



Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Newsletter

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FLSHC Coalition Retreat: Common Sense Implementation Phase

Partner Agencies



Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association



Please Join Us for the 2008 Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Retreat

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition (FLSHC) will be hosting a full day retreat to discuss implementation of the five year strategic plan: "Common Sense: A Strategic Plan to Provide Supportive Housing Throughout Florida." The retreat will take place on February 27th in Tallahassee. Watch the FLSHC website for information regarding the location and time for the retreat.

The retreat is a follow-up of the 2007 Strategic Planning Summit which focused on five goals to increase supportive housing throughout the state. The primary objective of the retreat is to develop strategies for implementing these five goals. Your participation is essential for successful implementation of the Common Sense Plan.

The Five Common Sense Goals:

Goal One - Permanent supportive housing units commensurate with need.

Florida needs to create more affordable housing units which are linked with support services.

Goal Two - Rental assistance for households requiring supports to maintain their housing and/or develop their independent living skills.

Typical affordable housing units are frequently unaffordable to households requiring supportive housing. Therefore, funding needs to be provided to assist households with their rent payments/ rental assistance.

Goal Three - A culture within support delivery systems that foster recovery and self-determination.

The current support delivery system is fragmented and frequently focuses on the system rather than the individual. Therefore the system should be changed to foster the dignity and independence of each participant.

Goal Four - Routine coordination between support delivery systems and housing production at the state decision making level.

Supportive housing requires services and affordable housing to operate in partnership. To increase the availability of supportive housing in Florida, decision makers of affected state agencies must prioritize the creation of supportive housing and the coordination of efforts to link services with affordable independent housing.

Goal Five - Community-wide understanding of the benefits of supportive housing.

There is a broad lack of knowledge about supportive housing. There is also a broad lack of understanding of the benefits of increasing the provision of supportive housing.

If you would like to assist in moving this Plan forward, please contact Lavonia Sampson at 850-878-7403 or email her at admin@flshc.net to receive email notices and a copy of the Plan. You may also download the Plan from FLSHC's website at www.flshc.net

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McKinney-Vento Reauthorization

Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate to reauthorize the McKinney-Vento homeless programs. The bills would consolidate all HUD McKinney-Vento housing programs, except Emergency Shelter Grants, into one competitive program with a broad set of eligible activities, including homelessness prevention, permanent or transitional housing for any homeless population, and supportive services.

On February 6, Representatives Julia Carson (D-IN), Geoff Davis (R-KY), Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Rick Renzi (R-AZ) introduced H.R. 840, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH). Ms. Carson passed away on December 15, and Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) is expected to carry McKinney-Vento legislation through the committee.

Ms. Waters, chair of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development, held two hearings on the bill in October, 2007. S.1518, the Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2007, was introduced by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Wayne Allard (R-CO) on May 24. The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs voted in favor of S. 1518 on September 19th.

Each bill would expand the definition of homelessness, to different degrees. In S.1518, households would be considered homeless for the purposes of receiving services if they: are living in somebody else's housing because they do not have the resources to obtain other housing; have been notified that the arrangement is short-term; have moved either three times in the past year or twice in the past three weeks; and are not contributing significantly to the cost of the housing. The definition would also include people who have moved frequently (three times in the past year or twice in the past 21 days) and are currently living in a hotel or motel in which they will not be able to stay for more than a brief period. The definition of homelessness in H.R. 840 would be more closely aligned with the definition used by other federal agencies by including people who are living in doubled-up situations or in hotels/motels due to lack of adequate alternatives.

A Senate floor vote on S. 1528 has not been scheduled. The House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity is expected to mark up a manager's amendment of H.R. 840 in the spring.

Florida Fair Housing Groups Awarded HUD Grants to Help Fight Housing Discrimination

JACKSONVILLE, FL – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on January 18th presented more than \$1.1 million to five anti discrimination organizations to conduct fair housing education and outreach in Florida. James Sutton, HUD's Atlanta-based Regional Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Director, was joined by Buz Ausley, HUD Orlando Field Office Director in making the grant presentations to: the Fair Housing Continuum, Inc. of Cocoa, FL; Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. of Jacksonville; the Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Inc. of Miami Gardens, FL; Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. of Tallahassee, FL and Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. of Tampa.

Nationally, HUD awarded 88 grants totaling \$17.1 million to recipients in 37 states and the District of Columbia to help fight housing discrimination. In addition, HUD awarded \$1 million to New America Media, a division of Pacific News Service, to develop the Department's first coordinated national media campaign to educate the public about discriminatory lending.

"Last year there were a record 10,328 housing discrimination complaints filed with HUD and its state and local partners," said James Sutton, HUD Regional Director for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "These grants will allow us to continue with efforts to educate the public and the housing industry about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act."

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HUD Grants *continued from Page 2*

Summary of the Fair Housing Initiative Grants in Florida

Cocoa

Fair Housing Continuum, Inc.

