



Mayor Andrew D. Gillum

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May 17, 2018

Mr. Trey Price
Executive Director
Florida Housing Financing Corporation
227 N. Bronough Street - #5000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

RE: Medium County Local Government Areas of Opportunity

Dear Mr. Price:

I am writing you today to express my appreciation of Florida Housing Finance Corporation's consideration of a Local Government Areas of Opportunity ("LGAO") funding preference for Medium Counties in the upcoming 9% Geographic Small and Medium County Request for Applications.

I fully support the introduction of the LGAO preference in Medium Counties and believe it is in line with Florida Housing Finance Corporation's goals to leverage its scarce resources while aligning with local redevelopment initiatives. LGAO preference has been a very powerful and successful tool for the large counties. It has provided many municipalities the ability to strategically invest funds in areas that yield the most beneficial results for the community.

The City of Tallahassee and Leon County have collaborated to identify a top priority for our community which involves the redevelopment and expansion of an existing Public Housing Project. Access to tax credits would advance this project which is part of a strategic plan to address local affordable housing and community development needs. The LGAO preference would allow tax credit funding to become a more strategic tool and better allow the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to partner with local governments to address the states affordable housing needs.

The current lottery system used in the tax credit application process for Medium Counties does not maximize the opportunity to leverage local government resources by focusing on locally identified priorities. The SHIP Program is a good example of how the Finance Corporation can partner with local governments to ensure that affordable housing resources are used in a manner which address local needs. The LGAO is an extension of that SHIP Program philosophy to the tax credit allocation process.

I support directing as much of the funding as possible to the LGAO preference in the upcoming tax credit application cycle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew D. Gillum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew D. Gillum
Mayor

cc: Kevin Tatreau, Development Finance
Marisa Button, Multifamily Allocations
Nancy Muller, Policy & Special Programs

"Serving is Leading"

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