

November 27, 2017

Florida Housing Finance Corporation
c/o Trey Price
c/o Nancy Muller
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Price and Ms. Muller:

This is in response to your request for comments for the Affordable Housing Workgroup's consideration.

I have examined the materials that you will be discussing at your next meeting. There have been several comments related to changing the percentage of State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funds from ownership to rental and increasing the amount of SHIP funding dedicated to homeless and special needs housing from the public and members of the workgroup.

I find it disheartening that the affordable housing community is discussing the distribution of funds, when the most single most important recommendation from the workgroup should be to use all the housing trust funds for affordable housing. Were all the trust funds used for affordable housing, the amount of funding available for each of these categories would increase far more than would result from any change in the allocation formula.

I would urge the committee not to become distracted with how the SHIP funds are distributed between the various uses (rental, homeownership, special needs, homeless) and instead focus on the fact that using all the trust funds for affordable housing will dramatically increase the number of individuals in all categories that will be assisted.

Both Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota have included in their legislative priorities that all housing trust funds should be used for affordable housing. A similar recommendation from the workgroup would be consistent with their established policies.



The workforce is required to develop pathways and strategies for low income housing. Recommending to the legislature that all the trust funds should be used for affordable housing is consistent with that charge and should be the primary recommendation from this workgroup.

Respectfully,

Donald D. Hadsell,
Director