Private Enforcement Initiative - Performance Based Component

Award Amount: \$275,000

Fair Housing Continuum, Inc., (FHC) will provide fair housing enforcement services, including complaint intake and investigation, recruitment and training of testers, paired-testing of housing providers, and inspections of newly-constructed condominiums and apartments for compliance with the design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act.

Jacksonville

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc.

Private Enforcement Initiative - Performance Based Component

Award Amount: \$274,972.67

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc., (JALA) will provide enforcement and advocacy services throughout six Northeast Florida counties. As part of its enforcement activities, JALA will provide complaint intake, investigation, mediation and litigation services, recruit and train testers, and conduct paired and single tests of housing providers. JALA will also reach out to racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons with Limited English Proficiency, and persons with HIV/AIDS to educate them about their fair housing rights.

Miami Garden

Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Inc.

Private Enforcement Initiative - General Component

Award Amount: \$275,000

Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Inc., (HOPE) will conduct a range of fair housing enforcement activities throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Specific activities, which will be conducted in Spanish and Creole in an effort to reach immigrant and non-English speaking residents, will include carrying out and evaluating 130 fair housing tests and other investigative actions, processing more than 150 fair housing complaints, recruiting and training 35 testers, and conducting an array of Fair Housing Month activities.

Tallahassee

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.

Education and Outreach Initiative - General Component

Award Amount: \$100,000

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc., (LSNF) will carry out a variety of education and outreach activities in seven North Florida rural counties: Holmes, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington, Bay, Escambia, and Okaloosa.

Specific activities will include conducting seminars to educate the public and housing providers about their fair housing rights and responsibilities, and increasing its network of churches, advocacy groups, and social service agencies to reach specific ethnic and racial groups. LSNF will coordinate its activities with the Escambia Pensacola Human Relations Commission and collaborate with other community-based organizations to help publicize their efforts.

Tampa

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.

Private Enforcement Initiative - Performance Based Component

Award Amount: \$234,973.33

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc., (BALS) will work in partnership with the West Central Florida Agency on Aging, Beth-El Farm worker Ministry, the county Homeless Coalition, St. John's Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, and the Florida Bar Association to increase enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and compliance with the nation's fair housing laws. As part of their grant, BALS, which operates in Hillsborough County and the city of Tampa, will investigate approximately 40 fair housing cases per year, particularly cases involving minorities, persons with disabilities, and persons with limited English proficiency. BALS will also recruit and train 15 new testers, conduct a minimum of 84 tests per year, and distribute fair housing materials to at least 35 groups annually.



Deadline to Reserve Hotel Room for NLIHC’s 2008 Conference Approaches

The special room rate of \$239 per night (single/double) at the Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. expires on February 1. To make your reservations, call 1-800-HILTONS and request the group rate for the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

The 2008 NLIHC Annual Policy Conference and Lobby Day will be held on February 24-26. Complete details, including hotel and registration information, as well as a conference brochure with workshop topics and conference events, are now available on NLIHC’s website: www.nlihc.org/conference

FYI...

Distribution of 2006 Federal Housing Subsidies by Tenure and Type

	Dollars (billion)	Share of Total
Homeownership Assistance		
Tax expenditures	\$154.8	77.6%
Direct outlays	\$2.6	1.3%
Rental Assistance		
Tax expenditures	\$5.4	2.7%
Direct outlays	\$36.6	18.4%

Source: Reynolds, Gillian. (2007, December). Federal housing subsidies: To rent or to own? Washington, DC: The Urban Institute. www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411592_housing_subsidies.pdf.

**2007-2008
FLSHC SUSTAINING
AGENCY MEMBERS**

**Ability Housing of Northeast Florida, Inc.
Advocacy Center for Persons
with Disabilities, Inc.
Boley Centers, Inc.
Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Housing Partnership, Inc.
Camillus House, Inc.
Florida Council for Community
Mental Health**

<i>February 2008</i>						
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Behavioral Health Day at the Capitol, Tallahassee, FL-February 5-6, 2008

2008 National Low Income Housing Coalition Annual Policy Conference and Lobby Day, Washington, DC-February 25-26

FLSHC Implementation Retreat, Tallahassee, FL - February 27

FLSHC Board Meeting, Tallahassee, FL -February 28

Recovery Home Loan

As part of P.L. 100-690, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, Congress required that each state set up a revolving fund to encourage the development of self-run, self-supported recovery houses for substance abusers. The Florida Department of Children and Families recently identified the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) as the fiscal administrator for the Recovery Home Loan (RHL) Program in Florida.

Florida residents who are also recovering individuals have the opportunity to develop a new alcohol- and drug-free lifestyle by accepting responsibility for operation of alcohol- and drug-free recovery housing. By having responsibility for operating a recovery house within a democratically run and self-supported system, individuals gain confidence in exercising responsibility without the use of alcohol and drugs.

If you or individuals you know in Florida are interested in applying for the Recovery Home Loan Program, you will find the application, Program Handbook, and other related materials at the following link:

www.fadaa.org

The RHL materials are downloadable as PDF documents.

If you have further questions regarding the program or the application process, contact the Department of Children and Families RHL Program Administrator at: (850) 487-2920.

