



## Member Capital News

November 22, 2019

### LEGISLATIVE NEWS

#### GOVERNOR DESANTIS RELEASES HIS BOLDER, BRIGHTER, BETTER FUTURE BUDGET

##### **Transportation and Economic Development**

“While Florida’s economy remains strong, finding affordable housing can still be a challenge,” said DeSantis in the introduction to his FHFC budget recommendations. The budget provides \$387 million to fully fund Workforce and Affordable Housing Programs: \$119.8 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program and \$267.2 million for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program.

His Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommendations include that a minimum of 20 percent of SAIL housing units developed through this funding be set aside for persons with special needs, developmental disabilities, and the elderly.

“A portion of the funding for units designated for persons with special needs, persons with developmental disabilities or the elderly must be used for home modifications, including technological enhancements and devices, which will allow such persons to live independently to the greatest degree possible.

\$20,000,000 is provided for the SAIL program to construct housing to primarily serve moderate-income persons, as defined in section 420.0004, FS in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern when strategies are included in the local housing assistance plan to serve these households.

From SHIP funds, local governments receiving disbursement from SHIP shall prioritize funding to assist with hurricane housing recovery before routine and customary use of funds.

\$500,000 shall be used for training and technical assistance provided through the Affordable Housing Catalyst Program.

##### **Health and Human Services**

\$54.8 million is recommended to continue fighting the opioid epidemic, \$12.4 million in funding from the State Opioid Response Grant to address the opioid crisis by providing evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment, and recovery, and \$17 million is provided in new mental health and substance abuse funding.

To increase accountability, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget invests over \$97 million to provide funding for services to children and families through Florida’s child welfare system.

\$3 million is recommended for Homeless Housing Assistance Grants.

## 2020 FILED HOUSING BILLS FOLLOWED BY FSHC

\* Updates highlighted in Red

[SB 68:/HB 163](#) Homelessness: 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 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/CS/HB 39](#) Independent Living Task Force: 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: 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 an 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.

[CSHB 209](#) - Emotional Support Animals: 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." **Passed Civil Justice Subcommittee, 11/14/19 as amended.**

[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.

**.[SB 998](#) - Housing; Implements many changes related to affordable housing including authorizing a board of county commissioners to approve development of affordable housing on any parcel zoned for residential, commercial, or industrial use; requiring counties, municipalities, and special districts to include certain data relating to impact fees in their annual financial reports; renaming the Community Workforce Housing Innovation Pilot Program as the Community Workforce Housing Loan Program to provide workforce housing for essential services personnel affected by the high cost of housing; revising the definition of the term "workforce housing"; deleting the definition of the term**

“public-private partnership”; authorizing the corporation to provide loans under the program to applicants for construction of workforce housing.

## 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. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 11/13/19.**

[HB 2343](#) by Eskamani - Zebra Coalition's Youth Housing Project: Provides an appropriation of \$955,000 for the Zebra Coalition's Youth Housing Project. Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee. 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. **Passed Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee, 11/13/19. Now in Appropriations Committee.**

[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 the mission to eliminate homelessness among veterans in Central FL.

[HB 3553](#) by Plakon - Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Community Dialogue Technical Assistance Program: Provides \$100,000 to expand FSHC's Community Dialogue Technical Assistance Program is to educate local governments and other community leaders as to the value of developing affordable and supportive housing for persons with disabling conditions or experiencing homelessness. The goal of the program is that more communities will develop supportive housing, therefore, decreasing homeless and preventing homelessness for those at risk of homelessness.

[HB 3709](#) by Rodriguez, A. M- Windley Key & Key Heights Affordable Housing Project. Provides \$1 million for 20 units of affordable housing in the upper Keys. Those buildings would help replace units that were destroyed during the impact of Hurricane Irma.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) in partnership with qualified plans and Florida Supportive Housing Coalition kicked off the implementation of the Behavior Health and Supportive Housing Assistance Pilot. The kickoffs occurred in were held in Orlando (November 20<sup>th</sup> ) and in St. Petersburg (Nov 21<sup>st</sup>).

Secretary Mary Mayhew was instrumental in organizing the kickoffs and played a key role at both events. She made it very clear how important the success of the pilot was to her and AHCA. Both events included a press conference led by the Secretary and included local legislators, the plans qualified to provide the additional housing service and Florida Supportive Housing Coalition executive director Karen Koch. The press conference was followed by a well attended community meeting of various stakeholders where the secretary and the panel answered questions. Below are links to press articles related to the kickoffs.

[Medicaid Program Helps Mentally Ill, Substance Abusers Find Housing](#)

[Florida launching pilot project to help house homeless with mental illness, substance abuse issues](#)

[Pilot program to help house people struggling with mental illness, drug abuse](#)

### HUD AWARDS MORE THAN \$130 MILLION TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

November 20, 2019 - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$131.3 million to 325 local public housing authorities across the country to provide affordable housing to approximately 15,363 additional non-elderly persons with disabilities. Florida was awarded over \$13.4 million to 23 different housing authorities. Congratulations to FSHC member Carrfour for their award [See the local impact of the housing assistance announcement](#). Members should contact awardees in their area to see how they can participate.

### FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

Florida Housing will hold a Review Committee Meeting on the dates below to give the scores for the Applications submitted in response to the below Request for Applications and to submit a recommendation to Florida Housing's Board of Directors:

November 13, 2019, 10:00 a.m.: RFA 2019-102 "Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) to be used in conjunction with Tax-Exempt MMRB and Non-Competitive Housing Credits in Counties Deemed Hurricane Recovery Priorities"

November 13, 2019, 2:00 p.m.: RFA 2019-103 "Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) for Small Developments in Areas Deemed Hurricane Recovery Priorities"

November 14, 2019, 2:00 p.m.: RFA 2019-117 "Financing To Build Smaller Permanent Supportive Housing Properties For Persons With Developmental Disabilities"

Florida Housing will hold a workshop on Thursday, December 12, beginning at 1:30 p.m. to begin discussions related to possible changes to the proximity scoring process in the 2020/2021 scoring cycle. The meeting will be available in person at Orlando Hyatt Regency Orlando Airport, 9300 Jeff Fuqua Blvd, Orlando, FL 32827, and by telephone.

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

## HOUSING NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

The Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Member News/Contact Information: [karen@fshc.org](mailto:karen@fshc.org)

**[Many factors are involved in solving affordable housing issue](#)** - The city of Miami is unveiling a plan to build more **[affordable](#)** housing. Often, developers say they simply cannot make the math work out on an affordable housing project. Yet the need appears real. How should the issue of housing affordability be addressed?

**[Homeless Advocates Worry Official's Firing Means Change In Trump Strategy](#)** - Advocacy groups are concerned that the plan will rely on more vigorous law enforcement and private market incentives rather than on efforts to house homeless individuals and provide supportive services — a policy known as Housing First that has been embraced across the country over the last decade. The latest sign that change is afoot came last week with the ouster of Matthew Doherty, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

**[Miami developer will address the country's affordable housing crisis](#)** - Related Group's Executive Vice President Jon Paul Pérez is taking on the country's affordable housing crisis. Pérez is partnering with housing social investment firm Federal Housing Solutions to create a new venture, Pérez Housing Associates, that will upgrade existing affordable housing stock nationwide using Section 42 tax credits.

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