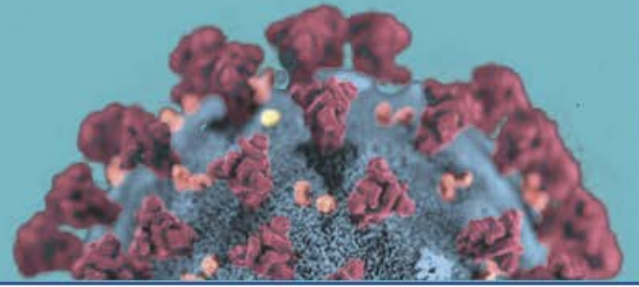


COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



July 1, 2020

Florida Budget and CARES Act Funding Update

On Monday, June 29, Governor DeSantis signed the Fiscal Year 2020-21 state budget, vetoing over a billion dollars of appropriations due to the economic crisis spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this process, the Governor vetoed the \$225 million appropriation for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. The Governor did not veto the \$115 million appropriation for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program or the \$30 million appropriation for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) for Hurricane-Michael affected areas.

While the funding for SHIP was vetoed from the budget, that money is not lost. Jaimie Ross, President/CEO of the Florida Housing Coalition, [released this statement on the budget](#). The veto means those funds stay in the Local Government Housing Trust Fund. We look forward to working with the Governor and the Florida Legislature the next time they convene to evaluate whether the SHIP funds can be appropriated at that time. The Governor's decision to direct \$250 million in CARES Act funding out of the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocation for rental and mortgage assistance shows the Governor continues to prioritize affordable housing in the state.

When the Legislature convenes next, we will all have a better handle on the state's housing needs after the CARES Act funds have been deployed. We agree with the Governor that now is the time to focus on deploying the CARES Act funds which need to be expended by the end of December.

Governor Announces \$250 Million for Affordable Housing Coronavirus Relief Initiative

On June 25, [the Governor announced \\$250 million in CARES Act funding](#) for rental and mortgage assistance for Florida families that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act contained appropriations for a variety of programs and this \$250 million announcement comes from the state's [Coronavirus Relief Fund \(CRF\)](#) allocation. This money is not to be confused with CBBG-CV, ESG-CV, or other housing funding programs.

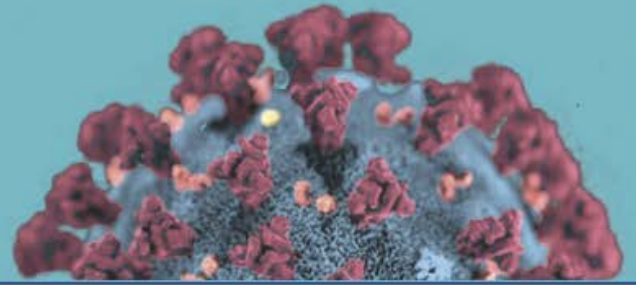
The breakdown of that funding is as follows (table gathered through a press release by FHFC):

<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Program Assistance</u>	<u>Program Details</u>
\$120 Million	Rental Assistance for Affordable Rental Housing Residents in Florida	The rental assistance will be available to help pay a household's rent for eligible months from July



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION, INC. IS A NONPROFIT, STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO BRING TOGETHER HOUSING ADVOCATES AND RESOURCES SO THAT ALL FLORIDIANS HAVE A QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOME AND SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



July 1, 2020

	Housing Finance Corporation funded developments.	through December 2020. The household may be eligible for assistance to pay rent arrearages.
\$120 Million	Rent and Mortgage Assistance	Funds will be administrated in local jurisdictions and used for rental and homeowner assistance programs.
\$2 Million	Operations Assistance for Special Needs Developments	A one-time allocation to assist with past and future costs in serving special needs and homeless households residing in the supportive housing developments.
\$8 Million	Admin	Provided for expected administrative costs, including credit underwriting, disbursement review and processing, compliance monitoring and TA.

\$120 Million Allocation to Local Governments – What we Know

Local governments will receive \$120 million in total from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) using funds the state received from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) under the CARES Act. The Treasury Department is the federal agency responsible for overseeing this funding. The Florida Housing Coalition will be the TA provider to local governments who receive these funds.

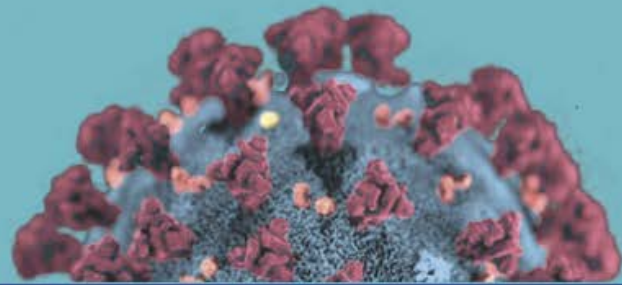
Here are answers to frequently asked questions as of July 1, 2020:

- **What can my local government expect to receive?**
 - The allocation formula has yet to be announced by FHFC. FHFC will announce the allocation formula very soon, including which local governments will receive the funding. According the



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION, INC. IS A NONPROFIT, STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO BRING TOGETHER HOUSING ADVOCATES AND RESOURCES SO THAT ALL FLORIDIANS HAVE A QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOME AND SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



July 1, 2020

Governor's Press Release, FHFC has been directed to release the \$120 million based on reemployment assistance rate data.

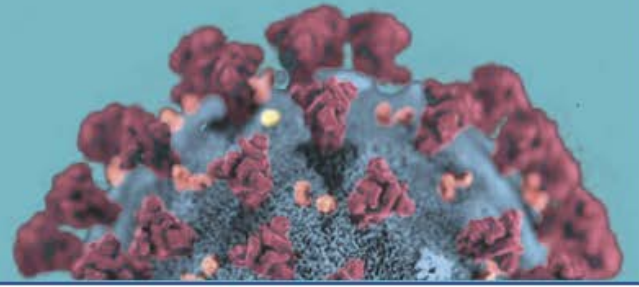
- **How does my local government apply for funding?**
 - We will have that information after the allocation formula is finalized.
- **When must these funds be expended by?**
 - December 30, 2020.
- **Are there income restrictions attached to this CARES Act money?**
 - Neither the CARES Act nor Treasury Department guidance expressly state income requirements for this funding. Any income restrictions will be made by FHFC or by the local government, if allowed. The Florida Housing Coalition will provide training on this.
- **What documentation will we need to provide?**
 - This information will also be provided shortly with the allocation announcement.
- **What can we use the funds for?**
 - FHFC has stated that rental and mortgage assistance is the primary goal of this funding.
- **With this new announcement, how should my local government plan to expend the total funds we have at our disposal?**
 - Because the FHFC money must be expended by December 30, 2020, we advise that expending this money be a priority for your rental and mortgage assistance programs.
 - In addition to this money specifically devoted to rental and mortgage assistance, all 67 counties have received, or are in the process of receiving, other CRF funds either directly from the Treasury Department (if you are one of the 12 large counties that qualified for direct allocation) or from the Florida Department of Emergency Management (DEM). If this new allocation from FHFC will not meet all your emergency housing needs, you can still use the Treasury or DEM allocation to supplement your rental and mortgage assistance efforts.
 - The Florida Housing Coalition can help you form a plan to expend monies from the variety of funding sources that have been activated in response to COVID-19, focusing on which sources will best fit your short-, medium-, and long-term needs.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the CRF funds, the SHIP veto, or other COVID-19 related funding issues. FHFC is working around the clock to formalize how they expend the \$250 million in CARES Act CRF funds announced last week. We will provide up-to-date information as it is announced.



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION, INC. IS A NONPROFIT, STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO BRING TOGETHER HOUSING ADVOCATES AND RESOURCES SO THAT ALL FLORIDIANS HAVE A QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOME AND SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



July 1, 2020

Upcoming Trainings and Webinars

[Visit our Training Calendar](#) to see all upcoming training opportunities.

COVID-19

- July 2 @ 1:30pm: [COVID-19 Response – The Intersection of Race, Housing, and Homelessness](#)

Weekly Hurricane Member Update

- July 3 @ 1:30pm: [Disaster Housing Recovery](#)

Past Webinars

To view previous training recordings [Visit our Past Trainings](#) or [COVID-19 Webinars and Digests](#) pages.

July 2 – Special Focus Webinar: COVID-19 and Racial Equity

[Register Today!](#) In lieu of our regularly scheduled COVID-19 webinar, on July 2 we will focus on racial equity during the COVID-19 response to housing and homelessness. This [special COVID-19 weekly webinar](#) will spotlight a conversation around centering racial equity in the COVID-19 response. Presenters will talk about the inequities surrounding COVID-19 and how those working in the housing and homelessness sector can increase efforts to address them. Hear from our expert presenters below:

- Nastacia' Moore, Training and Technical Assistance Lead for the Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC), C4 Innovations
- Amber Elliott, Community Based Improvement Advisor – Catalytic Projects, Community Solutions
- Ashon Nesbitt, Chief Programs Officer and Technical Advisor, Florida Housing Coalition

National & State Housing News

Florida Eviction & Foreclosure Moratorium Extended to August 1.

On June 30, Governor Ron DeSantis [extended the statewide eviction and foreclosure moratorium until August 1, 2020](#). The Florida Housing Coalition applauds the Governor for this extension.

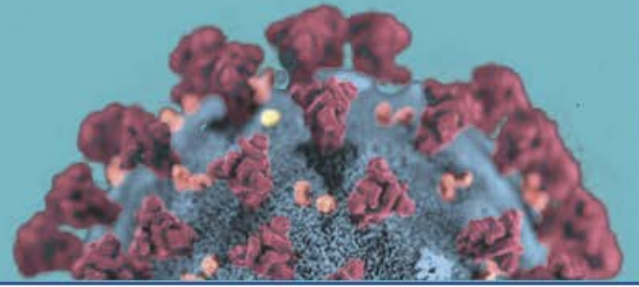
CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund – State to Disburse \$1.275 Billion to Counties

The State of Florida received over [\\$5.8 billion from the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund \(CRF\)](#) for necessary expenditures incurred due to COVID-19. A few weeks ago, the state announced it will [disburse \\$1.275 billion of](#)



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION, INC. IS A NONPROFIT, STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO BRING TOGETHER HOUSING ADVOCATES AND RESOURCES SO THAT ALL FLORIDIANS HAVE A QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOME AND SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



July 1, 2020

[these funds to the 55 counties](#) that did not receive a direct CRF allocation ([12 large counties](#) received a direct allocation). The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) will manage these funds.

To receive state CRF money, a county must sign a funding agreement with DEM. Funds will be disbursed based on population and counties will receive 25% initially of their total disbursement and will need to apply for additional funds. Notably, CRF funds can be used for rental and mortgage assistance. As mentioned above, although communities can expect rental and mortgage assistance dollars from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), this allocation can also be used for emergency housing programs to help you meet all local needs.

Continuums of Care

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Following the Alliance's [Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response](#), they released a "Using ESG-CV Funds Do's and Don'ts". See the graphic for some big picture things to keep in mind when expending ESG-CV resources in your CoC.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) announced they are currently gathering public input to revise the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. The comment period ends July 11. You can [visit their website](#) here or send your comments to planupdate2020@usich.gov.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD [published a framework](#) on how communities can begin to rebuild and transform their housing systems that have significantly shifted due to COVID-19. Visit HUD's new [Disaster Response Rehousing page](#) to find information on managing Inflow and Outflow. HUD will be releasing several more resources for rehousing in the coming week. CoCs should continue to look at their prioritization of households in light of COVID-19

USING ESG-CV FUNDS DO'S AND DON'TS

HOW WE USE CARES ACT EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDS WILL HAVE LONG-TERM IMPACTS.

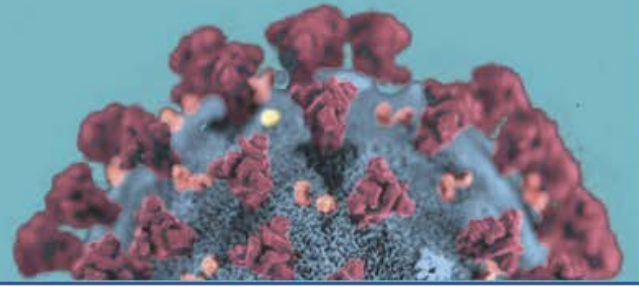
DO	DON'T
Be strategic with your ESG funds.	Use funds for anything not supported by data to meet immediate needs.
Prioritize ESG funds for homeless assistance.	Use ESG funds for prevention until EVERY homeless person in your community is housed.
Focus on ending unsheltered homelessness to support the most vulnerable in your community.	Use funds for people who are not literally homeless.
Examine every spending proposal through a racial equity lens.	Assume racial equity will automatically be achieved without intentional efforts.
Use ESG funds to take diversion and rapid re-housing to scale.	Use ESG funds for eviction prevention.

DO: Consult the [Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response](#).



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION, INC. IS A NONPROFIT, STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO BRING TOGETHER HOUSING ADVOCATES AND RESOURCES SO THAT ALL FLORIDIANS HAVE A QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOME AND SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



July 1, 2020

and think of simplifying criteria in ways that are equitable and ensure people who are vulnerable and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 have access to safe and stable housing. The HUD SNAPS Office is continuing to host [weekly Office Hours](#) to answer questions related to COVID-19 and programs and funding serving people experiencing homelessness.

Contact Us

We are always just a call or email away. Let us know how we can support the incredible work you are doing.



Kody Glazer
954-804-1320
Glazer@flhousing.org



Amanda Rosado
904-502-1666
Rosado@flhousing.org



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION, INC. IS A NONPROFIT, STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO BRING TOGETHER HOUSING ADVOCATES AND RESOURCES SO THAT ALL FLORIDIANS HAVE A QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOME AND SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT