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# Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Newsletter

2868-1 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308 • Phone (850) 878-7403 • Web: [www.flshc.net](http://www.flshc.net)

## Partner Agencies



Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association



## Florida Housing WebBoard

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) has a WebBoard that automatically sends out messages to subscribers on issues such as the Universal Cycle. FHFC has created a new mailing list on the WebBoard called "SHAD/FHRP" - these acronyms refer to the two hurricane recovery programs FHFC currently have - Special Housing Assistance and Development and Farmworker Housing Recovery Program - basically two special need programs. This list may be used for other mailouts related to special needs housing.

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition members are invited to sign up on this WebBoard to assist in keeping abreast of workshops and updates on these programs. To set up an account and get automatic emails whenever new information is posted go to [www.floridahousing.org/webboard/default.asp](http://www.floridahousing.org/webboard/default.asp) (also found at the top of Florida Housing's Home Page), and follow the instructions. Once signed up it is important to go to "My Mailing Lists" and check the "SHAD/FHRP" box .

## Farmworker Housing Recovery Program

As you may know, Florida Housing conducted an application cycle in the fall of 2006 for the Farmworker Housing Recovery Program and the Special Housing and Development Program. \$15 million was made available. Not all of the funding was allocated. In order to allocate the remaining funds (approximately \$11 million); Florida Housing will open another Application Cycle in 2007.

The beginning of the process will occur in the form of a Rule Development Workshop to be held immediately following the Florida Housing Board of Directors meeting on January 26 in Tampa (see attached notice for details). Attached also is a draft proposed timeline which will also be discussed at the workshop. Drafts of documents to be discussed at the meeting will be distributed as they are available.

## LGBT Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness Report

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in collaboration with the National Coalition on Homelessness reveals an epidemic of homelessness by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) youth. According to statistics cited by the federally funded National Runaway Switchboard, up to 42 percent of homeless youth identify as gay or lesbian, which is grossly disproportionate given that approximately 3 to 5 percent of the U.S population identifies as gay or lesbian. (Additional research has found that homeless youth also disproportionately identify as bisexual and transgender). Based on these estimates, up to 8,400 of the 15,000 to 20,000 homeless youth estimated to live in New York City are LGBT. Nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, each year, between 570,000 and 1.6 million youth are homeless or run away. This means that up to 672,000 of these youth are LGBT.

The report answers some basic questions, including why so many LGBT youth are becoming and remaining homeless. In addition it addresses the harassment and violence that many of these youth experience in existing public shelters and summarizes research on critical problems affecting these youth, including mental health issues, substance abuse, and risky sexual behavior. The report also analyzes the federal government's response to youth homelessness, including the specific impact on LGBT homeless youth of increased federal funding for faith-based service providers.

This study illustrates that the challenges LGBT youth face can become so great that kids are left displaced and homeless. To view the full report visit: <http://thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/HomelessYouth.pdf>

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## Statewide Training: Housing and Human Rights

The Florida Coalition for the Homeless together with the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions is hosting a statewide training on **Housing and Human Rights on Friday, February 9, 2007 from 9AM – 5PM.**

The conference will link lawyers, advocates, service providers, and grassroots activists in seven locations across the state of Florida via videoconference, thanks to our host, the law firm of Holland & Knight. Training sessions will be held in: Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Tallahassee, Tampa, and West Palm Beach.

Through panel discussions pairing human rights trainers with local activists, the training session will explore the application of human rights principles with issues of fair housing, adequate housing, and the criminalization of homelessness. Breakout sessions in each training location will plan how to make the right to housing a reality in each of these Florida cities and plan for statewide advocacy.

Advocates, attorneys, service providers, and anyone concerned with homelessness and housing in Florida are welcome to attend. Florida CLE credit is available for attorneys who attend the Florida Housing and Human Rights Training Forum.

For more information and a copy of the registration form, please visit the NLCHP website (<http://www.nlchp.org/FA%5FHumanRights/FLRegistration.doc>) or see the attached document. Please share this information with your colleagues and members.

## VA Loan Guarantee for Multifamily Transitional Housing

The goal of the Program is to develop 5,000 units of supportive housing for homeless veterans by providing loan guarantees to developers for up to 80% of total project costs. The VA web site provides a lot more information, which you can certainly browse at your leisure; however, the following three links provide a quick program overview:

- **Program Overview:** <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.fcm?pg=8>
- **Program Factsheet:** <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=28>
- **Sample Project Profile:** <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=32>

The first project to receive funding through the VA's Program is the St. Leo Campus for Veterans in Chicago (<http://www.stleoveterans.com/>), sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The project consists of 141 studio apartments for homeless veterans, along with an Outpatient Clinic & Resource Center. Additional funding for the project came from the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Department of Housing & Urban Development, and the City of Chicago, among other sources.



**2006-2007**

**FLSHC SUSTAINING AGENCY MEMBERS**

*Grove House of Jacksonville, Inc.*

*Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

*Boley Centers for BHC, Inc.*

*Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association*

*Volunteers of America*

*Camillus House, Inc.*

## Calendar of Events



### January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 2007 Rule Development Workshop	5	6
7	8	9 Qualitative Analysis of the SHIP Program Workshop	10 →	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Planning, Financing and Developing Affordable Housing for Ownership Workshop	25	26 FL Housing Coalition Board of Directors Meeting	27
28	29	30	31			

### February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Homebuyers Counseling and Training Workshop	2	3
4	5 FL Dept. of Elder Affairs ExCHANGE Conference	6 Enhancing Your Housing Strategies Workshop	7 Behavioral Health Day	8 →	9 Housing and Human Rights Statewide Training	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Alternative Funding Sources Workshop	22 FLSHC Strategic Planning Retreat	23 →	24
25	26	27	28			