



Jaimie Ross

In an impossibly tight budget year, the Florida Housing Coalition's statewide annual conference drew a tremendous reception; over 650 housing participants. It was an event chocked full of housing resources and pressing policy issues, but no topic hotter than the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. After all, but for federal stimulus monies (including TCAP and TCEP), affordable housing would have come to a screeching halt in Florida this year.

For that reason, we are dedicating the greater portion of this Journal to NSP in Florida, highlighting best practices from around the state and recommendations for strategic opportunities to make this challenging program a success. All seven of the Florida Housing Coalition's offices are assisting NSP communities and their partners to implement NSP. We are especially grateful to our partners, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta for funding the bulk of that work.

### Sadowski Education Effort

Advocacy at the Florida Housing Coalition continues to be focused on restoration of the Sadowski Act state and local housing trust funds. We receive word almost daily that another local government has adopted a resolution calling upon the Florida Legislature to repeal the cap on the state and local housing trust funds and fully fund Florida's housing programs. These resolutions are an important piece of the larger Sadowski Education Effort spearheaded by the Sadowski Coalition and administered by the Florida Housing Coalition. Before the start of the 2010 session, we anticipate that every legislator will have received at least one personal visit by a member of the Sadowski education team.

Affordable housing is key to Florida's economic recovery. For every \$1 million of state funding, \$7.66 million of economic activity is generated. As part of that economic activity, each \$1 million of state funding generates over \$2.98 million of earnings/income. For every \$1 million of state funding, 77 jobs are created. See [www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org) for updates and advocacy talking points.

Advocacy for affordable housing in Florida takes many forms, it can be meeting with your legislator; it can be developing quality affordable housing; it can be administrating a SHIP program well. Florida lost such an advocate for affordable housing at our statewide affordable housing conference on September 20th, Annette Ayala.

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**JAIMIE ROSS** is the President of the Florida Housing Coalition and the Affordable Housing Director at 1000 Friends of Florida.

Annette Ayala, was also the best friend of Lisa Hoffmeyer, one of the Florida Housing Coalition's Technical Advisors, who offers the following in her honor.

The affordable housing world lost a true champion and a great friend in September. **Annette Ayala** served Florida's affordable housing partnerships for many years in different capacities- with non-profit organizations, cities and counties and as a private consultant.

Rarely is enough credit given to those in the "trenches." Annette was one of those who diligently wrote the programs, prepared the resolutions, put the ads in the paper, qualified the applicants, got the bids, awarded the contracts, completed the work, and reported on the



Annette Ayala

accomplishments. Such complex and at times frustrating work is a job for those who do it for the love of service. They understand that they will not get the credit, that if something goes wrong they will be held accountable but that does not matter because ultimately they are serving Florida's families that need their help. They do not give up, they do not quit, they continue to fight for those less fortunate. Annette stayed in this industry because she loved the outcome and understood how important her work was. Annette didn't hesitate to help a family who never thought they would own a home achieve the American dream. She relished fixing up the home of a disabled elderly resident and converting it into a home that would be decent, safe, sanitary and accessible. Annette helped to transform substandard rental properties into quality affordable housing for hundreds of families.

Annette loved this industry and what it sets out to accomplish- her primary goal was to help those less fortunate. She had compassion, respect and empathy for those in need and a great sense of joy in her personal life. We have a lost a warrior, a friend and a sister in the fight for decent, safe and affordable housing for all. *Annette, you will be truly missed.*