

Sadowski Coalition Calls on Florida Legislature to Use All State & Local Housing Trust Fund Monies for Housing

Press Conference | February 26, 2019

The Sadowski Coalition – made up of 32 diverse statewide organizations, including industry and business groups; advocates for the elderly, veterans, homeless and special needs; and faithbased organizations – gathered at a press conference on Feb. 26 to call on the Florida Legislature to use all state and local housing trust fund monies for housing in Fiscal Year 2019-20.

In addition to calling on the Florida Legislature to use all state and local housing trust fund monies for housing, the Florida

Housing Coalition, a Florida statewide nonprofit provider of training and technical assistance, released its Florida “Home Matters Report 2019.” The data contained in the report overwhelmingly supports the full appropriation of housing trust funds for housing. The national “Home Matters” initiative is an effort to educate the public and policymakers about the connection between housing, health, education and the economy. The Florida “Home Matters Report 2019” is available on the Florida Housing Coalition’s website. [HNN](#)



“The Sadowski Coalition asks the Florida Legislature to consider this amazing opportunity they have to create jobs and a massive economic benefit, while helping their constituents avoid homelessness, find affordable rentals or realize the dream of homeownership,” said Ross. “Appropriation of the projected \$352 million in dedicated revenue this year will create more than 30,000 jobs and produce a positive economic benefit of more than \$4 billion in our state. We can make enormous strides in avoiding homelessness and ensuring Florida’s workforce and most vulnerable residents are able to live in safe and secure homes, but only if we use the money in these trust funds as it was intended.”



“The economic impact of the housing trust funds is well documented,” said **Andy Gonzalez, public policy representative for the Florida Realtors**. “In 2016, we commissioned Florida State University to conduct a 10-year economic impact analysis of the SHIP and SAIL programs. The study found that for every dollar Florida’s Legislature appropriated over those 10 years, \$9.50 in economic activity was generated for the state. The Legislature has a great opportunity to increase this economic impact by

appropriating all of Florida’s housing trust funds for housing. We ask the Legislature to consider the positive economic impact of the SHIP and SAIL programs, and the transformative effect they have on the lives of Floridians and their families.”



“Habitat for Humanity builds more homes in Florida than any other state in the country,” said **Barbara Beck, president & CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Florida**, which is a member of the Sadowski Coalition. “We serve close to 2,000 families annually in Florida. A cornerstone for our success in Florida is the SHIP program. But our success falters when housing trust funds have been swept either wholly or in part. Those sweeps have very real consequences for Florida families, because when SHIP monies are swept, Habitat serves fewer families.”

“Florida has surpassed the 20-million population mark, and we are continuing to grow each and every year,” said **Michael Bourré, first vice president of the FHBA**, which is a member of the Sadowski Coalition. “Our ever-growing population will need housing. Even more, our essential workers, like teachers, nurses and firefighters, are in great need of affordable housing and rentals. Using the money generated by the Sadowski Act creates jobs in the construction industry and boosts Florida’s employment and economy.”



“After meeting with more than 10,000 individuals throughout Florida, as a part of the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Florida 2030, we found that affordable housing was the one issue that was raised by respondents in every community the Florida Chamber Foundation surveyed,” said **Chris Emmanuel, director of infrastructure & governance policy for the Florida Chamber**, which is a member of the Sadowski Coalition. “The Florida Chamber will continue to support the use of the Housing Trust Fund for the purpose of attainable housing and will continue to work with the Florida Legislature to create more attainable housing options which will in turn create jobs and promote economic prosperity for all.”

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“There is no question that Floridians are in need of the housing assistance that is provided by these programs,” said **Trey Price, executive director of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation**, which is a member of the Sadowski Coalition. “That is why the Florida Housing Finance Corporation submits an agency request to the Governor each year for the full amount of funds that have been statutorily collected for the Sadowski state and local housing trusts. The great news in 2019, is that our agency’s request was honored by Governor DeSantis. We are extremely grateful to Governor DeSantis for his leadership on housing. We look forward to working with the House and Senate toward the restoration of the proper use of the Sadowski Trust Funds.”