

From: Carl Falconer [mailto:cfalconer@lsfnet.org]

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 2:34 PM

To: Comments

Subject: Support for Increased Supply of Housing to Households with Special Needs

Dear Chairman Smith,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment into the board's strategic planning efforts.

I am writing to tell you that supportive housing is very important. In recent years Florida Housing Finance Corporation has increased the supply of housing to households with special needs. However, the supply does not come close to meeting the need.

As the Managing Entity of state Substance Abuse and Mental Health Funding for the Northeast Region of Florida, LSF hears on a daily basis the need for housing to our population of clients. Most of the treatment, intervention and prevention programs are ineffective without affordable housing to these clients. Too many times we hear stories from local providers about clients who returned to receive more services, only because the last time they left there was no affordable housing available to them.

Whether it's an article in the newspaper from a local Sheriff or an article on television about children sleeping in cars with their families; it is clear there is a problem that needs to be addressed. Affordable housing is the answer.

LSF is in the process of evaluating the funding we manage in an effort to address this problem, but it is bigger than one agency or one funding source. We must combine our efforts and continue to maximize our resources together to solve this issue. I am confident that we can do this, by targeting those most in need and by leveraging our resources together to work smarter on the solution.

I encourage Florida Housing Finance Corporation to focus its affordable housing resources to serving those experiencing homelessness and persons with special needs. These are our neighbors with the greatest housing need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to personally working with you on these efforts in the future.

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