



## The Florida Housing Coalition Awarded MacArthur Foundation Funding

*Money will expand FHC's Work in the Preservation of Existing Affordable Rental Housing*

The Florida Housing Coalition, in partnership with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies has been awarded funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation under MacArthur's "Window of Opportunity" initiative. Florida was one of 12 recipients (out of 81 initial submissions) to be awarded funding from the Foundation for preservation activities.

This award will fund a three year effort to increase the number of mission-driven organizations with the experience and capacity needed to preserve properties that provide housing for extremely low-income households and people with special needs. With this funding, the Florida Housing Coalition will hold trainings throughout the state for nonprofit developers and local governments to promote preservation as a key strategy for serving extremely low income households. Participants in these workshops will form a network of informed and interested housing providers and funding entities able to identify and support preservation opportunities. In addition to the classroom training, the Coalition will provide intensive technical support to a small number of nonprofit developers on specific deals through the development, acquisition, and long-term financing phases of projects.

The grant to the Shimberg Center will enable it to use data about Florida's communities and people to undertake several research initiatives. The Shimberg Center will analyze information on tenant income and demographics to determine which populations are most affected by loss of the assisted housing stock; measure the state's market-rate affordable rental housing supply; analyze the full lifespan of assisted housing properties; and develop a model to incorporate transportation costs and proximity to employment into the analysis of rental housing affordability. The grant provides flexible resources to implement demonstrations related to non-profit capacity building and predevelopment activities that will allow the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to learn how its programs might be retooled to support greater preservation efforts.

For more information please go to [www.macfound.org](http://www.macfound.org)



The Florida Housing Coalition is a nonprofit, statewide membership organization whose mission is to act as a catalyst to bring together housing advocates and resources so that Floridians have a quality affordable home and suitable living environment. Call **1-800-677-4548** for free assistance provided under the Catalyst Program of Training and Technical Assistance. Check our website for free workshops—[www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org)

## New Year... New Look



*Stan Fitterman*

The Florida Housing Coalition started the New Year with a slightly different look—**Stan Fitterman** will serve as our Technical Assistance Director and Chief Operating Officer. The position of Executive Director, held by **Michael Davis** for the past three years, will not be filled for the immediate foreseeable future.

Michael did such an excellent job of streamlining the internal functions at the Coalition that we are in good stead to weather the economic recession without that position. Michael will continue to be available to assist with his expert technical support through the legislative session.

**Danielle Wright** relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina just before the New Year to pursue her dream of working with the theatre. The Florida Housing Coalition filled the position of Operations and Conference Manager with **Debby Beck**. Debby has a long and successful history of conference management with the Florida Bar.



*Debby Beck*

## Florida Housing Coalition Receives \$8,000 Grant from Progress Energy Florida



The Florida Housing Coalition will be hosting an Affordable Green Housing Symposium in Spring 2009 in Orlando. The symposium is made possible through the generous donation of Progress Energy Florida. Details on the symposium will soon be available on [www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org).