**Definition of Special Needs Households**

As defined in Rule Chapter 67-48, Florida Administrative Code, “Special Needs Household” means a household consisting of a Family that is considered to be Homeless, a survivor of Domestic Violence, a Person with a Disability, or Youth Aging out of Foster Care. These households require initial, intermittent or on-going supportive services from one or more community based service providers to obtain and retain stable, adequate and safe housing in their communities.

**67-48.002** – The following are relevant Definitions to the Link Initiative:

(35) “Domestic Violence” means Domestic violence as defined in Section 741.28, F.S.
1 See accompanying Florida Statutes definition.

(39) “ELI Household” or “Extremely Low Income Household” means a household of one or more persons wherein the annual adjusted gross income for the Family is equal to or below the percentage of area median income for ELI Persons.

(41) “ELI Persons” or “Extremely Low Income Persons” means extremely low income persons as defined in Section 420.0004(8), F.S. or in a competitive solicitation.
2 See accompanying statute definition.

(42) “ELI Set-Aside” or “Extremely Low Income Set-Aside” means the number of units designated to serve ELI Households.

(46) “Family” describes a household composed of one or more persons.

(60) “Homeless” means Homeless as defined in Section 421.621, F.S.

(107) “Special Needs Household” means a household consisting of a Family that is
considered to be Homeless, a survivor of Domestic Violence, a Person with a Disability, or Youth Aging Out of Foster Care. These households require initial, intermittent or ongoing supportive services from one or more community based service providers to obtain and retain stable, adequate and safe housing in their communities.

(108) “Special Needs Household Referral Agency” means an organization that is designated and authorized by legislative mandate or the responsible federal or state agency to plan, coordinate and administer the provision of federal or state supportive services or long-term care programs for at least one Special Needs Household population.

(122) “Youth Aging Out of Foster Care” means youth or young adults who are eligible for services under Section 409.1451(2), F.S.

3 See accompanying statute definition.

**Statute Definitions:**

1 Section 741.28, F.S. (2)“Domestic violence” means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

(3) “Family or household member” means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.
2 Section 420.0004, F.S. (9) “Extremely-low-income persons” means one or more natural persons or a family whose total annual household income does not exceed 30 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the state. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation may adjust this amount annually by rule to provide that in lower income counties, extremely low income may exceed 30 percent of area median income and that in higher income counties, extremely low income may be less than 30 percent of area median income.

3 409.1451, F.S. Independent living transition services.—

(1) SYSTEM OF SERVICES.—

(a) The Department of Children and Family Services, its agents, or community-based providers operating pursuant to s. 409.1671 shall administer a system of independent living transition services to enable older children in foster care and young adults who exit foster care at age 18 to make the transition to self-sufficiency as adults.

409.1451 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—

b) The department shall serve young adults who have reached 18 years of age but are not yet 23 years of age and who were in foster care when they turned 18 years of age or, after reaching 16 years of age, were adopted from foster care or placed with a court-approved dependency guardian and have spent a minimum of 6 months in foster care within the 12 months immediately preceding such placement or adoption, by providing services pursuant to subsection (5). Young adults to be served must meet the eligibility requirements set forth for specific services in this section.

**Note:**

Persons With Disabilities: FHFC defines this term, pursuant to Section 3 of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, as an individual to which both of the following applies: (i) the individual has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits
one or more of the major life activities of such individual, and (ii) the individual is currently or was formerly regarded as having an existing record of such an impairment.

Supportive housing is an emerging arena for Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Supportive housing can be more costly and residents’ incomes often have to be supplemented to meet operations expenses, but it appears to be an important strategy to divert individuals from more expensive and restrictive institutional settings. We here at Florida Housing will continue to work with others to develop a comprehensive solution to effectively pool housing and services resources to assist people with special needs.