

**From:** [AFana@wpb.org](mailto:AFana@wpb.org) [mailto:[AFana@wpb.org](mailto:AFana@wpb.org)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 08, 2015 9:42 AM

**To:** Steve Auger <[Steve.Auger@floridahousing.org](mailto:Steve.Auger@floridahousing.org)>; Ken Reecy <[Ken.Reecy@floridahousing.org](mailto:Ken.Reecy@floridahousing.org)>

**Subject:** RFA 2016-102

Gentleman,

I am writing to provide feedback on RFA 2016-102 Housing Credit and SAIL financing for homeless housing in medium and large counties. Homelessness is a growing problem throughout the State of Florida and while permanent supportive housing developments have been funded in areas of South Florida, almost all of them have been in Miami-Dade County. There are still many areas in the SE Florida region struggling to house its homeless individuals and families. While we applaud your efforts to be strategic in allocating your limited resources to geographic areas that have had limited projects funded in the past, we urge you not to limit your priority areas to only two areas of Florida and instead give priority to any County (or Continuum) that has not had a deal funded in the past few years.

In Palm Beach County specifically, the amount of chronically homeless has increased by 35 percent and the number of homeless people who have mental illness or substance-abuse issues is nearly double from the previous count. We currently have over 1,400 homeless men, women and children in need of permanent housing. We urge FHFC, to consider the impact of geographic prioritization and not place areas of the SE FL region that have not received recent tax credit funding at a disadvantage. As you may know, individuals and families who are homeless in Palm Beach County are not eligible to live in homeless tax credit developments in Miami-Dade County. That County's success in getting several tax credit projects developed does not benefit a homeless individual or family in Palm Beach County. Furthermore, South Florida is a large area, spanning over 200 miles with several metropolitan areas suffering from increased homelessness. The City of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County have been working closely to develop strategies to better serve the homeless population. Permanent supportive housing is one of our most urgent needs therefore we ask that as you prepare your draft for RFA 2016-102, you do not exclude the growing need for homeless housing in Palm Beach County.

Regards and Happy Holidays to you and your families.

Armando Fana  
Director, Housing and Community Development  
(561) 822-1250  
[www.wpb.org/housing](http://www.wpb.org/housing)



WEST PALM BEACH