consider donating. FSHC accepts donations through Paypal.



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If you have any questions or would like to submit articles for *Solutions* contact karen@fshc.org.



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