

Appropriate 20% of SAIL Funding for Persons with Special Needs and Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Include the following proviso within appropriations to Florida Housing Finance Corporation which designates funding for special needs and homeless housing.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS FROM STATE HOUSING TRUST FUNDS (SAIL) ...

From the funds in Specific Appropriations ..., 20% of nonrecurring funds from the State Housing Trust Fund is provided to fund a competitive grant program for housing developments designed, constructed, and targeted to persons with special needs as defined in 420.0004 Florida Statutes and to persons experiencing homelessness as defined in 420.621 Florida Statutes. Private, non-profit organizations whose primary mission includes serving persons with special needs or experiencing homelessness shall be given priority for these grant funds.

Who would be helped with proviso?

Persons needing affordable housing and wrap around support services, especially persons with serious mental illnesses or substance abuse disorders

Individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness due to a mental illness or substance abuse disorder

Youth aging out of foster care who have experienced traumatic events and have need for housing support and treatment services

Veterans and seniors with disabilities

Why is this important?

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 20 to 25% of the homeless population in the United States suffers from some form of severe mental illness. While 45% has a less severe mental illness.

Mental illness is a major contributor to homelessness.

In a 2008 survey performed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 25 cities were asked for the three largest causes of homelessness in their communities. Mental illness was the third largest cause of homelessness for single adults (mentioned by 48% of cities). For homeless families, mental illness was mentioned by 12% of cities as one of the top three causes of homelessness. (National Coalition on Homelessness).

Lack of treatment for the most seriously mentally ill causes the kind of delusions and bizarre behavior that makes living alone or at home with families untenable. As a result, many become people with untreated serious mental illness become homeless and communities are forced to bear the cost of that.

According to Florida's 2019 Rental Study, 24% of persons with special needs or homeless need affordable housing but currently there is less than 4% available for this population.

Florida Permanent Supportive Housing Researched Costs Savings Results

Savings to the Healthcare System¹



2 | Page

Savings to Criminal Justice System²



down
65%

Arrests and bookings two-years prior to housing totaled **\$74,256** (84 arrests). After housing, the cost fell to **\$25,636** (29 arrests), a reduction of **65%**.



down
72%

Days spent in jail two-years prior to housing totaled **\$123,447** (2,053 days). After housing the cost fell to **\$34,274** (570 days), a reduction of **72%**.

Total savings for arrests, bookings and jail time

\$137,792

FHFC Homeless and Special Needs Units Compared to Total Rental Portfolio



NEED

Supportive Housing Units Produced vs Estimated Need

