

November 2019

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

UPDATE - FLORIDA LEGISLATURE INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS NOV 4 – 8, 2019

The Legislature continues holding interim committee meetings. This week the Senate Community Affairs Committee spent most of its meeting time discussing affordable housing rental programs (SAIL). The meeting included a presentation by Florida housing staff Trey Price, CEO, and Marisa Button, Multifamily Development Programs. Following their presentation Steve Auger, CEO Housing Partners, and Ana Lourdes Castilla, Vice President TD Bank and Vice Chair Miami Homes for All. The presentations were made at the request of Senator Pizzo, Miami who sits on the Community Affairs Committee.

Both presentations provided excellent information regarding the use of SAIL in affordable housing development and both Senator Pizzo and Senator Simmons were very interested in getting recommendation that would help development. The presentations are available on video at http://www.flsenate.gov/media/videoplayer?EventID=2443575804_2019111008 beginning around minute 13:30. Florida Housing presentation slides are available at http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/CA/MeetingPacket/4711/8313_MeetingPacket_4711.4.19%20Post%20Meeting%20Packet.pdf beginning on page 45.

The Independent Living Task Force legislation ([CS/HB 39/SB 364](#)) passed their respective House and Senate first committees of reference. The House Bill was amended and included several suggestions requested by FSHC. Representative Gottlieb, House Sponsor, is very committed to getting this bill passed this year.

The Legislature will meet again this week (November 12th) and December 9th.

2020 FILED HOUSING BILLS FOLLOWED BY FSHC

[SB 68](#): Homelessness by Book /[HB 163](#) Homelessness by Altman

SB 68 requires \$10 million of housing trust funds be transferred annually to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Department of Children and Families for the purpose of funding challenge grants. Both bills expand the membership of the Council on Homelessness to include a representative of the Florida Housing Coalition and the Secretary of the Department of Elderly Affairs; updating terminology, etc. SB 68 passed Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, 10/22/19; HB 163 passed House Committee Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee 10/24/19.

[SB 364](#): Independent Living Task Force by Radar/[CS/HB 39](#) Independent Living Task Force by Gottlieb

Establishing the Independent Living Task Force within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation; requiring the corporation to use existing and available resources to administer and support the activities of the task force; requiring the task force to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2020. SB 364 passed Children, Families, and Elder Affairs 11/05/19; HB 39 passed Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee as amended 11/06/19.

[SB 502](#): Emergency Mitigation and Response by Montford; Gainer; Broxson

Establishing the Hurricane Michael Recovery Task Force adjunct to the Division of Emergency Management to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding additional assistance needed in the response to recovery from and mitigation of the effects of Hurricane Michael in certain areas; requiring the task force to review the local, state, and

federal activities conducted and the resources provided in such areas, the effectiveness of such efforts, and any additional assistance necessary; subject to the appropriation of funds, creating the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program to provide funds to local governments for certain affordable housing recovery efforts, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$1,085,000

[HB 175/SB 374](#) - Housing Discrimination: Removes housing discrimination as cause of action for relief & damages stemming from violations of Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992; revises timeframe & conditions under which aggrieved person may commence civil action to enforce specified rights; authorizes, rather than requires, civil action after alleged discriminatory housing practice; authorizes civil action regardless of certain circumstances; prohibits aggrieved person from filing specified action in certain circumstances; provides exception. HB 175 on House Civil Justice Subcommittee, 11/14/19. SB 374 passed Senate Judiciary Committee 11/5/19, now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability.

[HB 209](#) - Emotional Support Animals by Killebrew

Prohibits discrimination in rental of dwelling to person with disability or disability-related need who has emotional support animal; prohibits landlord from requiring such person to pay extra compensation; provides exception; authorizes landlord to request certain written documentation; prohibits falsification of written documentation or other misrepresentation; specifies person with disability or disability-related need is liable for damage done by emotional support animal; revises definition of "handicap." On Committee agenda - Civil Justice Subcommittee, 11/14/19.

[SB 7102](#) - Mental Health; (PRELIMINARY DRAFT) Providing additional duties for the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention; requiring the Department of Transportation to work with the office in developing a plan relating to evidence-based suicide deterrents in certain locations; requiring that certain information be provided to the guardian or representative of a minor patient released from involuntary examination; requiring specified persons to complete certain suicide prevention education courses by a specified date,, etc. On Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs agenda, 11/12/19.

Appropriations Project Bills

[HB 2259](#) by Overdorf - Housing Solutions Council - Housing That Works: Provides a \$250,000 appropriation to the Housing Solutions Council - City of Stuart/Martin County.

The project includes hiring a staff member to conduct the business of the Housing Solutions Council to manage the process to develop multifamily housing that is affordable to members of the workforce and to educate and collaborate with local community leaders to create innovative housing solutions to solve the need for affordable housing for low to moderate income earners who make just over the eligibility threshold for government subsidies, yet far too little to afford market rents. Funding through DEO. Passed House Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee 11/06/19. Now in full Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2337](#) by D. Smith - Embrace Families Solutions' Pathways to Home Supportive Housing for Child Welfare Involved Families: Provides an appropriation of \$488,074 for the Embrace Families Solutions' Pathways to Home Supportive Housing for Child Welfare Involved Families. Passed Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee 11/06/19.

