



## Member Capital News

December 13, 2019

### LEGISLATIVE NEWS

#### LEGISLATURE MEETS FOR THE LAST TIME BEFORE 2020 SESSION BEGINS

Legislators spent their final week before Session begins January 14<sup>th</sup> hearing from Governor's staff and Secretaries about the Governor's budget recommendations. In presentations to both the House and Senate Transportation appropriation subcommittees, Ken Lawson, Executive Director, Department of Economic Opportunity reaffirmed the Governor's recommendation to fully use affordable housing trust funds [estimated at \$387] for affordable housing. Committee members had few questions. When questioned by the press, however, about supporting the Governor's recommendations House Appropriations Chairman Travis Cummings stated that it was unlikely the Legislature would respond to the request. "I think sweeping is a possibility due to some really unmet needs out there, whether it's with children and some of our most vulnerable", said Cummings. "Not to say housing is not very important, but we've got people in the state who struggle obviously, whether it be with health care or whether it be with the education system."

[Read more](#)

Kicking off committee week Senator Mayfield and Representative Killebrew held a press conference Monday announcing legislation they are sponsoring to help eliminate future sweeps of the trust fund. Although [SB 306](#) and [HB 381](#) do not prevent a sweep they require trust funds to be spent by the state agency receiving or collecting such trust funds. Similar legislation has been in place to prevent the sweep of transportation trust funds for several years. The press conference, organized by the Sadowski Coalition, attracted statewide press and included several Sadowski Coalition members including the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition. Read more below...

[Orlando Sentinel](#); [WUSF News](#);

[FHFC Facebook](#)

#### 2020 BILLS FOLLOWED BY FSHC

\* Updates highlighted in Red

[SB 68](#)/[HB163](#) 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, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. HB 163 passed House Committee Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee 10/24/19, now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

[SB 306](#)/[HB 381](#) State Funds; Exempting the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund from a provision authorizing the Legislature, in the General Appropriations Act, to transfer unappropriated cash balances from specified trust funds to the Budget Stabilization Fund and the General Revenue Fund. SB 306 referred to Infrastructure and Security; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations. HB 381 in [Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee](#).

[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 was amended in Senate Community Affairs 12/9 to match the amended house bill. HB39 passed Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee as amended 11/06/19, now in Children & Families.

[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 an exception. HB 175 passed Civil Justice Subcommittee, 11/14/19, now in Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee. SB 374 passed Governmental Oversight and Accountability 12/9, **now in Rules**.

[CSHB 209/SB 1084](#) - 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**, now in Children, Families & Seniors. SB 1084 filed 12/2.

[HB 945](#) - Children's Mental Health: Requires DCF & AHCA to identify certain children & adolescents who use crisis stabilization services & to meet behavioral health needs of such children & adolescents; includes crisis response services provided through mobile response teams in array of available services; requires managing entities & other relevant entities to develop plans promoting coordinated system of care for certain services; requires DCF & AHCA to assess quality of care provided in crisis stabilization units & submit report to Governor & Legislature by 11,15/2020. Filed 12/13.

[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; revising the definition of the term “workforce housing”; deleting the definition of the term “public-private partnership”; eliminates that at least 75% of local housing assistance be set aside to very-low or low income and makes optional the requirement of local housing funds be used for persons with special needs.

[SB 7102](#) - Mental Health: 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. Submitted as Committee Bill and Reported Favorably by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs 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. Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 11/13/19, **now in Appropriations Committee.**

[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. **Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[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. **Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[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. **Now in Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[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. **Now in Appropriations Committee.**

[HB 4033](#) by Overdorf - Provides an appropriation of \$875,000 for the St. Lucie County Homeless Veterans Assistance Center to be used entirely for a site, infrastructure and development, impact and permit fees, planning & engineering, and construction of a 12 to 24-month housing facility. Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/12.

[HB 4231](#) by Duran - Housing First for Homeless Persons with Mental Illness. Provides \$434,319 to quickly divert homeless detainees with serious mental illnesses, who have a history of arrest or frequent police interactions, into community supportive housing. Referrals are made by the 11th Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project, area police departments, specialized homeless outreach teams, and jail diversion behavioral health treatment. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/12.**

[HB 4301](#) by La Rosa - Homeless Veterans Program: Provides an appropriation of \$500,000 for The Transition House - Homeless Veterans Program to provide substance abuse and mental health services to those clients that are unable to afford these services otherwise. Specifically, Veterans that are homeless and chronically homeless, as well as those that have been released from incarceration. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 11/25.**

[HB 4347](#) by Duran - Preservation of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing: Provides an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Preservation of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing, Dade Heritage Trust. **Now in Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[HB 4385](#) by Gregory - Permanent Supportive Housing - CASL (Renaissance Manor): Provides an appropriation of \$1,465,058 to CASL to provide PSH in Lee County. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/11, now in Appropriations Committee.**

[HB 4413](#) by Mariano - Pasco County Housing Authority Veterans and Mental Illness Housing Community: Provides an appropriation of \$2,000,000 to develop a 77unit housing project that will provide safe sanitary housing for homeless or at risk of being homeless veterans and their families and people with mental illnesses. The target population is homeless or at risk of being homeless veterans, their families, and mentally ill people. Expected number of people to be housed is 24. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/11, now in Appropriations Committee.**

