

FLORIDA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COALITION 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

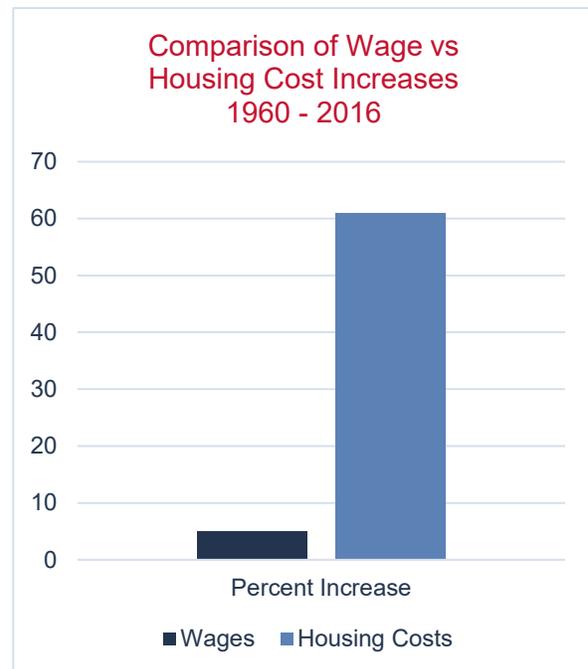
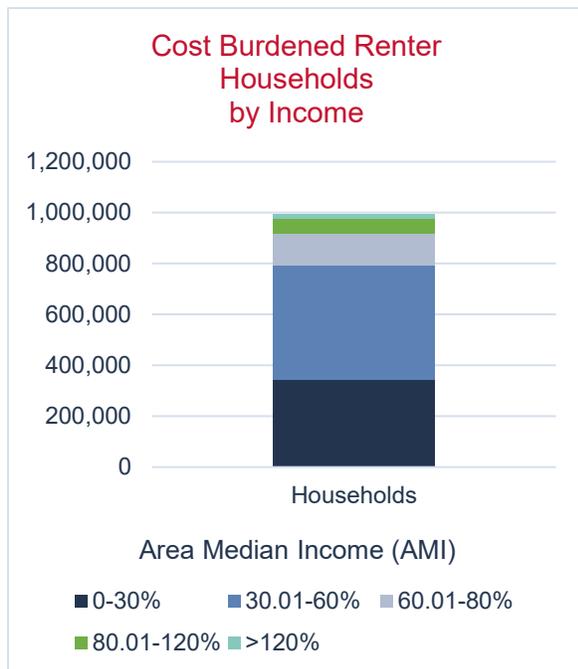
PRIORITY ONE

Support Governor’s recommendation and appropriate 20% of SAIL funding for housing for Persons with Special Needs (as defined s 420.0004, FS)

If Affordable Housing Trust Funds are not fully appropriated to affordable housing, maintain full funding for Special Needs and Homeless (as defined s 420.621, FS) by appropriating:

- \$23,960,00 (20% of \$119.8M) to housing for Persons with Special Needs
- \$11,198,00 (10% of \$119.8M) to housing for Homeless Households

Florida faces an affordable housing crisis. 795,605 renter households earning 60% or less of Area Median Income (AMI) are cost burdened (paying more than 40% of income on housing).¹ This is largely because housing prices have increased exponentially more than wages. Between 1960 and 2016, inflation adjusted rents increased 61% while median renter incomes increased only 5%.²

