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To: [Zach Summerlin](#)
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Please see attached letter submitted on behalf of the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition.

Olga Golik
President
Florida Supportive Housing Coalition

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Privacy Officer/In-House Counsel



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July 10, 2023

Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Workgroup
c/o Florida Housing Finance Corporation
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
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via email: zach.summerlin@floridahousing.org

Dear Workgroup Members,

Thank you for the time you are committing to develop a comprehensive statewide Action Plan that will identify efficiencies, improve existing efforts and create a comprehensive strategy to provide Permanent Supportive Housing throughout Florida.

As you are aware, the Governor's Office convened the Workgroup as an outcome of two Policy Day convenings, hosted by the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition. At the second Policy Day, attendees recommended the following key strategies be included in the Action Plan:

- Long-term sustainable funding; creation of a supportive housing trust fund
- Data sharing and data-driven decision making
- Interagency communication, coordination and resource leveraging
- Streamlined access to housing navigation and supportive housing units
- Development of agency and stakeholder capacity
- Evaluation and accountability for State Supportive Housing Action Plan implementation

In support of these key strategies, the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition provides these recommendations for your consideration.

Create a Dedicated Supportive Housing Trust Fund

The creation of a dedicated resource was the most repeated recommendation of both Policy Day convenings. And it is the most certain way to ensure the resources necessary to create capacity throughout the state.

The Trust Fund should be used to develop housing units, provide rental assistance and ensure support services resources for each housing unit provided. More information can be provided about rental assistance models such as the State of Georgia's Housing Voucher and Bridge Program.

Also provided are other potential strategies for funding supportive housing; including legislative changes that will facilitate increased resources for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Actionable Data and Data Sharing

Data is essential to the efficient provision of Permanent Supportive Housing throughout the state. Baseline data of what is currently provided – number of units, location, population(s) served, funding sources – is necessary to conduct a gaps analysis of what is needed – identifying how many units are needed, where, and for whom. Included in actionable data, is the need for data-sharing across systems of care. The Workgroup can recommend amending Florida statutes to allow the sharing of otherwise confidential information for the limited purpose of care coordination and data driven decision making by authorized entities, within requirements of federal laws. And, ideally, the data is structured so that it can be used by state agencies and providers to locate housing for participants. Data could be continually updated to track progress and confirm efficient implementation of the Plan.

Interagency communication, coordination and resource leveraging

The Workgroup may recommend amending section 287.057 Florida Statutes, procurement requirements to allow bundling of funding enabling one agency to procure for a bundled award of funds coming from different departments or divisions of the State if those entities approve or it is otherwise allowed by Statute.

Monitor Plan Implementation

Any successful plan must be a living document, evolving as it is implemented.

Fundamentally, monitoring must assess effectiveness, answering these questions. Are strategies achieving their goals or are amendments needed? Are agencies and providers implementing best practices? What training is needed to ensure best practices are implemented? What support is needed at the community-level to facilitate more supportive housing capacity?

The Florida Supportive Housing Coalition remains committed to supporting the planning process and helping state agencies develop programs and implement the Plan.

In service,



Olga Golik
Board President

FLORIDA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COALITION



Supportive Housing Trust Fund

Create New Resource

Food and Beverage Tax - Section 212.0306, Florida Statutes permits local option food and beverage taxes. One is a 1% tax on the sale of food, beverages and alcoholic beverages in certain establishments. 15% of the funds must be used for domestic violence shelters, the remainder to help the homeless or those at risk of homelessness.

Statewide

Enact a similar 1% sales tax statewide with all proceeds going to a Permanent Supportive Housing Trust Fund

Local Option

Amend the statute to permit use of the funds for Permanent Supportive Housing and permit local communities to decide if they wish to implement the tax (currently only Miami-Dade is eligible to levy the tax)

Dedicate Existing Resources

- Increase allocation of State and Local Trust Funds to the development of Permanent Supportive Housing
- Dedicate a portion of Live Local Act resources to development of Permanent Supportive Housing

Enable Eligibility of Existing Resources

- Amend Section 409.212 Florida Statute to permit Optional State Supplementation payments to be used in Permanent Supportive Housing programs supported by a state agency
- Amend Section 287.057 Florida Statute to permit one agency to procure for a bundled award of funds if other state agencies approve.
- Expand Medicaid Pilot to all regions of the State