



Florida Nonprofit Housing Advocates Network

The Florida Nonprofit Housing Advocates Network (FNHAN) was launched at the 2010 statewide annual conference. The Florida Housing Coalition wants our advocacy on behalf of nonprofits to be informed by our membership. The FNHAN provides a forum for you to provide input to the Florida Housing Coalition on legislative and policy issues that you believe will advance opportunities for nonprofit housing providers' success. We have a one-hour telephonic meeting every other week open to members of the FNHAN.

During the 2012 Legislative session, the FNHAN met by telephone every week. The exchange of information between our members played a critical role in the 2012 Legislative Session. Our members met with their legislative delegations at home and reported back. That information was used by the Sadowski Coalition team in Tallahassee to provide follow up and follow through. For example, we learned from our members that some legislators thought SHIP was a new construction program. That would lead us to meet with that legislator or aide at the Capitol office to let them know that SHIP is perfectly suited to help with rehabilitation of existing abandoned or vacant properties. And while we again saw the sweep of the housing trust fund monies in 2012, the time spent by housing advocates with legislators in district offices and the follow up in Tallahassee puts us that much further ahead for next year. We encourage all

our members to ramp up their efforts with legislators at home before the 2013 session.

Beginning in January, 2012, the FNHAN launched an intensive review of the Universal Application used by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to allocate tax credits and HOME funds. The purpose of that review is to arrive at a comprehensive set of recommendations to FHFC for improving the delivery system of affordable housing by including a greater number of mission-based nonprofits in the mix. This will further our vision that Florida would have at least one community-based nonprofit housing provider working in every jurisdiction. The FHFC is a national leader in providing quality affordable housing through the private for-profit sector; it drives developers through its competitive scoring criteria to provide energy efficiency, long term affordability, tenant services and amenities. But the system currently in place is also making it nearly impossible for private sector community-based nonprofit housing developers to access public resources; it places mission-based nonprofit organizations at a distinct disadvantage to the for-profit sector, and in particular to large for-profit developers. The Florida Housing Coalition, through its members' participation in the FNHAN, intends to improve that system so that more mission-based nonprofits enter the multifamily arena and are better able to serve Florida's most vulnerable populations. If you would like to join this conversation, see the box below. [HNN](#)



Membership in the FNHAN is free, but is only open to Florida Nonprofits that are Florida Housing Coalition members. If you would like to provide input, share information and ideas, or be kept up-to-date on what advocacy issues we are addressing, please join the FNHAN. Membership information is available at: <http://flhousing.org/florida-nonprofit-housing-advocates-network>