



123 NW Highway 19
Crystal River, FL 34428
352-795-4216 P
352-795-6245 F
www.crystalriverfl.org

January 12, 2024

Melissa Levy
Florida Housing Finance Corp.
227 N. Bronough Street
Suite 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Ms. Levy,

On behalf of the City of Crystal River, I am writing to you to express the significant need that Crystal River and Citrus County has for additional affordable housing in our community. As you know, the City of Crystal River was severely impacted by Hurricane Idalia, with many areas in the city recording record levels of storm surge and flooding. Additionally, the October 2023 EF-2 Tornado impacted one of our only affordable housing developments in Crystal River. The greater community has extreme limitations on the availability of rental properties and affordable properties for workforce families.

In addition to the devastating effects that these natural disasters have had on our existing lack of affordable housing inventory, I fear that constantly skyrocketing construction costs could have negative effects on this vital project. Any additional funding would help complete this approved project that the city desperately needs. Further, I would encourage the upcoming RFA to include multifamily affordable housing projects that have been approved and previously funded, but not yet constructed.

Our city will benefit dramatically from and is looking forward to the Fountains at Hidden Lakes project. Thank you for your consideration regarding this important community priority.

Sincerely,

Joe Meek,
Mayor
City of Crystal River