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**Subject:** Homeless/Disability RFA

Thanks Nancy and Kevin for presenting very informative information yesterday; both workshops were greatly appreciated. (sorry that Bill wasn't able to participate). Per your request, Nancy, I am responding to the 2 topics that you asked for input:

1. RFA for Homeless/Disabilities: Regarding the CofC Executive Directors certification form, I, like the other 2 ladies at the workshop, ran into a political storm with the Polk County CofC. Because we are serving the homeless in Davenport area and along western 192 Hwy- which is part of Polk, we see the dire need for affordable housing. Thus, we secured a site and I initially met with, and presented our proposal to the Polk County Housing Director. He welcomed our proposal for more housing to be created in Davenport. I also met with and secured support letters from Polk County District State House Rep, along with another letter from US Congressman Ross, who lives in Polk. (Congressman Ross was very helpful getting our sand skink removal application processed for Woodwinds) I then tried to meet with the Homeless CofC Director. She told me that she didn't want to meet as she would not sign the required form because she already signed for a Developer whose application was for a site in Lakeland. The Director said that she wanted housing in Lakeland and because she didn't know me, she would not sign our form, even though we joined the Polk CofC. Several other CofC Directors, the homeless service provider in Lakeland who we collaborate with, and Susan Pourcieu reached out to her, without success. Thus, we were not able to submit our proposal to FHFC last spring. In my opinion, having the CofC sign the form prior to having the application approved doesn't make sense to me. However, belonging to the CofC and being part of the coordinated intake could be a condition of approval, if the application is approved. Note that I serve on the board of the coalition of the district I live in (Mid FL Homeless Coalition), and recognize the value of being part of the CofC. Thus, I recommend that the form be eliminated due to potential political conflict, but have agency sign agreement that they will belong to the CofC and participate with coordinated intake.

2. RFA for Special Needs: we are wanting to provide housing for special needs in Orange County. We have a drop in center in W Orange County and are working closely with the homeless in cities of Ocoee and Winter Garden (small cities northwest of Orlando). Unfortunately, the CofC and Central FL Community Foundation (and even the recent \$5mil cash infusion from JPM Chase) want to focus Orange County funding to those in city of Orlando. I recognize this is where the majority of homeless wander, but there are others walking the streets in these 2 cities. Last year, I presented at a city commission members meeting at these 2 cities to inform them that we would help end homelessness in their city. (we were part of the point in time count in these 2 cities to confirm number of homeless, and have numerous churches in these cities supporting our efforts to create services and housing). Thus, I suggest that you might consider funding for small cities (less than \$50,000) in large counties.

Again, thanks for the training provided yesterday and asking for public comments.  
Steve

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