



## Housing for Homeless, Inc.

"Providing a Doorway to a Brighter Future for Over 30 years"

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Zach Summerlin  
Policy Director & Supportive Housing Coordinator  
Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Zach,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposal to introduce private transportation as a point item for future special needs RFAs. While we understand the intentions behind this initiative, we believe that it is not a financially viable solution in these challenging times of rapidly increasing costs.

At Housing for Homeless we have considered the use of agency transport several times in the past, but the significant expense never gave us the same ROI in terms of resident care as using the same funds for supportive services like counseling and the provision of free bus passes.

**Operational Costs:** To provide private transportation services, we would need to consider several operational costs. These include:

- **Vehicle Acquisition:** Purchasing a van suitable for transporting residents can be a significant upfront cost.
- **Driver Salary and Benefits:** Hiring a qualified driver and providing the necessary benefits adds to the annual expenses.
- **Fuel and Maintenance:** Regular fueling and maintenance are essential to keep the van operational and safe for residents.
- **Insurance:** Comprehensive insurance coverage is required for the vehicle and passengers.
- **Licensing and Permits:** Compliance with local regulations necessitates various permits and licenses, incurring additional costs.

**Depreciation and Replacement:** Over time, the van's value will depreciate, and it will eventually need to be replaced. This introduces a substantial long-term cost that should be factored into our budget.

**Route and Scheduling Complexity:** Developing and maintaining efficient transportation routes and schedules can be complex. It requires careful planning and coordination, which adds to the workload and potential expenses.

Alternatives:

There may be more cost-effective alternatives to provide transportation services to our residents. Collaborating with existing public transportation systems or rideshare services, for instance, could significantly reduce our expenses while still meeting the transportation needs of our community. To provide a more accurate estimate of the annual operating costs, I recommend engaging with transportation experts or consulting firms specializing in cost analysis for similar projects. These experts can provide a detailed breakdown of expenses tailored to our specific circumstances.

In summary, while the idea of private transportation services is noble, we must carefully consider the financial implications. It is crucial to conduct a thorough cost analysis before proceeding with this initiative to ensure that our resources are utilized efficiently and that we are truly providing a sustainable and affordable solution for our residents.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and welcome the opportunity to discuss it further with the committee. Together, we can make an informed decision that best serves the interests of our community.

Thank you for your dedication to affordable housing development.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Cramp', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Cramp  
Executive Director

