

From: [Olga Golik](#)
To: [Zach Summerlin](#)
Subject: Public comment for Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Workgroup
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 4:16:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
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[Citrus Public Comment letter to FSHC.pdf](#)

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Hello Zach, thank you for all your hard work with the Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Workgroup! Attached is a letter from Citrus Health Network with our comments. Thank you!


Olga Golik

Privacy Officer/In-House Counsel



Citrus Health Network, Inc.

4175 W 20th Ave.
Hialeah, FL 33012

 305-424-3010

 olgag@citrushealth.com

 <https://www.citrushealth.org>

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May 10, 2023

Florida Housing Finance Corporation
c/o Zach Summerlin
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32301
VIA email: Zach.Summerlin@floridahousing.org

RE: Support for Supportive Housing State Plan

Citrus Health Network (Citrus) would like to provide this letter of public comment to support the State's effort to develop a State Supportive Housing Plan. As a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), Community Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency for child welfare services in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, housing provider and a Federally Qualified Health Center, we have seen the housing needs of our client populations for many years. Though affordable housing has always been a challenging resource, the current needs are especially dire for the vulnerable groups we serve.

Our crisis units serve persons with disabilities related to mental illness and substance use, that cycle in and out of crisis units and shelters due to their homeless status. Our mental health and child welfare teams work with families at risk of entering the child welfare system who have severe housing challenges. Our Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams face huge challenges finding housing for persons exiting state hospitals. Our youth that are survivors of commercial and sexual exploitation have challenges leaving their traffickers due to lack of housing resources. Finally, for our youth aging out of foster care whose placement is subsidized with State dollars, we are unable to find sufficient affordable housing.

Citrus has used every available housing resource to help meet these needs. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) currently funds housing through many of our programs. We try to utilize all federal funds available to assist with the housing needs of these populations, including HUD CoC, HOME, Section 811, Family Unification Program (FUP) funds and Department of Justice OVC funds. We also serve as a referral and service provider for Florida Housing Finance Corporation LINK units and Pilot Programs.

As an agency that receives funding through multiple sources including DCF, AHCA, DHHS, and HUD, we support efforts to blend and bridge service dollars with housing funds. We support the development of a Supportive Housing State Plan and the creation of a Supportive Housing Trust fund to help address the unprecedented needs faced by our community. We are very pleased with the efforts of the State of Florida Workgroup members in this regard and are open to helping the State Agencies in the development of these programs. For more information, please contact Olga Golik, In-House Counsel at OlgaG@citrushealth.com.

Sincerely,


Mario Jardon, L.C.S.W.
President and CEO

Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

