



**Kevin Johnson**  
Board Chair

**Suzanne Sewell**  
President & CEO

October 22, 2019

Tracy Banner  
Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Ms. Banner,

I write to you today on behalf of the membership of the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (Florida ARF) and its member agencies who provide services and supports for thousands of individuals with disabilities across the State of Florida. Our Association represents well over 100 provider agencies who provide residential and other services such as employment supports and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

First, my membership expresses gratitude to the Florida Housing Corporation for their efforts in building or renovating residential homes for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. In an environment where nonprofit agencies receive low Medicaid reimbursement rates and often have to fund raise or seek grants to keep their doors open, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation has provided assistance that has literally helped provider agencies keep their doors open. Additionally, our members have found the Corporation to be an excellent business partner.

We encourage the Corporation to continue to prioritize construction and/or renovation of group homes and other residential homes that meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, particularly those with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Statistical data demonstrate that individuals with developmental disabilities have lower wage earnings than the nondisabled population which makes home ownership an impossibility in many cases. Through the Florida Housing Corporation, many individuals with disabilities who receive public assistance are now able to live in modern, attractive homes while having their daily needs met by nonprofit provider agencies. We ask that the Florida Housing and other partners continue to prioritize funding to meet the housing needs of this population, as has occurred in the past.

Thank you. If you have questions regarding this request, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

*Suzanne Sewell*

Suzanne Sewell  
President & CEO