



## Member Capital News

February 14, 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Hello and Happy Valentine's Day ...**Florida Supportive Housing Coalition will hold its 4th Supportive Housing Summit: *Merging Advocacy, Knowledge & Collaboration* – September 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at the [DoubleTree Hotel/Universal](#). Mark your calendar now. Call for Proposals and Sponsorship coming soon.

### LEGISLATIVE NEWS

#### RECAP OF 2020 SESSION – WEEK 5 – FEBRUARY 10 – 14, 2020

##### Budget News –

With just four more weeks until the annual 60-day spectacle ends (3/13), the heat is on for lawmakers and lobbyists to secure passage of priority legislation and to ensure the demise of that which they dislike partywide or personally.

Eclipsing all other issues is the Florida budget, with a nearly \$1.5 billion gap between the House and Senate state spending plans. Among key issues during the negotiations will be the House's desire to use affordable-housing money for other parts of the budget; a disagreement about how much money to spend on the Florida Forever land-preservation program; differences on pay raises for state employees; and a House push to eliminate the tourism-marketing agency Visit Florida.

Democrats expressed hope that Republican leaders will increase funding and avoid the House's planned sweep of affordable-housing trust funds but in the end joined their Republican counterparts in unanimously passing their versions of the state budget.

To recap the Senate would fully fund affordable-housing programs at \$387 million, while the House would spend \$147 million and "sweep" other affordable-housing trust fund money to balance the rest of the budget. According to National Low Income Housing Coalition [Gap report](#) Florida state ranks 47th in the nation for its availability of affordable housing, with only 26 affordable and available housing units for every 100 extremely low-income households. The continued sweep of the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund has contributed to this shortage. Between FY 2001-02 and FY 2019-20, more than \$2.6 billion was taken from the fund and moved into the general revenue stream to support other appropriations.

Recapping Health and Human Services the Senate proposes significantly more dollars for the Department of Children and Families' community substance abuse and mental health program—\$826.8 million, compared to \$750 million in the House budget. However, unlike the House, the Senate budget proposal includes a line item of \$57.1 million of federal funding through the State Opioid Response Grant, contingent on the federal award of these funds.

Both chambers provide budget authority to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to spend \$6.5 million of a federal grant for drug overdose surveillance. The Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee Chair's budget proposal provides budget authority to spend the remaining \$12.4 million balance of the State Opioid Response Grants mainly on medication assisted treatment (MAT). When dollars are exhausted under these federal grants there are currently no state funds appropriated to continue the increased service capacity.

Both chambers' HHS budgets include a \$4 million increase for students to access mental health services in schools through telehealth. Additionally, there is a \$100 million appropriation in the

education budget for school-based mental health services, a \$25 million increase over current year funding.

Despite both chambers identifying the Agency for Persons with Disabilities as a priority issue that needed to be addressed during the two-month legislative session only the Senate has proposed a solution.

Attached is an updated House and Senate side-by-side analysis related to housing and homeless related issues.

## **Bills**

A few housing related bills that we have been following moved through committees this week including the Homelessness Bills ([CS/SB 68](#) & [HB 163](#)) and [SB 1084](#) & [CS/CS/CS HB 209](#) which prohibits discrimination in apartments to persons with disabilities using emotional support animals. The Senate's Independent Living Task Force Bill ([CS/SB 364](#)) was Temporarily Postponed this week. Senator Hutson's bill ([CS/SB 998](#)) is scheduled to be heard next week. Several of the Department of Children and Families mental health, substance abuse, and child welfare bills are moving quickly. See Bill Track below for details.

