



LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP 2009

By Mark Hendrickson and Jaimie Ross

The last edition of the Housing News Journal focused on the essential role that affordable housing plays in Florida's economic recovery. Our two priority issues for the 2009 legislative session were repeal of the cap on the trust funds and appropriation of the housing trust fund monies for housing. The Florida Housing Coalition, the Sadowski Workforce Housing Coalition, and housing advocates around the state made the case that to accelerate economic recovery and avert the imminent increase in homelessness caused by the recession, we needed to restore the state and local housing trust funds.

We came very close to reaching our legislative priority to repeal the cap on the state and local housing trust funds. With the leadership of Representative Gary Aubuchon, the House voted to repeal the cap, but it failed in the Senate at the very end of the session.

Funding for affordable housing, on the other hand, never looked promising at all this session. The total revenue projected to be distributed to the state and local housing trust funds for fiscal year 2009-10 was \$123.01 million.

Of those projected monies, the Florida Legislature took \$91.9 million out of the trust funds to use for other purposes, leaving only \$31.11 million for housing. This means that there was no appropriation for successful existing programs such as SAIL, PLP, or the Catalyst program, that provides free training and technical assistance to nonprofits and local governments.



Representative Ron Saunders filed HB 25 to repeal the cap on the state and local housing trust funds and has been a steadfast champion for affordable housing throughout his tenure in the Legislature.



Representative Gary Aubuchon, sponsored the omnibus housing bill (HB 161) and the amendment to repeal the cap on the trust funds. He won unanimous approval to repeal the cap in the House of Representatives, an historic event.

Program	FY07-08 Funding Level—Actual	FY08-09 Funding Level—Actual before 1-09 Raid	FY08-09 Funding Level—Actual after 1-09 Raid	Governor's FY09-10 Proposed Funding Level	Final Appropriation Level FY09-10
Total Available for Appropriation	\$709,000,000	\$576,200,000	\$529,972,000	\$175,400,000	\$121,010,000
Florida Housing Basic Programs (SAIL, HAP, PLP, Catalyst Training & Technical Assistance, & Guaranty Fund)	\$ 70,500,000	\$ 70,500,000		\$45,520,000	\$0
SHIP	\$166,200,000	\$166,183,500		\$115,761,150	\$0
SHIP Monitoring	\$ 400,000	\$ 416,500		\$ 374,850	\$0
Homeless	\$ 5,900,000	\$ 5,900,000		\$ 5,900,000	\$ 5,000,000 (GR)
Florida Housing Additional SAIL	\$ 60,000,000	\$ 22,500,000			
Florida Housing Additional Down Payment (HAP)	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 20,000,000			
CWHIP	\$ 62,400,000				
Extremely Low Income (ELI)	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 5,000,000			
Preservation Rehab Pilot	-0-	\$ 10,000,000			
DCA Planning	\$ 400,000				
DCA Building Code Compliance				\$ 2,000,000	
Downpayment Assistance related to \$8,000 Federal Tax Credit					\$ 30,110,000
Public Housing				\$ 5,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Community Contribution Tax Credit		\$ 2,500,000			
TOTAL APPROPRIATED FOR HOUSING	\$390,800,000	\$303,000,000 -\$87,800,000 Or -22.5%	\$189,972,000 -\$200,828,000 OR -51.4%	\$174,556,000	\$ 36,110,000 -\$153,862,000 OR -81.0%
Swept to General Revenue by Appropriation	-0-	\$250,000,000	\$340,000,000	\$0	\$ 91,900,000
Swept to General Revenue by Cap	\$ 96,000,000	\$ 87,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL SWEEP TO GR	\$ 96,000,000	\$337,800,000	\$340,000,000	\$0	\$ 91,900,000
Trust Fund Monies Not Appropriated for Housing or Swept to GR	\$318,200,000	\$ 23,200,000	\$0	\$ 444,000	\$0

Note: Total sweep to GR over three year period is the sum of FY07-08 (\$96 million) plus FY08-09 (\$340 million) plus FY09-10 (\$91.9 million) = \$527.9 million

\$30.11 million was appropriated to a program which will provide down payment assistance loans to first time homebuyers who are eligible to receive the tax credit of up to \$8,000 provided in the federal economic stimulus bill (see page 9), and \$1 million is appropriated for public housing repairs.

The \$91.9 million diversion of housing trust fund monies to general revenue is in addition to the \$250 million that was diverted to general revenue in 2008 and another \$190 million in January, 2009-making \$531.9

million the one year total of housing monies diverted from housing. \$531.9 million of state funding for housing would have produced:

- \$2.257 billion of housing
- \$4.074 billion of total economic activity, of which \$1.585 billion is earnings/income
- 40,956 jobs

Affordable housing is a key driver in Florida's economic recovery, but that message did not prevail in the 2009 legislative session.