

OVERVIEW OF 2016 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR HOMELESS CoCs

Susan Pourciau
pourciau@flhousing.org
850-274-9764



WEBINAR LOGISTICS

- Participants are muted
- Enter your questions in the box in your webinar panel
- If you have questions that would be addressed better individually, or you think of questions later, email pourciau@flhousing.org
- This webinar is being recorded and will be available at www.flhousing.org
- A survey will follow the webinar; *please* complete it!



OVERVIEW OF WEBINAR



- Homeless & Housing Appropriations for 2016-17
- Highlights from SB 1534
- Next Steps

FIRST, SHOW ME THE MONEY



HOMELESSNESS-SPECIFIC FUNDING APPROPRIATIONS

ITEM	AMOUNT	SOURCE	AGENCY
Challenge Grants	\$5,000,000	LGHTF	DCF
CoC Staffing Grants	\$3,000,000	GR	DCF
Citrus Health Network for the Safe Haven for Homeless Youth	\$ 140,800	GR	DCF
National Veterans Homeless Support in Brevard County	\$ 150,000	GR	DCF
Transition House Homelessness Veterans Program- Osceola County	\$ 150,000	GR	DEO
Hillsborough Homeless Initiative	\$ 200,000	GR	DEO
Hillsborough Homeless Initiative	\$ 600,000	SEED	DEO
Clearwater Homeless Emergency Program	\$ 100,000	SEED	DEO
Sulzbacher Center for Women (Jacksonville)	\$1,000,000	SEED	DEO
City of Ft. Lauderdale Rapid Re-Housing Project	\$ 500,000	GR	DEO

LGHTF - Local Government Housing Trust Fund

GR - General Revenue

SEED - State Economic Enhancement & Development Trust Fund



HOUSING TRUST FUND APPROPRIATIONS

SAIL	\$ 32,300,000
DD Housing	10,000,000
FHFC	22,300,000
SHIP	129,800,000
Homeless Challenge Grants	5,000,000
Training	700,000
Total Housing Appropriation*	\$ 200,100,000

SAIL – State Apartment Incentive Loan Program

DD – Developmentally Disabled

FHFC – Florida Housing Finance Corporation

SHIP – State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program

* \$200,100,000 of the Housing Trust Fund was appropriated for housing. Another approximately \$117,000,000 was swept from the Housing Trust Fund to be used for purposes other than housing.



EXTENSION OF 2015-2016 CHALLENGE GRANTS

“Back of the Bill” language reappropriated for 2016-2017 the unexpended Challenge Grant funding for 2015-2016, thereby giving Challenge Grant recipients extended time to spend 15-16 monies.

Per DCF, 2015-2016 Challenge funds should be spent by 12/31/2016. To carry over further will require a new contract.

Note: The 2016-2017 Challenge Grant Request for Proposals is expected to be issued by DCF in June 2016.



SENATE BILL 1534

“THE HOMELESS BILL”



SB 1534 – FHFC-Funded Homeless Rental Developments

- Allows for forgivable loans to finance the development of permanent rental housing for people who are homeless in rural counties. Must be “small properties,” developed by nonprofits, and in CoC Plan.
- Follow: Florida Housing Finance Corporation’s RFA 2016-106 Homeless Housing Assistance Loan Demonstration



SB 1534 – FHFC SET-ASIDES FOR THOSE WITH DISABLING CONDITIONS

- FHFC must reserve a minimum of 5% of its annual appropriation from the Housing Trust Fund for projects designed to serve persons who have a disabling condition.
 - Note: “Disabling condition” is defined in s. 420.0004 and would include some people who are homeless.
- Funding to come through forgivable loans made to non-profits whose primary mission includes serving persons with disabling conditions.
- Priority for developments serving persons who have a developmental disability.



SB 1534 – STATE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS

- Requires the State Office on Homelessness (SOH) to develop a system to collect and analyze data from all lead agencies to assess trends and impacts
- Note: Does *not* require a statewide HMIS or studying that possibility
- The SOH, in conjunction with the Council on Homelessness, will require local plans to include reporting of data to SOH and determine “a methodology for assessing performance and outcomes” for the local CoCs.



SB 1534 – CHALLENGE GRANTS

- Removes requirement that Challenge Grant awards be based in part on “need” (i.e., per capita homelessness)
- Clarifies that funds or in-kind used as Challenge Grant match cannot have been used as leverage or match for other projects, and requires that there be a written commitment certifying match
- Clarifies that Challenge Grants are distributed through local CoC lead agencies



SB 1534 – CHALLENGE GRANTS (CON'T)

- Requires the SOH to work in conjunction with the Council on Homelessness to establish performance measures and specific objectives by which to evaluate performance and outcomes of lead agencies receiving Challenge funding
- Requires that Challenge funding will be based on the lead agencies' "overall performance and their achievement of specified objectives"
- Criteria for funding may *include* the number who moved out of homelessness, returns to homelessness, and number who became employed
- *Removed* from the criteria the number who received shelter, food, counseling, and job training



SB 1534 – RAPID REHOUSING

- S. 420.6265
- Legislature finds that Rapid Rehousing (RRH) is a good practice to reduce lengths of time homeless and move people out of homelessness, and is cost effective
- Legislature “encourages” CoCs to adopt RRH; RRH should be in local CoC Plans.
- Statute defines RRH.



SB 1534 – USING LOCAL SHIP FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE

- Note: SHIP is funding that goes to all counties and to larger cities
- SHIP funding may be used for (1) rent and deposit assistance, (2) eviction prevention, and (3) rent subsidies up to 12 months.
 - For the rent subsidies, the household must be VLI and be either “special needs” or “homeless,” as defined in statute.



SB 1534 – USING LOCAL SHIP FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE (CON'T)

- Effectively, the local gov't may use up to 15% of their SHIP funding, plus any program income, for this assistance
- Statute “encourages” SHIP jurisdictions to do this, but it isn't required
 - Need for advocacy!!
- Jurisdictions can create regional partnerships to pool these funds to address homeless housing needs
- Sign up for our webinars to learn more about this topic



SB 1534 – SHIP JURISDICTIONS AND CoCs

- SHIP jurisdictions must report annually on, among other things, their “efforts to reduce homelessness”
- SHIP jurisdictions are required to work in partnership with others to work on housing issues – now the partnership should include the CoC lead agency



SB 1534 – NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

- Legislature “encourages” the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to use new NHTF monies to reduce homelessness and the risk of homelessness
- Note: NHTF is a new source of funding for affordable housing; right now the Florida allocation is expected to be about \$4,500,000 but it could grow in future years
- Follow: the FHFC NHTF allocation plan at:
<http://www.floridahousing.org/Developers/MultiFamilyPrograms/ProgramDescriptions/NHTF/>
 - Advocacy opportunity!!



WANT TO KNOW MORE?
HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?
OR
WANT A SITE VISIT OR TRAINING IN
YOUR CoC?

Email: pourciau@flhousing.org

A list of upcoming webinars, workshops, and trainings is available online at www.flhousing.org