## **2020 BILLS FOLLOWED BY FSHC**

\* New bills & updates highlighted in Red

### **Housing Related Bills**

[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 the purpose of funding challenge grants. HB 163 does not. Both bills expand membership of the Council on Homelessness to include a representative of Florida Housing Coalition and Secretary of the Department of Elderly Affairs, and updates terminology. [SB 68 passed Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services 2/12 as amended to remove the required \\$10 million set aside for the Homeless Grants.](#) [HB 163 passed House Health & Human Services Committee 2/12 and added to the Calendar.](#)

[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 to transfer unappropriated cash balances from specified trust funds to the Budget Stabilization Fund and the General Revenue Fund. SB 306 passed Infrastructure and Security 2/4. HB 381 still in Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.

[CS/SB 364](#)/[CS/CS/CSHB 39](#) Independent Living Task Force: Establishing the Independent Living Task Force within Florida Housing; 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. [CS/SB 364 on Committee agenda Rules 2/12; Temporarily Postponed.](#) CS/CS/CS HB39 on House Calendar.

[SB 374](#)/[HB 175](#)- 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. HB 175 passed Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee 1/28, now in Judiciary Committee. SB 374 passed Rules Committee 2/5, placed on calendar.

[SB 502](#): Emergency Mitigation and Response: Establishing the Hurricane Michael Recovery Task Force to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding additional assistance needed in the response to recovery from and mitigation of the effects of Hurricane Michael. 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.~~ [Passed Infrastructure and Security 2/11 as amended to remove appropriation which will be addressed in the full budget.](#)

[CS/SB 856/HB 1459](#): Affordable Housing Tax Reductions: Authorizes counties, municipalities, & special districts to waive impact fees for certain nonprofit corporations for specified purposes; provides tax reduction to entities that provide affordable housing to identified groups; provides criteria for receiving reduction; provides formula for determining amount of reduction; requires taxpayer who receives reduction to file annual report. HB 1459 now in Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. **SB 856 passed Community Affairs 2/3 as amended to include supportive housing language 2/3, now in Finance & Tax.**

[CS/SB 998/CS/HB 1339](#) – Housing: Implements changes 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; reduces “workforce housing” under the Loan Program from 140% to 80% or from 150% to 120% in areas of critical need; deletes the term “public-private partnership”; decreases to 50% the number of units that have to be set aside for “workforce housing”; sets aside 5% of SHIP funds to provide counties and municipalities for the construction of transitional housing for persons aging out of foster care. Such housing must be constructed on a campus that provides housing for persons aging out of foster care. The corporation must consult with the Department of Children and Families to create minimum criteria for such housing. **SB 998 on Committee agenda Infrastructure and Security 2/17.** HB 1339 passed Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs 2/3, now in Ways & Means.

[SB 1066/CS/CS/HB 637](#): Impact Fees: Revises conditions that counties, municipalities, & special districts must satisfy before enacting an ordinance or passing resolutions; provides that impact fee credits are assignable & transferrable under certain conditions; requires certain counties & municipalities to establish impact fee review committees. **HB 637 passed Ways & Means Committee 2/3, now in State Affairs.** SB 1066 passed Community Affairs 2/10, now in Finance & Tax.

[SB 1084/CS/CS/HB 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; specifies person with disability or disability-related need is liable for damage done by emotional support animal; revises definition of "handicap." **CS/HB 209 passed Judiciary Committee 2/12 as amended.** SB 1084 passed Industry & Technology 2/10, now in Judiciary.

[CS/SB 1624/CS/HB 1323](#): Economic Self-sufficiency: The bill requires the Department of Children and Families to contract or an evaluation on the effectiveness of several programs including Medicaid and **Housing Choice Voucher** Program. The evaluations must include a review of the following aspects of those programs, history and description of the programs and an analysis of the impacts and effectiveness of the programs. **CS/SB 1624 passed Children, Families & Elder Affairs 2/4, on Governmental Oversight & Accountability 2/17.** **CS/HB 1323 passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 2/11, on Health & Human Services Committee agenda 2/18.**