The project will secure permanent housing for 20 child-welfare involved families, with the intent to prevent children from entering/re-entering the child welfare system through response to the family's housing needs. Passed House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 11/06/19. Now in Full Appropriations.

[HB 2341](#) by Eskamani - Changing The Narratives' Ending Youth Homelessness Initiative: Provides an appropriation of \$855,000.

The goal will be to develop a pilot project in 2 counties to provide housing & supportive services for 100 transition-aged or at-risk youth between 16-24 years of age in 100 days by utilizing the Housing First model along with other innovative & effective models such as Rapid Rehousing & Host Home. On Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 11/13/19.

[HB 2343](#) by Eskamani - Zebra Coalition's Youth Housing Project: Provides an appropriation \$955,000 for the Zebra Coalition's Youth Housing Project.

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Bridge (transitional) housing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-24 who are identified as homeless. Zebra Coalition currently provides housing for 11 youth in scattered sites, our goal of this project is to build and/or lease a stand-alone building that will provide housing for approximately 25 youth in one location in Central Florida.

[HB 2515](#) - by DuBose - Homelessness Collaborative of Broward County - Rapid Rehousing: Provides \$400,000 for an appropriation for the Homelessness Collaborative of Broward County. On Committee agenda - Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee, 11/13/19.

[HB 2659](#) - by Sirois - Homeless Veteran Housing Assistance in Brevard County: Provides an appropriation of \$190,000 for the Homeless Veteran Housing Assistance in Brevard County.

The purpose of this request is to support two agency programs: Street Outreach and Transitional Housing. The primary goals for these programs are to locate homeless/at-risk veterans in our community and convert them through personalized case management and supportive housing to self-sufficient citizens again. Programs align with mission to eliminate homelessness among veterans in Central FL.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) in partnership with qualified plans have extended invitations at two kickoffs for the implementation of the Behavior Health and Supportive Housing Assistance Pilot. The kickoffs are scheduled as follows:

November 20, 2019 – 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm: Location: Goodwill Industries Media Center, 7531S Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32809.

November 21, 2019 – 11:00 am to 3:30 pm: Location: Department of Health, 205 Dr. M.L.K Street N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The plans approved by AHCA to provide the additional housing services approved by CMS include Staywell, Magellan, and Simply in Area 5, and aetna Staywell, Magellan, and Simply in Area 7. To register to attend the kickoffs go <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/behavioral-health-and-supportive-housing-assistance-pilot-pinellas-and-pasco-tickets-76818705817>. Use password: recovery.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDITS DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 32,2019

NMTC is a powerful community development tool. To date it has nationally created over 1 million jobs and financed projects that have positively impacted nearly every Congressional District in Florida. Without reauthorization of NMTC, Florida's most distressed communities will lose a critically important source of financing for economic revitalization, community healthcare centers, manufacturing facilities, and many other types of community facilities for youth and job training.

To help preserve NMTC and make it permanent sign on to the National New Markets Tax Credit Coalition letter to Congressional House and Senate Leaders and Tax Committees. **To read the letter and sign on click here:** <https://nmtccoalition.org/sign-on-letters/>.

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

- Congratulations to Executive Director Trey Price. Mr. Price was elected to the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) Board of Directors during its annual conference. He was elected to a two-year term by a vote of his peers from across the country. "It's my hope that my experience in housing advocacy and experience in association work will prove to be a valuable asset on the board. I look forward to serving," says Trey Price.

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- Florida Housing Finance Corporation issued RFA 2019-116 SAIL Financing of Affordable Multifamily Housing Developments to be Used in Conjunction with Tax-Exempt Bonds and Non-Competitive Housing Credits. Interested parties may access the complete RFA and the online Application at <https://www.floridahousing.org/programs/developers-multifamily-programs/competitive/2019/2019-116> . **Applications are expected to be due December 19, 2019.** This will be the first RFA to incorporate criteria for applicants who wish to apply under their new Self-Sourced process.

For reference, Florida Housing had published a draft of the RFA which included language discussed at the October 8, 2019 workshop regarding “Self-Sourced Applicants”. Additionally, a new draft Development Cost Pro Forma and a document comparing the 8-20-19 draft of the RFA and the new draft of the RFA was posted. See [Drafts](#).

- At the June 5, 2019 workshop, Florida Housing announced that it would open discussions for possible changes to the proximity scoring process in the 2020/2021 scoring cycle. Florida Housing will hold a workshop on **Thursday, December 12, beginning at 1:30 p.m. to begin this discussion.** The meeting will be available in person at Orlando Hyatt Regency Orlando Airport, 9300 Jeff Fuqua Blvd, Orlando, FL 32827. The workshop will also be available by telephone.

