



2021 Legislative Priorities

The Florida Coalition to End Homelessness (FCEH) is a dynamic organization whose membership includes the state's Local Lead Agency Continuums of Care (CoCs), homeless advocates, local service providers, members of the faith-based community, formerly homeless persons, educators, attorneys, mental health professionals and policy makers statewide. This diverse group is committed to implementing programs that prevent homelessness and rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families to return them to self-sufficiency and productive lives. The membership of the Florida Coalition to End Homelessness has collaborated to establish the following 2021 Legislative Priorities to work toward ending homelessness in Florida and to increase the capacity of local CoCs to manage and deliver these critical programs.

1. **Continue Homeless Recurring Staffing Grant**

Ask: Maintain current Fiscal Year Funding for the recurring base budget Homeless Staffing Grants (\$3 million)

FCEH supports the continuation of recurring funding for the homeless Staffing Grants for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Without the Staffing Grant, Florida's CoC system, which has drawn down and administered over \$800 million in the past decade to the State, would not be able to operate. This legislative initiative is supported by the Department of Children and Families and the Council on Homelessness.

2. **Continue Homeless Recurring Challenge Grant Funding**

Ask: Maintain current Fiscal Year Funding for the recurring base budget Homeless Challenge Grants (\$3.1 million)

FCEH supports the continuation of recurring funding for the homeless Challenge Grants for Fiscal Year 2021-22. The Homeless Challenge Grant Program has been funded by the legislature each year consecutively since 2014. s. 420.644(4), Florida Statutes establishes the Challenge Grant Program and establishes criteria for local grant awards, competitively procured through the State Office on Homelessness. Challenge Grant funding is used by the CoCs to meet emergency housing needs of the homeless and at-risk individuals and families, especially those needs which cannot be met by any other program. This legislative initiative is supported by the Department of Children and Families and the Council on Homelessness.

3. **Support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund**

Ask: Use all Affordable Housing Trust Fund monies on affordable housing – no sweeps!

FCEH is advocating for the legislature to use all the Affordable Housing Trust Fund monies for housing programs. The State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL) are highly leveraged, with private sector loans and equity providing \$4 to \$6 for every dollar of state funding—thus, greatly increasing economic impact. If ALL the affordable housing trust fund dollars are used for housing, it will create 28,753 jobs and have a \$4.1 billion economic impact to the State of Florida (Florida Housing Finance Corporation).