[HB 4545](#) by Perez - Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust - Bridge Housing for Specialized Outreach: Provides an appropriation of \$562,000 to expand the bridge housing model which is to prioritize severely mentally ill, unsheltered clients, for immediate permanent placement and ultimately, into other supportive units. As clients stabilize, acquire benefits, and required documentation, they would be moved from the bridge units into other permanent destinations, including but not limited to Assisted Living Facilities, skilled nursing facilities, reunification with family or friends, CoC PSH, VASH or other permanent housing. **Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[HB 4547](#) by Perez - Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services - Host Homes for Homeless Youth Program: Appropriates \$200,500 to seek permanency housing and services for the most vulnerable, difficult to place youth, ages 16-21. Youth who are waiting for permanent housing will receive mental health counseling (as needed) and services to prepare them for independent living, case management, job readiness, academic advisement and placement, and wraparound services. **Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[HB 4549](#) by Fetterhoff - Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery: Provides an appropriation of \$4,000,000 to the Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery will create a comprehensive system of care for individuals with serious mental illnesses who are frequent and costly recidivists to the criminal justice system, homelessness, and acute care treatment systems. The Center is housed in a state-owned facility currently under renovation and encompassing approximately 181,000 square feet of space with capacity for 208 beds. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/11, now in Appropriations Committee.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

December 11, 2019 - Florida Housing issued a second modification of RFA 2019-116 SAIL Financing of Affordable Multifamily Housing Developments to be Used in Conjunction with Tax-Exempt Bonds and Non-Competitive Housing Credits. The modification and the complete RFA reflecting all modifications are available on page <https://www.floridahousing.org/programs/developers-multifamily-programs/competitive/2019/2019-116>.

Additionally, a revised Development Cost Pro Forma is also available on page <https://www.floridahousing.org/programs/developers-multifamily-programs/competitive/2019/2019-116>.

A Questions and Answers document regarding RFA 2019-116 SAIL Financing of Affordable Multifamily Housing Developments to be Used in Conjunction with Tax-Exempt Bonds and Non-Competitive Housing Credits has been posted to <https://www.floridahousing.org/programs/developers-multifamily-programs/competitive/2019/2019-116>.

The Application Deadline for RFA 2019-116 is 3:00 p.m., December 19, 2019. (ET). The Review Committee Meeting is expected to be held Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

SANDRA EINHORN, RYAN BENSON AND BILL GULLIFORD have been appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Einhorn, of Hollywood, is executive director of the Coordinating Council of Broward. Benson, of Fort Myers, is vice president and principal of A Vernon Allen Builder, Inc. Gulliford, of Atlantic Beach, is president of Major Machinery and Equipment LLC and is a former Jacksonville City Council member.

### USICH COUNCIL APPROVES NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2020

On December 10, 2019, at the regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), council members voted to make leadership changes. Members unanimously voted to make three key changes in positions of leadership. Beginning the new year, they will be led by a new Chair, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training at the Department of Labor John Pallasch; Vice Chair, Deputy Assistant Secretary within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services Arnie Owens, and Executive Director Dr. Robert G. Marbut, Jr. [Read more.](#)

While USICH was making its announcement the Los Angeles Times reported its concerns regarding the new executive director. [Read more.](#)

## HOUSING NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

[Justices Urged To Approve Medicaid Ballot Proposal](#)

Disputing arguments raised by the state House and Senate, a political committee Wednesday urged the Florida Supreme Court to sign off on a proposed constitutional amendment that would expand Medicaid coverage. The committee Florida Decides Healthcare is seeking to take the issue to voters in 2022 after Republican lawmakers have refused repeatedly in recent years to expand Medicaid to low-income adults who currently don't qualify for coverage.

### [After a Decade, Daytona Beach Homeless Shelter Finally Opens](#)

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is expected to propose changes to the rules this week that govern bank compliance with the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). NACEDA is hosting the [12/19/19 CRA Webinar](#) to educate the public on this issue. Some of the proposed changes could have a major, long-term impact on the investments, loans, and services banks provide in lower-income and minority communities. (From Florida Alliance of Community Alliance of Community Development Corporation News.)

Commissioners in Panama City have agreed for [\\$565,000 to be used to construct affordable homes for low-income residents](#) still recovering from Hurricane Michael. Based on their own calculation of cost of construction and quality, the homes should be affordable to the local working class.

Florida will receive an additional [\\$287 million and \\$38.6 million from HUD](#) towards Hurricane Michael and Irma relief, respectively.

## RESOURCES

More cities are punishing homeless for sleeping in public, a new [report](#) from the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty shows, amid an increase in Americans living on the streets. Tuesday's report came while the Supreme Court considers a review of a case on the legality of arresting unsheltered people when no shelter beds are available.

Temple University Center for Public Health Law Research is releasing a [series of six reports](#) that explore the role of law in housing equity and exploring innovative uses of law to improve health equity through housing. The series includes Report I: A Vision of Health Equity in Housing; Report II: Legal Levers for Health Equity in Housing: A Systems Approach; Report III: Health Equity in Housing: Evidence and Evidence Gaps; Report IV Creative People and Places Building Health Equity In Housing; Report V: Governing Health Equity in Housing; and Report VI: Health Equity through Housing: A Blueprint for Systematic Legal Action. [Report IV](#) was just released.

Although very extensive and law-oriented the reports provide good information on the importance of housing and health.

For questions or comments contact [Karen@fshc.org](mailto:Karen@fshc.org).