This workshop is intended to provide information on anticipated changes to the RFA process for the upcoming RFA cycle, as well as to solicit ideas and feedback on how Florida Housing can best implement its RFA process. An agenda will be published prior to the workshop outlining topics for discussion. Among other items, the agenda will include: 1) Review of current proximity services and definitions and confirm they are still appropriate; 2) Discussion of proximity services and scoring methodology introduced in 2011 Universal Application Cycle for possible inclusion in 2020-2021 RFA cycle; 3) Additional ideas in the 2020-2021 RFA cycle. If there are any new policies regarding proximity for the 2020-2021 RFA cycle, Florida Housing will inform the public no later than **February 28, 2020.**

- On October 24, 2019, Florida Housing issued a modification of RFA 2019-118 “Elderly Housing Community Loan”. The modification and the complete RFA reflecting all modifications is available at <https://www.floridahousing.org/programs/developers-multifamily-programs/competitive/2019/2019-118>. This modification affects the Application Deadline and Exhibit A. **The Application Deadline is December 5, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., ET.** The Review Committee meeting will be held in early January 2020, with results presented to the Board at the January 2020 Board meeting.

- Florida Housing’s Board of Directors continues to work to update its strategic plan. At the October 13th board meeting the board had brief discussions and solicited more comments. Staff are preparing a draft of the 2019 plan for the December 13, 2019 Board meeting in Orlando. For Strategic Planning Information [click here](#). Send replies to Tracy Banner at 227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000, Tallahassee FL 32301, or to comments@floridahousing.org by Friday, November 15, 2019.

- Florida Housing's Board of Directors Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 13, 2019, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Orlando Hyatt Regency Orlando Airport. For Board materials [click here](#).

DESANTIS OUTLINES FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

Gov. Ron DeSantis has established the Governor’s Faith and Community-Based Initiative which will be led by Erik Dellenback. DeSantis’ office said the initiative will help “collaborate between state government and faith-based and community-based organizations.” Erik Dellenback has spent the past two years as a consultant to non-profit organizations and previously worked as president and executive director of the Tim Tebow Foundation headed by former University of Florida football star Tim Tebow. “Florida’s faith and community-based groups have a longstanding history of intervening to help meet the needs of all Floridians,” DeSantis said in a prepared statement.

BEYOND HOUSING AWARD

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Do you know a person or organization whose work goes 'beyond housing' to provide services and support to homeless families while keeping the needs of children in the forefront? Recognize their work by nominating them for the 2019 [Beyond Housing Award](#).

The Beyond Housing Award honors people and organizations whose work exemplifies the idea that homelessness is much more than a housing issue. ICPH is currently accepting nominations for the award, to be presented at the 2020 Beyond Housing Conference taking place in New York City, January 15-17, 2020. **Nomination applications are due by December 4, 2019.**

MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PLANS GET MIXED REVIEWS

Managed care plans that participate in Medicaid and the Florida KidCare program received mixed grades on a “scorecard” released Thursday by the Trump administration. The scorecard examines how Medicaid and, where applicable, KidCare, performed across a number of health-care categories. It showed that health plans fared well in areas such as breast-cancer screenings and annual well-care visits for teenagers, while Florida trailed other states when it came to mental-illness treatment and emergency room visits. Based on 2018 data collected by the federal government, the report examined the performance of 17 managed care plans that cover patients in Medicaid, the safety-net program for low income Floridians.

RESOURCES

UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

USICH recently published an [outline](#) of Federal housing resources to end homelessness.

SAMHSA

- SAMHSA will hold a webinar on Engaging Service Members, Veterans and Their Families through Faith-based Partnerships November 14, ; 1:30 to 3:00 (ET) to provide information that will help participants engage, educate, inform, and partner with faith-based leaders, non-profit organizations, and communities in support of and responding to the behavioral health needs of SMVF. [Register here](#)

- Rural communities face unique challenges in disasters. A recent issue of the [Disaster Technical Assistance Center \(DTAC\) Bulletin](#) provides resources for guidance on rural emergency planning and preparedness, highlights strengths and challenges rural areas, and relates stories from the field.

Special double issue of [The Dialogue](#) from the SAMHSA DTAC highlights the process of assisting disaster survivors with SMI and/or SUDs after a disaster. Authors share their knowledge on how these individuals may need additional support to aid their recovery after a disaster and how to provide better assistance.

RECOVERY-ORIENTED CARE WEBINARS

A 4-part series on the principles and practices of recovery-oriented care is being offered for free by the New England MHTTC. The courses focus on what is Recovery-Oriented Care including webinars in the series focused on Peer Support as a Recovery-Oriented Practice; Can Clinical Care be Recovery-Oriented?; and The Importance of Community Inclusion. Thursday, November 14, 2019 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST focuses on the principles and practices. [Read more...](#)

HOMELESS STUDENT GUIDE

The [Homeless Student Guide](#) provides example, models and other resources to serve homeless students.

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