



Florida Nonprofit Housing Advocates Network

The Florida Nonprofit Housing Advocates Network 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 Florida Nonprofit Housing Advocates Network 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.

Within its first year, the FNHAN achieved even more positive results than expected. We had a successful campaign to change the statutory definition of substantial experience relative to the FHFC Universal Application that creates a barrier for many nonprofits and we engaged our membership in legislative advocacy in a much more coordinated and effective way to repeal the cap on the state and local housing trust funds. There are currently 100 members of the FNHAN.

The Florida Nonprofit Housing Advocates Network Caucus is our annual in-person meeting. One of our featured speakers was Pete Sleasman, Attorney with Florida Institutional Legal Services (pictured above center), who also serves on the statewide support team for the Florida Bar Foundation's affordable housing preservation project. Pete provided training on Florida's public records law: Keeping abreast of how federal, state, and local housing funds are being expended and whether funds are available at all levels of government is key for housing advocates to know how housing monies are being expended and if and when housing monies are available. Pete Sleasman explained the broad scope of Florida's Public Records

Law- Chapter 119, Florida Statutes; Exemptions; Costs; How to make a public records request; What to ask for. He also provided a sample letter for making a public records request, which is the final slide from his PPT presentation found at www.flhousing.org/2011-conference-presentation

Preservation of project-based properties has been a focus of the FNHAN. In conjunction with the National Housing Trust and in connection with the Florida Housing Coalition's MacArthur grant, The Coalition assists nonprofits working to preserve affordable housing properties. Jaimie Ross, Affordable Housing Director, 1000 Friends of Florida and FHC Board President (pictured above right), emphasized the value in collecting tenant stories. See <http://youtu.be/oXVig4D7tgo> for examples to be used by our national partners to make the case for preservation with Congress.

Julie Seward, Director of State Policy, LISC, Washington, D.C. (pictured above left), brought an up-to-date report on funding at the federal level, and the need to advocate for HOME funds in particular, as these monies are at risk and so critical for nonprofit housing providers' work. **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>