

From: [James McCabe](#)
To: [Zach Summerlin](#)
Subject: Letter to Zach Summerlin
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:06:04 PM
Attachments: [DRF-Logo-w-Trans_01832e9d-f745-480f-9da0-cfa2ff649507.png](#)
[Facebook_7b83d6b1-ee99-4b25-9f12-5409b03a0b6a.png](#)
[Twitter_416a47f9-915c-4ecf-a83e-83e56eb5cf7d.png](#)
[instagram_32x32_5086566b-23ee-4e54-998f-c571d387b1d6.png](#)
[Youtube_13adc64-9df1-41fe-aea2-a050c579d141.png](#)
[emailsiq2024goalssurveybanner_43aa3bcf-256b-4188-94f5-596c765fd7cc.png](#)
[We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)
[F. Housing Finance Corp. Letter to Zach Summerlin...pdf](#)

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Dear Mr. Summerlin:

I hope this finds you well. I have been instructed by my supervising attorney Katherine Hanson to send you the following attached letter. Thank you and have a pleasant day.

Cordially,

James McCabe • Senior Advocate-Investigator
850-488-9071 x9781 • 800-342-0823 x9781
TDD 800-346-4127 • Fax 850-617-6809 • jamesm@disabilityrightsflorida.org



Disability Rights Florida
Advocacy. Equality. Dignity.
www.disabilityrightsflorida.org



 **Your Opinion Matters! Take our
Proposed 2024 Goals Survey**

This communication may contain confidential, proprietary, and/or privileged information and may be protected from distribution by law. It is intended solely for the use of the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that the law may restrict or prohibit the unintended use, copying or distribution of this communication. If you received this communication in error, please contact the sender immediately and destroy the material in its entirety, whether electronic or hard copy. If you properly received this e-mail as a client, co-counsel or retained expert of Disability Rights Florida, you should maintain its contents in confidence in order to preserve the attorney-client or work product privilege that may be available to protect confidentiality.



July 13, 2023

Florida Housing Finance Corporation

c/o Zach Summerlin

Via e-mail: Zach.Summerlin@Floridahousing.org

Re: Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Workgroup

Disability Rights Florida submits this public comment to support the state's work to create a State Supportive Housing Action Plan. Disability Rights Florida (DRF) is a not-for-profit corporation which acts as the state's federally-mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System for individuals with disabilities. As Florida's P&A System, DRF's mission is to advocate, educate, investigate, and litigate to protect and advance the rights, dignity, equal opportunities, self-determination, and choices for all people with disabilities.

Supportive housing is a critical housing option for people with a variety of disabilities who require supports to live lives of dignity as fully integrated members of our communities. Stable housing with supports is the foundation for improved health, employment, and education outcomes and has been shown to reduce the likelihood of costly interventions including emergency room visits and incarceration.¹ The State's commitment to the funding and development of affordable and integrated supportive housing and to the creation and implementation of best management practices is essential to the expansion and efficacy of supportive housing in Florida. DRF urges the state to take bold steps to enable the collection and sharing of agency data about housing and service needs and availability, require effective communication between state agencies, promote and facilitate the braiding of various housing funds, and to increase the funding to train and retain the service workers who provide necessary housing supports. DRF strongly supports the creation of a Supportive Housing Trust Fund. A dedicated Supportive Housing Trust Fund is critical to the long-term success of supportive housing communities and their residents. DRF urges the state to take this opportunity to create a State Supportive Housing Action Plan that help fulfill Florida's obligation to ensure the complete integration of people with disabilities into our communities by improving access to stable, affordable, supportive housing.

¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2016. *Supportive Housing Helps Vulnerable People Live and Thrive in the Community*. [online] Available at: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/supportive-housing-helps-vulnerable-people-live-and-thrive-in-the-community> [Accessed May 16, 2023]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment to the Workgroup and for your efforts to promote affordable, integrated, supportive housing.

Sincerely,

Katherine Hanson

Katherine Hanson
Senior Staff Attorney
Disability Rights Florida
1-800-342-0823 Ext 9713
TDD 800-346-4127
katherineh@disabilityrightsflorida.org