

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## 2010 Statewide Legislative Issues Training



**Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.**

*Presented by the Florida Coalition for the Homeless  
Funded by the Miami Coalition for the Homeless  
Coordinated by the Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County*

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Training will cover:

2010 Statewide Homeless Advocacy Priorities

Current Bills and Status

2010 Homeless Legislative Day Details

Questions and Answers

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## 2010 Statewide Homeless Advocacy Agenda

### Fund Local Coalitions and State Homeless Programs

GIA, Challenge Grant, HHA, Local Homeless Prevention Grant

### 2010 Homeless Bill

Est. Local Homeless Prevention Grant, Voluntary Contribution Option

### Sadowski Housing Trust Fund

Fully Fund Florida's Housing Programs

### Protect Homeless People from Violence

Add 'homeless status' to Florida's Current Hate Crimes Statute

# Housing for ALL Floridians

Fund Local Coalitions and State Homeless Programs

(Four Programs Involved)

**Reinstate GIA for the state's local homeless coalitions to the 2008-2009 funding level - \$1.1 million**

Grants provided to 28 local coalitions to help them in fulfilling state-mandated responsibilities, equip them to mobilize and coordinate local responses to homelessness and provide direct services.

These coalitions are responsible for coordinating the Federal Homeless Assistance programs for their communities. Collectively, these efforts accounted for more than **\$67 million in federal dollars** in 2008 for homeless services in Florida.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

Fund Local Coalitions and State Homeless Programs

(Four Programs Involved)

**Maintain funding for Challenge Grant at the 2009-2010 funding level - \$2 million**

Challenge Grants competitively fund projects to meet the most pressing needs identified in local continuum of care plans including job training, substance abuse treatment, physical and mental healthcare, etc.

The 2009-2010 Challenge Grant funding will help at least **27,228 homeless Floridians**.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

Fund Local Coalitions and State Homeless Programs

(Four Programs Involved)

**Maintain funding for the HHA Grant at the 2009-2010 funding level - \$5 million**  
Homeless Housing Assistance Grants (HHA) funds creation, renovation and maintenance of permanent and transitional housing for homeless families and individuals who otherwise would remain trapped in emergency shelters or on the street.

The 2009-2010 HHA Grants will fund **534 new housing units** for homeless men, women and children.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

Fund Local Coalitions and State Homeless Programs

(Four Programs Involved)

**Create a Local Homelessness Prevention Grant with funds from the Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program (EFAHP) dollars - \$1.1 million**

Prevention programs are both cost effective and efficient especially when focused at the local level.

A Dakota County, Minnesota study showed that it costs just \$1,600 in financial prevention assistance to keep a family of four from becoming homeless while it cost an average of \$12,000 to assist the same family out of homelessness.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

Fund Local Coalitions and State Homeless Programs

**IMPORTANT!!!!**

Tell YOUR elected officials **what these funding programs mean** for your homeless neighbors and community.

What programs/services have been funded through these funds and the outcomes/results of the funded programs.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Support the 2010 Homeless Bill

### **Create a Local Homelessness Prevention Grant**

Makes state dollars available through the state designated lead agency of the homeless continuum planning to enhance and support local programs to help keep families in their homes and apartments.

Focuses prevention resources at the local level – where most federal and state homeless funding is allocated – which increases efficient and effective coordination of services.

No new funding needed. Grant would replace state's emergency financial assistance for housing program and would utilize the EFHAP funding to the new local grant.

This would replace the EFAHP (Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program) through the state office on Homelessness.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Support the 2010 Homeless Bill

### **Create a Voluntary Contribution to Relieve Homelessness Option on DMV Forms**

Adds an option on the application form for motor vehicle registration and renewal of registration, and on application form for a driver's license, duplicate and renewal of license for people to make a \$1 voluntary contribution for homeless services.

Creates an easy way for Floridians to help their homeless neighbors.

Establishes a new revenue source to help fund services for homeless and near homeless citizens at levels needed to meet the demand for assistance.

Combined voluntary contributions option generates \$1.5 million annually – with individual causes generating between \$18,000 and \$500,000.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Support the 2010 Homeless Bill

Allows for up to 8 percent Challenge Grant awards to be used for admin.

Allows HHA grants to be appropriated as fixed capital outlay.

Removes the requirement that Housing First programs do background checks and require substance abuse treatment (if applicable) for program participants.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Sadowski Housing Trust Fund

HOUSING = JOBS

Total Economic Impact—Multiplier Effect: For every \$1 million of state funding, \$7.66 million of economic activity is generated. As part of that economic activity, each \$1 million of state funding generates over \$2.98 million of earnings/income.

Job Creation: For every \$1 million of state funding, 77 jobs are created.

*For a unified voice we follow the lead of the  
Sadowski Housing Coalition.*

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Protect Homeless People from Violence

“**Meanest State**” since 2005 as Florida continues to lead **the nation in the number of violent acts** committed against homeless people.

From 2005 to 2008, there were **141 reported violent acts** on homeless people in Florida, in at least 35 different municipalities.

Florida has demonstrated a **commitment and responsibility to protect our most vulnerable citizens** - and has done so through laws that protect our children, elderly and disabled citizens.

Adding homeless status to the state’s current hate crimes law is simply a **continuation of this commitment and responsibility.**

This change has **no fiscal impact** based on the Criminal Justice Impact Conference determination in 2009 that this bill would have an **insignificant prison bed impact** on the Department of Corrections .

