



February 8, 2019

Ray Dubuque
Chairman of the Board
Florida Housing Finance Corporation
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Attn: Ms. Marisa Button

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the board and staff,

My name is Colleen Castille, former ex officio member of the board under Governor Jeb Bush. I work predominantly in North Florida and thus find myself driving through the counties hit hard by Hurricane Michael.

Since leaving state government and entering the commercial land and building industry, I have experienced the difficulty and challenges that face Florida's homebuilders to build affordable housing and the challenges our citizens experience in finding sufficient affordably priced homes and apartments.

After recently hearing about a potential RFA for \$30 million in housing funds, I am so pleased to see that the organization is aggressively addressing the homelessness and substandard building remains for citizens in the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Michael.

But after reading the released draft of the RFA for HOME financing for rural rental developments, I was disappointed to see that the draft RFA restricts the application request to 80% maximum HUD subsidy limits. Because of price increases and scarcity of subcontractors, the need supports a 100% of subsidy limits. I have also found that communities with SHIP funds are committing them to existing projects.

Additionally, in order to find and secure sites in North Florida counties other than Bay County, more time is needed for responding to the RFA. Therefore, I recommend that you delay the issuance until at least March 4th or later. Otherwise, only sites in Bay County can be secured.

Respectfully,

Colleen Castille

1400 Village Square Boulevard
#3-302
Tallahassee, FL 32312
850-566-5791