

Kevin McCarthy

From: Amy McClellan <amyjmcclellan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2016 5:06 PM
To: Nancy Muller
Subject: Comments on Proposed National Housing Trust Fund program funding

Dear Ms. Muller,

I was very glad to see that proposed plan for the allocation of the National Housing Trust Fund funding includes a priority for projects that serve extremely low and very-low persons and households with special needs.

One large population that has been overlooked in the past has been individuals with mental illness living on SSI. Miami-Dade County has a critical shortage of affordable housing for that group. Decent, supportive housing is one of the keys necessary for individuals with serious mental illness to become stable and reintegrate in the community. Without it, individuals who are coming out of the hospital or jail end up cycling into homelessness or back into the criminal justice system. Our organization, The Key Clubhouse of South Florida, serves adults with serious mental illness, and finding safe and affordable housing for our members who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless is always a great challenge.

Since there is so little funding for affordable housing dedicated to this population and the \$4.5 million per year will not go very far when it is distributed throughout the state, I would like to recommend that the funds be allocated exclusively for projects for this population, whether or not they meet HUD homeless criteria.

I would like to recommend that the funding be limited to not-for-profit entities, as the for-profit developers (at least in our community) do not have a reliable track record of actually serving low and very-low income individuals.

Finally, I would also urge the Florida Housing Finance Corporation put in place a strong compliance component to carefully monitor the use of these funds to ensure that they are being used according to the plan.

Thank you for listening to housing advocates about the need for affordable housing for this target population.

Amy McClellan
Board President
The Key Clubhouse of South Florida
1400 NW 54th Street, Suite 102
Miami, FL 33142
www.keyclubhouse.org
Home office: 305-757-5608
Cell: 305-582-9747

[Support our work through Amazon Smiles!](#) Every time you shop, Key Clubhouse receives a donation from Amazon.