[CS/SB 1642](#) - Tax Exemptions; Revising the affordable housing property exemption to exempt from ad valorem taxation property used to provide affordable housing to eligible persons or families meeting the extremely-low-income, very-low-income, low-income, moderate-income limits specified in s. 420.0004, which is owned entirely by a nonprofit entity that is a corporation not for profit, qualified as charitable under s. 501(c)(3). **CS/SB 1642 passed Commerce and Tourism 2/4, now in Finance & Tax.**

#### **Mental Health/Substance Abuse Related Bills**

[SB 706/HB 939](#): Insurance Coverage Parity for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders: Requires Medicaid managed care plans to submit annual report to AHCA relating to parity between mental health & substance use disorder benefits & medical & surgical benefits; provides removes provisions relating to optional coverage for mental & nervous disorders; requires OIR to implement & enforce certain federal law. HB 939 in Health Market Reform Subcommittee. SB 706 referred to Banking & Insurance.

[SB 1326](#): Department of Children and Families; Citing this act as the “DCF Accountability Act”; providing for the creation of the Office of Quality Assurance and Improvement in the Department of

Children and Families; extending the timeframe within which a protective investigation is required to be commence; requiring certain sheriffs to adopt Florida's Child Welfare Practice Model; providing for the calculation of the allocation of core plus funds, etc. Passed Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services 1/28, **now in Appropriations**.

[CS/SB 1440/CS/HB 945](#)- Children's Mental Health: Requires DCF & AHCA to identify certain children & adolescents who use crisis stabilization; 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. **HB 945 passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 2/4, on Health & Human Services Committee agenda 2/18. SB 1440 passed Children, Families & Elder Affairs as amended 2/4, now on Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services agenda 2/18.**

[SB 1554/CS/HB 1081](#): Substance Abuse and Mental Health – 2020: Revises the definition of “mental illness to exclude dementia and traumatic brain injury; sets priorities as to who receives services, addresses substance abuse licenses. **CS/HB 1081 now in Health Care Appropriations**. SB 1554 referred.

[CS/SB 1678/CS/HB 1071](#): Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Revises provisions related to substance abuse and mental health, including requirements for Criminal Justice, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program; community action treatment teams; eligibility requirements for DCF-funded services; priority of services for specified individuals; requirements for funding; requirements for school substance abuse prevention partnership grants; and other department requirements. **HB 1071 passed Health Care Appropriations 2/11, on Health & Human Services Committee 2/18. SB 1678 passed Children, Families & Elder Affairs 2/13 as amended.**

### **Housing Project Bills**

[HB 2259](#)- Housing Solutions Council (HSC) - Housing That Works: Provides a \$250,000 appropriation to HSC in City of Stuart/Martin County to manage the development of multifamily workforce housing 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2337](#) - Embrace Families Solutions' Pathways to Home Supportive Housing for Child Welfare Involved Families: Provides an appropriation of \$488,074 to secure permanent housing for 20 child-welfare involved families, with the intent to prevent children from entering/re-entering the child welfare system. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2341](#)- Changing The Narratives' Ending Youth Homelessness Initiative: Provides an appropriation of \$855,000 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 utilizing the Housing First model along with other innovative & effective models such as Rapid Rehousing & Host Home. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2343](#)- Zebra Coalition's Youth Housing Project: Provides an appropriation \$955 to develop 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. The goal is to build and/or lease a stand-alone building that will provide housing for approximately 25 youth in one location in Central Florida. In Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

[HB 2515/SB 1293](#) - Homelessness Collaborative of Broward County - Rapid Rehousing: Provides \$400,000 for an appropriation for the Homelessness Collaborative of Broward County.

[HB 2659/SB 1186](#)- Homeless Veteran Housing Assistance in Brevard County: Provides an appropriation of \$190,000 to support two agency programs: Street Outreach and Transitional Housing. The primary goals for these programs are to locate homeless/at-risk veterans 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. In Appropriations Committee. **In Senate Budget \$190,000.**

[SB 1345](#) College Food and Housing: Provides \$340,000. With this appropriation, colleges will be able to increase their efforts in combatting food and housing insecurity on campus. Campus food pantries will be able to provide additional resources for students. Additional emergency housing can also be provided for students who find themselves homeless.