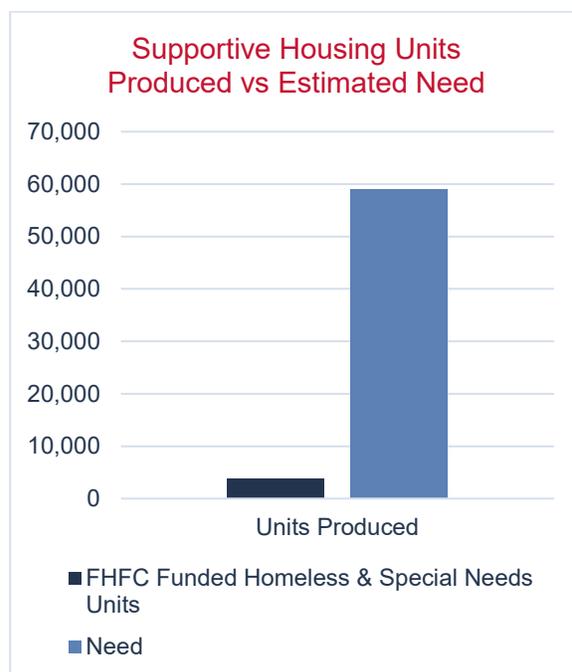
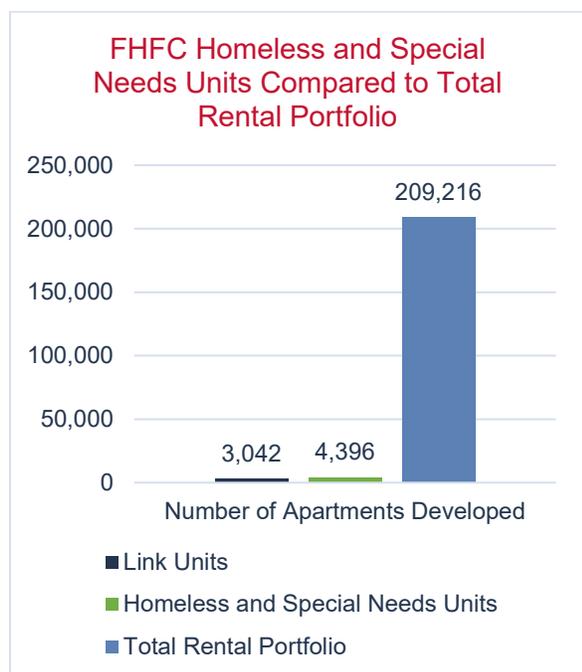


¹ University of Florida Shimberg Center for Housing Studies; “2019 Rental Market Study”

² Joint Center Housing Studies of Harvard University, Documenting the Long-Run Decline in Low Cost Rental Units in the US by State; 2019

Renters at all income levels participate in the workforce. Seventy-six percent of renter households include at least one person employed outside the home. Most of the rest are elder or disabled households. Lower-paying service jobs are the most common occupations.³

Further, the unmet housing needs of Special Needs and Homeless households is great. As identified in the 2019 Rental Market Study, Special Needs and Homeless households represent 21% of the need; but less than 4% of the units produced to date are dedicated to meeting these needs.



PRIORITY TWO

Via proviso, or through executive department intervention, require the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to expand Optional State Supplementation (OSS) to persons who meet the Social Security Income (SSI) eligibility requirements under Section 409.212 FS and who are living in supportive housing

OSS is an additional payment to individuals and families receiving SSI to assist in meeting their housing needs so they may live in the community. DCF currently limits OSS to persons living in congregate settings, such as assisted living facilities, residential treatment facilities, or adult family care homes. This limits individual choice, ability to become self-sufficient, and conflicts with federal Olmstead requirements. Including supportive housing as identified by DCF as a special living arrangement allows for the same housing assistance benefits for eligible persons in supportive housing.

³ University of Florida Shimberg Center for Housing Studies; "2019 Rental Market Study"

PRIORITY THREE

Appropriate \$100,000 to allow Florida Supportive Housing Coalition (FSHC) to continue the Community Dialogue Technical Assistance Program

- In 2017-18 the Legislature through Florida Housing Finance Corporation appropriated funds for Florida Supportive Housing Coalition (FSHC) to provide face to face technical assistance (TA) to 3 local communities to help them develop strategies to create supportive housing for persons with special needs and/or experiencing homelessness
- Eight counties requested TA
- Evaluations of all counties where TA was provided indicated the TA was useful to communities that are implementing strategies to develop supportive housing; one county's project is in development
- Refunding the Community Dialogue Technical Assistance Program would allow FSHC to continue working with communities to expand access to supportive housing

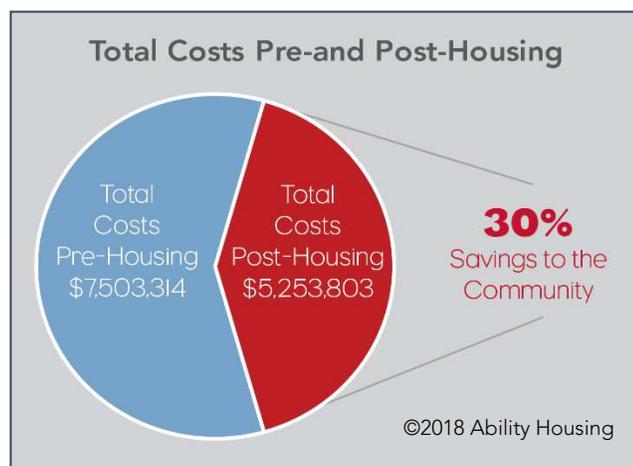
WHAT IS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING?

Supportive housing is affordable housing linked with voluntary support services. It is an evidence-based practice proven to reduce homelessness and the unnecessary institutionalization of persons with disabilities that require assistance to obtain and maintain housing.

