



Member Capital News

January 29, 2020

LEGISLATIVE NEWS – SPECIAL EDITION - WEEK 2

HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGET NEWS

Below is a quick analysis of the portion of the House and Senate's Subcommittee Appropriations' bills related to housing and health care released this week. Both the House and Senate Appropriations' Committees will meet next week to take up any amendments to the Subcommittees reports and to merge them into one aspirations' bill per Chamber. Currently no proviso has been provided so funding maybe further specified next week when it will included in the full Appropriations Bill.

House Budget – Presented 1/28/2020

Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

The House Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee released their budget Tuesday and once again sweeps more than half (\$240 million) of the Affordable Housing Trust Funds.

Starting session, the amount of housing trust funds was estimated to be approximately \$387 million. The Subcommittee allocated only \$147 million for affordable housing. Although the funding is basically the same amount allocated last year. This year, however, it does not allocate it all to Hurricane Michael Recovery.

Allocations from the **Affordable Housing Trust Funds** is as follows:

SAIL - \$48,800,000

SHIP – \$73,200,000

Hurricane Housing Recovery Program - \$25,000,000

Allocations from the **Housing and Community Development Projects (DEO)** funds 2 workforce housing projects for the Panhandle:

Calhoun County Affordable Housing Workforce Housing - Special Project ([HB 9109](#)) - \$750,000

Gulf County Affordable Housing Workforce Housing – Special Project ([HB 9111](#)) - \$750,000

In its current budget format, there are no provisions at this time to determine if there is funding directed toward other Local Budget Requests, for Catalyst, or Homeless Challenge Grants.

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

On the health and human services side, the House funded several Local Budget Requests including the following related to housing:

\$200,000 - Miami Homeless Trust ([HB 4545](#)),

\$100,000 Transition House Homeless Veteran's Program ([HB 4301](#))

\$500,000 CASL - Renaissance Center ([HB 4385](#))

Citrus Health Network - Safe Haven for Homeless Youth (HB 4165)

Summary of other funding includes:

Full funding of Medicaid to match the growth rate of 3.32% , however reduces the Medicaid budget by \$100+ million by continuing the policy of retro-eligibility of 30 days. This cut is related to a Medicaid policy which reduces reimbursement to the past 30 days of qualifying for benefits vs.90 days which had been the policy up until 2019-20.

\$700,000 for Supportive Employment for Persons with Mental Illnesses

Department of Health: Budget authority to spend \$9.1 million of federal Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) funding which provides short-term services and support needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. This is in addition to \$4,918,213 already allocated.

Department of Children & Family - \$8 million to implement a quality assurance program for all providers and clients within the department that will consist of two units that will conduct case reviews and on-site reviews across the child welfare and behavioral health systems of care.

Senate Budget – Presented 1/29/2020

The Senate **Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development** fully used the Affordable Housing Trust Funds (\$387 million) towards affordable housing. The Senate did not specify any amount at least at the time for Hurricane Recovery.

Allocations from the **Affordable Housing Trust Funds** is as follows:

SAIL - \$119,800,000

SHIP – \$267,200,000

Senate Brandes asked Senator Hutson, Chair whether he would consider “block granting” the SHIP funds which would remove the requirements of how it must be spent and would give the counties more flexibility. Senator Hutson indicated he had tried to build in flexible in his bill CS/SB 998 but the counties and others had asked to remove that from his bill and to go back to current language. It appears at this time he is not willing to readdress that issue.

Health and Human Service Appropriations Subcommittee

Senate Bean, chair, in his introduction to the committee today (Wednesday 1/29) started with the following: “Let’s talk about health”. We all want to be healthy. I think health starts with some of the basics. The very basic is a place to live. If you don’t have a place to live this is going to be your primary focus”. With that comment he introduced the First Coast Apartment Association whose mission is to make apartment living affordable for everyone. Following the introduction, he ended his comments with “We all need shelter, it all starts with shelter.” His video comments are available at http://www.flsenate.gov/media/videoplayer?EventID=2443575804_2020011313.

Some highlights of the Health and Human Services budget include the following:

Increased rates for Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities including \$242 million to fund existing deficit.

\$3.6 million Cost of Living Adjustment for Mental Contracted Agencies

\$5.8 million to Expand Community Capacity to Serve Individuals in Need of Psychiatric Treatment in NW Florida

\$1.7 million for Supportive Employment for Persons with Mental Illnesses

\$250,000 Miami Bridge – Host Homes for Youth ([HB 4545](#))

\$250,00 The Transition House of Starke – Homeless Relief Program

\$716,000 Comprehensive Emergency Services – Homeless Services and Residential Support ([HB 9207](#))

\$1.25 million ALF Services to Mental Health Clients/CASL/Renaissance Center ([HB 4385](#))

\$190,000 Homeless Veterans Housing Assistance – Brevard and Surrounding Counties ([HB 2659](#))

Department of Health - Budget authority to spend \$9.1 million of federal Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) funding which provides short-term services and support needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. This is in addition to \$4,918,213 already allocated. Same funding as the House.

Department of Veteran's Affairs – \$250,000 Treasure Coast Homeless Veterans Assistance Center

For questions or comments contact Karen@fshc.org.