[HB 3553/SB 1810](#) - Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Community Dialogue Technical Assistance Program: Provides \$100,000 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. In Appropriations Committee. **In Senate budget \$100,000.**

[HB 3709/SB 2086](#): Windley Key & Key Heights Affordable Housing Project. Provides \$1 million for 20 units of affordable housing in the upper Keys. These buildings would help replace units that were destroyed during the impact of Hurricane Irma. **In House budget \$1,000,000; In Senate budget \$250,000.**

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

[HB 4131/SB 2490](#) – Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative – Shared Housing. Provides \$3,500,000 to increase the number of affordable units for people emerging from homelessness. This includes engaging community residents and partners to improve housing stock and economic opportunities by developing and owning ADUs, rehabilitating foreclosed properties, and purchasing rental properties. **In Senate budget \$250,000.**

[HB 4231/SB 1349](#) - 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 providers. **In Senate budget \$250,000.**

[HB 4301/SB 1811](#)- The Transition House Homeless Veterans Program: Provides an appropriation of \$500,000 to provide substance abuse and mental health services to those clients that are unable to afford these services. Specifically, Veterans that are homeless and chronically homeless, as well as those that have been released from incarceration. **In House budget \$100,000.**

[HB 4347](#) - 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/SB 1599](#) - Permanent Supportive Housing - CASL (Renaissance Manor): Provides an appropriation of \$1,465,058 to CASL to provide PSH in Lee County. **In House budget \$500,000; in Senate budget \$1,250,000.**

[HB 4413/SB 1368](#) - 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 illness. The target population is homeless or at risk of being homeless veterans, their family, and mentally ill people. Expected number of people to be housed is 24. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 4545/1349](#) - Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust - Bridge Housing for Specialized Outreach: Provides an appropriation of \$562,000 for 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 4547/SB 2310](#) - 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 4549](#) - Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery: Provides an appropriation of \$4,000,000 to 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 9207/SB 1532](#): Connecting Everyone with Second Chances - Homelessness Services: Provides an appropriation of \$716,000 to provide shelter and wrap-around services to approximately 400 clients in Leon County (average of 50 nights at \$31.00 for 400 people), and to provide for two case managers to place clients in housing, and to create a diversion program to reduce the number of clients needing shelter services by reuniting families and seeking immediate solutions. Wrap-around services to include meals, job training and placement, telemedicine access, dental care and more. HB 9201 in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee. **In Senate Budget \$716,000.**

[HB 9227](#): Transformational Communities Initiative: Provides an appropriation of \$3,000,000 to establish 3 regional community and economic development partnership alliances to address the housing and economic development needs in an approved designated opportunity zone distressed rural and urban communities in Leon, Orange, and Broward Counties. In Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.

[SB 1414](#) – Family Housing Solutions: Provides Dawning Family Services in Hillsborough County \$500,000 offset costs associated with the construction of Hillsborough County's new 61-unit low-barrier emergency shelter for families with minor children (Family Bridge Housing) and the renovation/rehabilitation costs of two existing buildings that will be used for programmatic and administrative activities (Family Welcome Center and Family Solutions Center).

[HB 4909/SB 1811](#) Transition House of Starke – Homeless Relief Program. Provides \$500,000 to provide substance abuse treatment services to men and women who are indigent or that maybe located in a more rural area and do not have access to resources. The funds will be utilized to provide intensive residential treatment services to these men and women so that they are able to re-enter into the community with solid coping skills and maintain their recovery. **In Senate budget \$250,000**

[HB 4601/SB 2365](#) Metropolitan Ministries - Miracles for Pasco Program. Provides \$379352 o support services for homeless families and single women participating in the Miracles for Pasco supported housing program. **In Senate budget \$250,000.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

