

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**



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FLORIDA HOUSING
FINANCE CORPORATION

November 14, 2017

Harold L. "Trey" Price
Executive Director
Florida Housing Finance Corporation
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Re: Local Government Input for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Proposals

Dear Mr. Price:

Escambia County would like to comment on the change to the Request for Application (RFA) process for LIHTC Programs. The removal of a local government contribution was implemented with RFA 2017-111 Housing Credit Financing for Affordable Housing Developments Located in Medium and Small Counties.

Escambia County objects to the elimination of the opportunity for local involvement in the approval processes for affordable housing developments within its jurisdiction. The County further objects to any proposed rule or legislation which restricts the local government's ability to determine for itself how best to provide affordable housing for its citizens.

Escambia County is in the best position to determine which developments are needed to serve our population. Elimination of the local government contribution removes the local government's participation in the selection of Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) projects. This action extinguishes the County's opportunity to appropriately vet developers and owners in order to provide better housing for some of our most vulnerable members.

Local governments should be allowed to prioritize projects within their jurisdictions and determine how best to fund affordable housing for its citizens. The requirement for local approval will allow the County to direct development of neighborhoods and provide financial assistance to implement the most essential proposals within the local community.

Further, the County will continue to request full funding by the legislature of the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program so the County may, in turn, direct all funds where most imperative and as the community prioritizes.

We urge the FHFC to allow local governments to have significant input into the projects that are funded within our community. Local input and review of LIHTC and SAIL proposals serve to benefit the community to ensure the best use all public resources for the good of the whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grover C. Robinson, IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Grover C. Robinson, IV
Escambia County Commissioner
District 4

Cc: Florida Association of Counties
Florida State Affordable Housing Task Force