

# CLT National Pilot Program Launches in Florida

In collaboration with Freddie Mac, the Florida Housing Coalition's Florida Community Land Trust (CLT) Institute has created the first-of-its-kind CLT Training and Certification program. It will promote best practices, increase standardization, and build the overall capacity of CLTs throughout the state.

Program participants will receive on-site training on best practices related to documentation and procedures. This training will be followed by an evaluation of the CLT's implementation of these best practices, resulting in certification or the provision of capacity-building recommendations along with additional technical assistance. To participate in the program, the organization must be a nonprofit organization or local government agency operating a CLT program.

The program was first announced in 2018 at the Florida Housing Coalition's Annual Affordable Housing Statewide Conference. The announcement generated a swell of interest, evidenced by standing-room only attendance in the conference's CLT-related caucus and workshops.

After announcing the program at the 2018 Statewide Conference, Florida Housing Coalition staff worked with Freddie Mac for a year to develop the final criteria and procedures for the program. This process included a national study of CLTs to determine commonalities in operations that all CLTs should incorporate. The program development phase also included consultation with the Florida CLT Institute's Steering Committee.

This CLT Training and Certification program offers benefits directly to participants, local governments and lenders. Some of the benefits:

- **For New CLTs** – a firm foundational understanding of industry best practices and direct technical assistance with the tools necessary to achieve success
- **For Existing CLTs** – direct technical assistance to strengthen operations and implement industry best practices
- **For Local Governments** – the opportunity to gain a trusted partner for the development of surplus lands and the permanent preservation of housing affordability
- **For Lenders** – the ability to expand homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families through confidence in the CLT's ability to meet lending requirements



## First Cohort

Applications for the first cohort of participants opened at the 2019 Annual Affordable Housing Conference. We are pleased to announce our first applicants for the program, a mixture of both newly formed and existing community land trust organizations and programs:

- Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County
- Communities that Care Community Land Trust
- Delray Beach Community Land Trust
- Habitat for Humanity Marion County CLT
- HELP (Housing Development Corporation of SW Florida)/Collier County Community Land Trust
- Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium
- Residential Options of Florida (ROOF)

The Florida Community Land Trust Institute will accept up to eight applicants in this first cohort. There is still time to apply. For more information and to obtain an application, please contact Kimberly Spence at [spence@flhousing.org](mailto:spence@flhousing.org) or visit our website.

## LEARN BEST PRACTICES

“Participants in the program will receive on-site training on best practices related to both documentation and procedures. This training will be followed by an evaluation of the CLT’s implementation of these best practices, resulting in certification or the provision of capacity-building recommendations along with additional technical assistance.”



Top left to right: Daniel Ticona of Freddie Mac discusses the importance of the CLT Training and Certification at the CLT Symposium. Remaining Photos; Members of the CLT Institute’s Steering Committee addressing CLT Symposium attendees at the 2019 Annual Statewide Affordable Housing Conference (left to right, top to bottom): Cindee LaCourse-Blum, CLT of Palm Beach County; Evelyn Dobson, Delray Beach CLT; Mandy Bartle, South Florida CLT; Camille Reynolds, Hannibal Square CLT; Sheryl Soukup, ROOF Housing Trust; Frank Wells, Bright Community Trust.