On Monday the Florida Housing Finance Corporation issued [RFA 2020-103](#) Housing Credit and SAIL Financing to Develop Housing for Homeless Persons. Applications are expected to be due on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. The Review Committee Meeting is expected to be held Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Florida Housing has issued the following announcement:

Rule Hearings for rule chapters 67-21 and 67-48, FAC, March 2, 2020, 10:00 am, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Workshop for the 2020-2021 RFA Cycle, March 5, 2020, 2:00 pm, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Application Deadline for Housing for Persons with Disabling Conditions/ Developmental Disabilities, March 26, 2020, 3:00pm, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Application Deadline for HC & SAIL Housing for Homeless Persons, March 31, 2020, 3:00pm, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Application Deadline for Housing for Persons with Special Needs, April 1, 2020, 3:00pm, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Florida Housing Board Meeting, March 6 - Tallahassee City Hall Commission Chambers. **More info:** Coming Soon!

## RESOURCES

Florida Policy Institute's releases an in-depth report on the Florida House and Senate budget proposals for fiscal year 2020-21. The report provides an:

- Analyzes year-to-year funding and long-term trends;
- Examines the House and Senate budget proposals through the lens of FPI's [Roadmap to Shared Prosperity in Florida](#); and
- Summarizes the current policy landscape in each major budget issue area.

[Click here to view the report.](#)

News Services Florida released the following statistics:

[BY THE NUMBERS: FLORIDA VOTERS](#) /February 10, 2020

With the March 17 presidential primaries fast approaching, Florida is preparing for a major election year. Here is a look at voter-registration numbers, as of Dec. 31:

--- **13,536,830**, the number of registered voters in Florida.

--- **4,986,520**, the number of registered Democrats.

--- **4,761,405**, the number of registered Republicans.

--- **3,641,359**, the number of voters registered with no party affiliation.

--- **147,546**, the number of voters registered with third parties.

--- **1,451,599**, the number of registered voters in Miami-Dade County, the largest total in the state.

--- **4,405**, the number of registered voters in Lafayette County, the smallest total in the state.

--- **6,605,852**, the total number of registered voters in Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach and Pinellas counties.

--- **46,933**, the total number of registered voters in Calhoun, Franklin, Glades, Hamilton, Lafayette, Liberty and Union counties.

--- **4,006**, the edge Democrats hold over Republicans in Pinellas County, which has 682,062 registered voters.

--- **14**, the number of counties where Republicans make up more than 50 percent of the registered voters (Baker, Bay, Clay, Collier, Gilchrist, Gulf, Holmes, Nassau, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Sumter, Walton and Washington).

--- **2**, the number of counties where Republicans make up more than 60 percent of the registered voters (Holmes and Walton).

--- **7**, the number of counties where Democrats make up more than 50 percent of the registered voters (Calhoun, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Madison).

--- **2**, the number of counties where Democrats make up more than 60 percent of the registered voters (Gadsden and Liberty).

--- Source: Florida Division of Elections

## NATIONAL NEWS

President Trump and HUD Secretary Ben Carson's released their Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget request – [released Monday](#) – . Overall, the administration proposes to cut HUD by an \$8.6 billion or 15% below 2020 enacted levels, not including those cuts offset by increased FHA receipts. The President's budget proposal would eliminate vital housing programs, including the National Housing

Trust Fund, and all funding for public housing capital repairs. It eliminates the HOME Investments Partnership program and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The proposed cuts include cutting public housing operating funds by 21% (\$3.57 billion) and Housing for Persons with AIDS by 20% (\$330 million).

Other cuts would include funding cuts for the Housing Choice Voucher program by \$5 billion (not including additional increases needed to cover inflation). NLIHC estimates over 160,000 families who currently receive rental assistance could be at risk of losing their assistance and their ability to afford their home. As he has in previous years, Secretary Carson claims that the budget would continue rental assistance for all existing households. For more details, see NLIHC's full [analysis](#) of the president's budget request and their updated [budget chart](#).