What is the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)?

The Coronavirus Relief Fund is a portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in March 2020 in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor DeSantis authorized $250 million of Florida’s CRF allocation for rental and mortgage assistance to be provided to Florida families that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative includes two funding pools totaling $240 million for rental and mortgage assistance.

How much CRF funding is available through Florida Housing Finance Corporation?

- $120 million to provide rental assistance for residents in Florida Housing funded developments;
- $120 million to provide rent and mortgage assistance administered by the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) jurisdictions; and
- $2 million to provide operations support for special needs developments.

Who is eligible to access the CRF funding?

Per the Governor’s press release on June 25, 2020, Florida Housing will coordinate with properties in its portfolio for strategies 1 and 3, listed above. For CRF funding strategy 2 Florida Housing will coordinate with the local SHIP jurisdictions to administer funds.

When will the CRF funding be released?

Florida Housing issued an Invitation to Participate (ITP) on July 11, 2020 and the Board of Directors voted to approve these strategies on July 17, 2020. Immediately upon approval, Florida Housing began working with eligible recipients to ensure funds were available as soon as possible.

What if I have specific questions?

Beginning July 20, if you are a housing developer of units funded by Florida Housing, please contact 1-888-232-6918.
Does applying for a local government’s Emergency Rental Assistance program make a resident (or property) ineligible to apply for the FHFC program?

If a property has a combination of project-based assistance and Housing Choice Vouchers, can a property still be eligible to participate assuming there are still unsubsidized households impacted by Covid-19?

Treasury’s guidance for the Coronavirus Relief Funds prohibits using these funds for expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any other federal program. Therefore, households receiving rental assistance under any other federal program and reside in Florida Housing funded developments are ineligible. However, Development Owners may receive rent subsidies for households that do not receive rental assistance under federal programs that are experiencing a loss of job or income due to COVID-19.

In addition, many of these programs, including programs funded by the CARES Act (local government’s CDBG-CV, Florida Housing’s CRF, etc.) prohibit a duplication of benefits, or double dipping. We anticipate the CRF funding agreement will require a certification by residents as well as owners that they have not collected rent from other sources for the same CRF expenditures.

Example 1: A household experiencing a loss of job or income due to COVID-19 applies to their local government for rental assistance for April and May. The household or Development Owner receives full assistance for the household for both months but receives no further rental assistance. The Development Owner would be eligible to receive CRF Rental assistance for the household in this example beginning with the month of June.

Example 2: A household experiencing a loss of job or income due to COVID-19 applies to their local government for rental assistance for April, May, June and July. The household or Development Owner receives full assistance for the household for all four months. In this example, if the Development Owner submitted a request for CRF Rental Assistance to pay the July rent, it would be denied.

Example 3: A household that experienced a loss of job or income due to COVID-19 but are no longer impacted due to reemployment, would be eligible for arrearages for the months, beginning in April, that they were impacted by the loss of income due to COVID-19.

Will the residents be able to provide an affidavit confirming impact from Covid-19? What documents will be required to prove or establish hardship?

Yes. We are working to get all the information you and your management agents will need to document a household’s loss of job or income due to COVID-19 and guidance should be ready soon. There will also be additional answers to frequently asked questions and other information to aid with this funding.

Is there a deadline for when one can submit an application for ITP 2020 CRF Invitation to Participate in the CARES Act CRF to Provide Rental Assistance for Residents in Developments Currently in Florida Housing’s Portfolio?

We anticipate that we will no longer accept applications after November 30, 2020 but reserve the right to close applications prior to that date.
Can you tell me where I find “Original Funding Application Number Assigned by Florida Housing”? Is this found on a specific document provided by Florida Housing at the time of funding?

You can find the Original Funding Application Number Assigned by Florida Housing in the reference section of the cover letters for Management Reviews (also on page 1 identified as Program ID Numbers), Close Out Letters, front page of Credit Underwriting Reports and on the front page or possibly the footer of your Development’s use restriction agreements.

May we upload more than one application (for several separate Developments) with one upload or do we need to upload one application with each log on?

Applicants will need to upload each application individually, however, each individual using the system should only have to create a log-on one time and use that log-on for each upload.

Does Exhibit A need to be completed for each individual household that has had their income affected due to COVID-19 or is it to be completed for the property and then once approved, individual household information will be requested?

Exhibit A may only be submitted by the Applicant/Owner of a Development currently in Florida Housing’s portfolio in order for the Development to participate in the Coronavirus Relief Fund Rental strategy to assist residents in their Developments.

Once approved, a funding agreement and additional information will be issued. We are working up an FAQ document that will be posted to the website and responsive to your questions (as well as others). We plan to have the document posted in the next few days and may add to it as additional inquiries come in. The Corporation will respond to uploaded Applications within 30 days of submission.

Can we revise the number of original tenants included in our Application (if needed), or should we allow for a cushion when submitting?

For example, the amount of eligible residents today could increase or decrease by October of November. Is the number in the application flexible?

The estimated number of currently affected tenant households in D. 2. Is simply an estimate and we expect the number to fluctuate from month to month.

Are FHFC payments to the community and not directly to residents?

Florida Housing will reimburse participating properties to subsidize eligible households’ rents for each impacted month.

In Exhibit A, can we pick BOTH D1 and D2, or just one or the other?

Applicants/Owners should select all options in Section D that are applicable to their Development.

For additional program information or to speak to a representative, starting July 20, 2020 call Florida Housing’s toll-free Coronavirus Relief Fund Information Line at 1-888-232-6918. Open Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. EDT.

For additional information on Florida Housing’s Coronavirus Relief Fund, visit www.floridahousing.org or call the information line at 1-888-232-6918.