



May 27, 2020

Re: Extension of Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium

Dear Governor Ron DeSantis:

The Florida Housing Coalition, Florida's nonprofit statewide provider of training and technical assistance, thanks you again for recommending full funding for Florida's State and Local Affordable Housing Trust Fund programs. The full appropriation of funding for SHIP and SAIL could not come at a better time. SHIP is already being used to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Local governments are currently deploying their State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) dollars for emergency rental and mortgage assistance to help residents who may have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. Now more than ever – housing is healthcare.

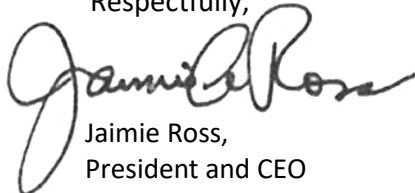
We also thank you for your leadership in halting evictions and foreclosures on residential properties for non-payment of rent through June 2 in Executive Order 20-94. This action was necessary to protect the health and safety of Florida's residents. However, we are concerned that the June 2 date will not give Florida families enough time to get back on their feet given the pace of reemployment.

**We respectfully ask that you extend the moratorium on evictions and foreclosures through July 25<sup>th</sup> to align with the CARES Act.** Under the CARES Act, tenants in properties assisted with federal dollars are protected from eviction through that date. Aligning the state's moratorium with the CARES Act would assure tenants and homeowners that they will not lose their homes during the public health crisis and ease confusion about which properties qualify for protection.

Although the SHIP program has responded quickly and efficiently to the crisis, the need greatly outweighs our available resources. The State of Florida received nearly \$6 billion from the United States Treasury Department through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) as established in the CARES Act. The Treasury Department confirmed that this money can be used for rental and mortgage assistance. Therefore, to help struggling households navigate the public health crisis, we support using a portion of Florida's CRF dollars for rental and mortgage assistance. Paying the rent and the mortgage is more than just fundamental housing security and community stabilization; it is economic stimulus. A rent payment has a domino effect throughout a local economy. A rent payment goes to local property taxes, the monthly mortgage, capital improvements and repairs, and according to the National Apartment Association, 27 cents of every \$1 of rent payment covers payroll expenses, stabilizing jobs for people in the community.

Should you or your staff have any questions, we would be happy to assist.

Respectfully,



Jaimie Ross,  
President and CEO

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