



Talking Points – Legislative Advocacy

Introduction

My name is _____ and I am the Executive Director for the _____ (name of CoC – don't assume they know what the abbreviation is for CoC, they need to hear "Continuum of Care Lead Agency" and counties covered). Make sure you reiterate that a CoC is not just one agency – how many Agencies are members of your CoC?

Our program is administratively housed within the Department of Children and Families, State Office on Homelessness.

The state funds a portion of the local CoC's expenses through the staffing grant for a total of \$3 Million in State General Revenue. This funding gives us the capacity to serve in our role as CoC. The State's \$3 million annual investment translates into a return on investment of \$94 million received in HUD CoC Program Funding. Without the Staffing Grant, this would not be possible.

What Effect Does Homelessness Have in your Community?

- Total homeless population in your CoC
- Percent of subpopulations (ie: 30% under 18, 5% 18-24 Youth, 25% Veterans, etc.)
- Percent change current year vs five years ago etc. to show at the local level how homelessness is being reduced in their communities.
- Provide a local success story using your Challenge Grant funding. What has been the outcome? Why is the state funded challenge grant so critically important to their local community? Impact to their community if the legislature does not fund?

Ask for their Support

1. Maintain current Fiscal Year Funding for the recurring base budget Homeless Staffing Grants and Homeless Challenge Grants

- Without the Staffing Grant, Florida's CoC system would not be able to operate. The CoC is the only eligible applicant to apply for HUD's CoC Program Funding. Florida was able to access \$94 Million in HUD funding because of the State's \$3 Million investment.
- 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.

2. Use all Affordable Housing Trust Fund monies on affordable housing – no sweeps!

- 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).