

From: Tom Campbell <tcampbell@bphi.org>

Sent: Monday, December 24, 2018 12:12 PM

To: Marisa Button <Marisa.Button@floridahousing.org>; Nancy Muller <Nancy.Muller@floridahousing.org>; Bill Aldinger <Bill.Aldinger@floridahousing.org>

Cc: Fran Esposito <FEsposito@bphi.org>

Subject: Comments on RFA 2019-106 Housing Credit and SAIL Financing for Homeless Housing Developments Located in Medium and Large Counties

Sent on behalf of Frances M. Esposito, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Ms. Button, Ms. Muller, and Mr. Aldinger:

Thank you for the opportunity to have participated in the above-referenced workshop held on December 19, 2018. We wish to raise two (2) points for consideration.

In the review of past RFAs and as we learned from the Workshop discussions, the supportive housing RFAs assign the highest point value to the Operating/Management Experience narrative, both in the overall score (it is the single highest scoring item) and as the first tie breaker. Respectfully, we ask that the ranking and the scoring of this category be reconsidered. It is understood that operations/management experience is important. However, we believe that a depth of experience in working with and in a community's homeless resource network is more important.

In all Continuums of Care, policy decisions drive funding priorities. An Applicant's involvement in its local homeless resource network is a unique and highly valuable opportunity to educate, advocate, and influence policy on behalf of the voiceless, within that community. Such participation in a resource network underscores the collaboration between provider agencies for the adoption of best practice and evidenced based models of care, and often reaches beyond their respective localities by moving into legislative arenas at state and federal levels.

Indeed, it is in the homeless resource network that the hardest work is done. The architecture of these networks is designed to guarantee access to services, recognize emerging trends and to enforce adherence to quality assurance/quality improvement practices. Homelessness ends when people are housed and housing alone does not end it. The depth of an Applicant's role in, and contribution to, its local homeless resource network is simply a tangible guarantee of the Applicant's commitment to be part of the solution.

Granting a disproportionately high point value to one scoring item, related to the sponsor of the application, has the unintended consequence of favoring the same sponsor(s) despite local history and successes, as described above. Such a scoring mechanism has the potential to exclude new participants from fairly competing in FHFC programs. Simply said, we believe FHFC should promote the best possible sites which are to be operated by Applicants who demonstrate a depth of commitment to their local homeless resources network.

For these reasons, we recommend you tweak the scoring point values and tie breaker as follows:

1. Increase the total point value for "involvement in the local homeless resource network" to 35 points.
2. Reduce the total point value for Operating/Management Experience to 20 points.
3. Make "involvement in the local homeless resource network" the first tie breaker" and Operating/Management Experience the second tie breaker.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 954.779.1693 at your earliest convenience.

Regards,
Frances M. Esposito
Chief Executive Officer

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The road to health, jobs & homes for the homeless

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Please consider the Broward Partnership in your estate plans.