The University of Florida estimates there are 104,273 cost burdened low-income renter households with a disabling condition.⁴ Not all of these households require supportive housing, but some do. This number does not include persons with a disability living in an overly-restrictive institutional setting; such as an Adult Living Facility, Nursing Home or State Hospital. Nor does it include the 5,771 persons with a disability that are identified as chronically homeless.⁵ The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) estimates Florida needs 58,967 units of supportive housing.⁶

Providing supportive housing to those that need it is an efficient use of limited resources. In 2014 Florida Housing Finance Corporation selected three sites, in Duval, Miami-Dade and Pinellas Counties, to conduct pilot studies to assess the cost benefits of providing permanent supportive housing to high utilizers of crisis services. The Duval site has completed its evaluation; which focused on 68 persons who remained enrolled in the study for a minimum of two years. The evaluation compared two time periods: the two years before the person moved into housing and the first two years after the person moved into housing (a pre/post comparison).

Total Cost Savings⁷



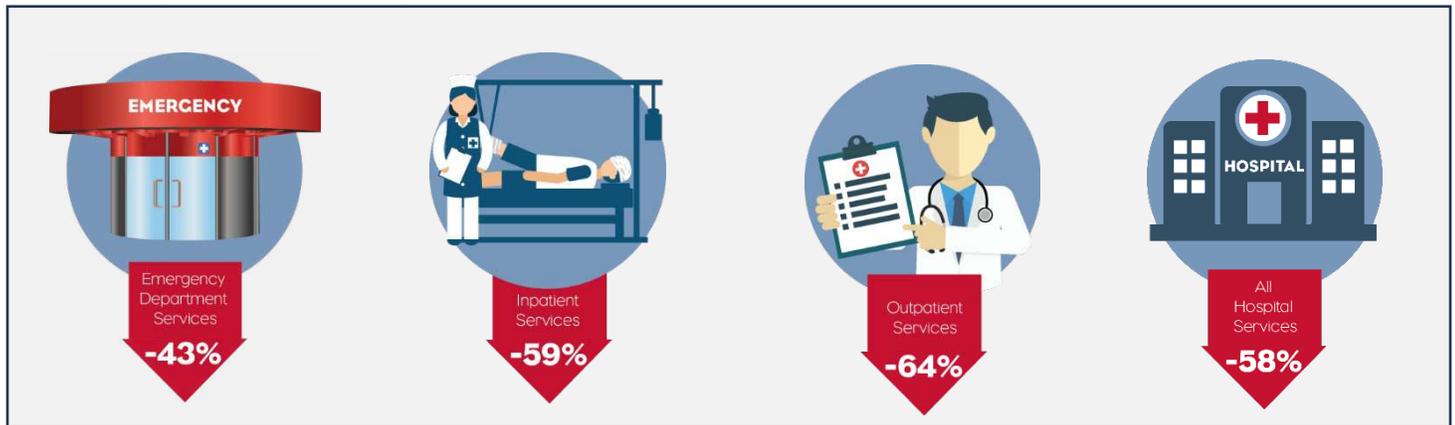
⁴ University of Florida Shimberg Center for Housing Studies "2019 Rental Market Study"

⁵ Florida Council on Homelessness 2019 Report

⁶ Corporation for Supportive Housing CSH.org/supportive-housing-101/data/

⁷ Ability Housing-The Solution That Saves 2018

Savings to Healthcare System⁸



©2018 Ability Housing

Savings to Criminal Justice System⁹



Arrests and bookings two-years prior to housing totaled **\$74,256** (84 arrests). After housing, the cost fell to **\$25,636** (29 arrests), a reduction of **65%**.



Days spent in jail two-years prior to housing totaled **\$123,447** (2,053 days). After housing the cost of fell to **\$34,274** (570 days), a reduction of **72%**.

Total savings for
arrests, bookings and jail time

\$137,792

©2018 Ability Housing

Impacts to Welfare Involved Families¹⁰

When supportive housing is targeted to welfare involved families, outcomes improve demonstratively. According to a small study conducted by CSH:

- >60% of open cases were closed, on average 10 months after the family moved into supportive housing
- >60% of families had no subsequent abuse/neglect cases
- No children were removed from the home
- School attendance increased an average of 25 days
- Increased ability to maintain relations and rebuild support systems
- Had a powerful impact on the importance parents placed on becoming a better parent
- 1/3 of parents participated in job readiness/employment skills training

⁸ Ability Housing-The Solution That Saves 2018

⁹ Ability Housing-The Solution That Saves 2018

¹⁰ Corporation for Supportive Housing CSH.org/supportive-housing101/data/