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## **Other Homeless/Housing Related Issues** (bills filed)

Preserving Mobile Homes as Affordable Housing

Employment for the Homeless  
Provide tax credits for employing homeless people

Changes to Coalition/Lead Agency Language  
Would change make lead agency THE local coalition for catchment area

Domestic Violence  
Provide DV victims with some protection related to rental housing

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## **Current Bills and Status**

(as of February 8, 2010)

### **Fund Local Coalitions and State Homeless Programs**

Budget items will be part of the appropriations bill(s).

Once we've identified these bills and line numbers, will let advocates know what they can do to assist.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Current Bills and Status

(as of February 8, 2010)

### 2010 Homeless Bill

*(expected to be identical)*

**HB 923 - Reed**

**SB \_\_\_\_ – V. Crist**

### House Committees

None Assigned Yet – Bill filed on 2/4

### Senate Committees

Bill Not Yet Filed

*(Children, Families and Elder Affairs will be first committee)*

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## **Current Bills and Status**

(as of February 8, 2010)

### **Sadowski Housing Trust**

*(comparable bills)*

HB 95 – Distribution of Proceeds from Excise Taxes on Documents - Saunders

HB 665 – Affordable Housing – Aubuchon

SB 1250 – State Housing Trust Fund – Smith

SB 1432 – State Housing Trust Fund - Wilson

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Current Bills and Status

(as of February 8, 2010)

### Protect Homeless People from Violence

*(identical bills)*

**HB 11 - Porth / Rogers    SB 506 – Ring**

#### House Committees

Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee - Favorable on 1/12

Policy Council – Favorable on 1/21

Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council

#### Senate Committees

Criminal Justice – Favorable – 1/13

Judiciary

Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Current Bills and Status

(as of February 8, 2010)

### Employment of Homeless People

*(similar bills)*

**HB 459 - Braynon**

**SB 148 – Ring**

#### House Committees

Finance & Tax Council

Economic Development Policy Committee

Government Operations Appropriations Committee

Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council

#### Senate Committees

Commerce

Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

Finance and Tax

Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Current Bills and Status

(as of February 8, 2010)

### Homelessness

HB 287 – Pafford

SB \_\_\_\_\_

Being Withdrawn

# Housing for ALL Floridians

**Legislative Day**

**Wednesday, April 7, 2010  
Tallahassee, FL**

**Days Inn**

3100 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, 32301  
\$58 per night for April 6 and April 7

850-877-6121

Group: Florida Coalition for the Homeless.

The Days Inn features a free continental breakfast and free high speed internet.

**Reservations must be made by March 26, 2010**

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Legislative Day

We Need **ALL** Coalitions to be at Legislative Day

Show a “UNIFIED” Voice

Be Part of Change

Meet Other Advocates

Experience Florida’s Legislative Process

***Please RSVP to Lesa – Lesa@homelessofhc.org - so we ensure we have enough material for all advocates.***

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Legislative Day

### Preparation Briefings

Tuesday, April 6 - TBD

Wednesday, April 7, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., The Capitol Building, TBD  
*(this is also known as the FCH Information Station)*

### At the Briefings:

Check in

Last minute updates

Pick-up Legislative handouts

Name Tags

Agenda Review

Questions

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Legislative Day Agenda (UNDER DEVELOPMENT)

Working to include:

- Governor signing of a homeless day proclamation
- High level DCF official
- Zach Bonner begins his Walk Across America on that day
- A personal testimony from a homeless/formerly homeless person

Coordinating with the Florida Housing Coalition “Housing Day” activities and we are asking homeless advocates to participate in the Affordable Housing Rally as affordable housing is a key in ending homelessness.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Advocacy Visit Reports

- ❖ Advocacy Visits Reports provide the FCH Advocacy Coordinators with critical information we need to:
  - understand which Legislators are supportive, on the fence or opposed to our issues,
  - plan message strategies, and
  - what follow-up the FCH Advocates need to do to strength and/or gain support for our issues.
  
- ❖ PLEASE make sure your return your Advocacy Visit Reports
  - following your meetings at the FCH Information Station (location TBA) or
  - fax them to (813) 223-6178, Attn: Lesa

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Tips Getting Around the Capitol

- ❖ All entrances from outside to the Capitol, Senate and House buildings are security monitored with metal detectors.
- ❖ C = Capitol; H = House Office Building; S = Senate Office Building
- ❖ You can limit your trips outside/through the metal detectors by using the inside connecting bridges” between the Capitol building, the House and Senate Office Buildings. The connecting bridges can be accessed on **floors 2 and 3**.
- ❖ The elevators are very crowded during session, so be prepared to “dash” whenever a door opens. One button calls all the available elevators in the area.
- ❖ Be aware that **all elevators do not go to all floors**; read the signs before getting on the elevators.
- ❖ Your best bet, if you don't mind using “footpower,” is to use one of the many staircases around the Capitol Complex.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Tips Getting Around the Capitol

- ❖ You can obtain copies of any bills, upcoming/recent committee meeting packets, meeting calendars and member directories, free of charge, from the Documents rooms on the 3rd floor.
- ❖ The Senate Document room is on the Senate side of the Capitol; the House Document room is on the House side of the Capitol.
- ❖ The public galleries for the House and Senate are located on the 5th floor of the Capitol. Check calendars to find out when they will be 'in session.'
- ❖ There are cafeterias on the lower level and 10th floor of the Capitol.
- ❖ The view from the 22nd floor of the Capitol is very pleasant.

# Housing for ALL Floridians

## Contact Information on Legislative Day

Lesa Weikel, Legislative Day Coordinator (727) 421-0240

Rayme Nuckles, FCH President (813) 404-7514

## Contact Information Before/After Legislative Day

Lesa Weikel, Legislative Day Coordinator  
(Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County)

(813) 223-6115 or [Lesa@homelessofhc.org](mailto:Lesa@homelessofhc.org)