



**Office of Human Services & Community Partnerships  
Division of Housing Services**

Public Hearing on Leon County's Application for the  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing Grant Program  
October 26, 2023

Office of Human Services & Community Partnerships – Auditorium  
615 E. Paul Russell Road  
6:00 p.m.

The Office of Human Services & Community Partnerships Division of Housing Services met on October 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Present was Shington Lamy, Assistant County Administrator, presiding. Present were Jelani Marks, Housing Services Manager; Chelisa Kirkland, Affordable Housing Coordinator; Abigail Sanders, Health & Human Services Manager; Marcus West, Neighborhood Engagement & Community Partnership Manager; Mindy Conney, Human Services Specialist; May Swartz, Assistant County Attorney; Michelle Taylor, Chief Information Officer; Will Whittle, Director of IT Operations; Brad McGrath, Senior IT Technical Support Specialist; and Clerk to the Board, Beryl Wood.

I. Introduction/Opening Remarks – Shington Lamy, Assistant County Administrator

Shington Lamy, County Administrator, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. He noted the meeting met advertisement requirements, and it was broadcast so the public could have access. Mr. Lamy provided an overview of the meeting and stated this meeting was required before they could submit an application to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

II. Overview of the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing Grant Program and the County's Application

Jelani Marks, Housing Services Manager, outlined the PRO Housing Grant Overview and proposed the following allocations. He also shared information on Leon County's proposed activities for the PRO Housing Grant Award.

## **PRO Housing Grant Overview**

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) Notice of Funding Opportunity on September 7, 2023.
- The PRO Housing grant will allocate \$85 million for competitive funding for the identification and removal of barriers to affordable housing production and preservation.
  - HUD will award grants ranging from \$1 million to \$10 million to successful applicants.
- HUD will prioritize applicants that demonstrate a commitment and ability to identify and remove barriers to:
  - Expanding affordable housing in a manner that would promote desegregation
  - Expanding affordable housing in well-resourced areas of opportunity for protected class groups that have systematically been denied equitable access to such areas
  - Deconcentrating affordable housing and increasing housing choice.
- Eligible applicants include local and state governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and multijurisdictional entities.
- Leon County is submitting for the maximum award of \$10 million.

## **Leon County's Proposed Activities for Pro Housing Grant Award**

- ***Multifamily Development Gap Financing Program.*** Would provide funding to multifamily housing developments that set aside at least 40% of units for extremely and very low-income households (50% or below the area median income).
- ***Section 8 to Homeownership Down Payment Assistance Program.*** Would work towards breaking intergenerational poverty, building generational wealth, and shortening the local Section 8 waitlist

by providing purchase assistance specifically to homebuyers attempting to transition from public housing. Program participants would be required to participate in financial education courses.

- **Construction of New Homes in Neighborhood First Neighborhoods.** PRO Housing grant funding would be utilized for the construction of new homes to serve low-income households in Bond, Frenchtown, Griffin Heights, Providence, and South City. The County would partner with local partners and stakeholders such as Big Bend Habitat for Humanity and the Community Land Trust (CLT), which is operated by the Tallahassee Lenders Consortium.
- **Low-Income Home Preservation Program.** Funds would be utilized to enhance the County’s Home Rehabilitation program by increasing the number of households aided. Currently, the program assists low-income households in need of major repairs for health, safety, resiliency, insurability, and code compliance.
- **Inclusionary Housing Fee Waivers.** Funding would be utilized to provide fee waivers as an incentive for developments that meet set aside requirements for inclusionary housing. A draft inclusionary housing ordinance uniform with the City is expected to be brought to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration in early 2024.

<b>Leon County PRO Housing Grant Activity Fiscal Years 2024-2029 Budget</b>			
<b>Program/Activity</b>	<b>PRO Award Amount</b>	<b>County Leverage Amount</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Multifamily Development Gap Financing Program	\$5,000,000	\$221,932	\$5,221,932
Low-Income Home Preservation	\$1,000,000	\$3,150,000	\$4,150,000
Section 8 to Homeownership Down Payment Assistance Program	\$2,000,000	\$600,000	\$2,600,000
Construction of New Homes in Neighborhood First Neighborhoods	\$1,000,000	\$600,000	\$1,600,000
Inclusionary Housing Fee Waivers	\$1,000,000	-	\$1,000,000
In-Kind Personnel Costs	-	\$1,308,165	\$1,308,165
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>\$5,880,097</b>	<b>\$15,880,097</b>

III. Public Comments

Mr. Marks called for public comment. After approximately 20 minutes, there were no public comments (in person or via Zoom).


**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the public hearing, Shington Lamy adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

**LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST:



BY:   
Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of Court  
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

BY:   
Carolyn D. Cummings, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners