

# Innovative Approaches to Addressing Homelessness

What's Successful in Other Communities,  
and in Florida



Today's Webinar is sponsored by the  
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of*  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION



The Florida Housing Coalition, Inc., is a nonprofit, statewide membership organization whose mission is to **bring together housing advocates and resources** so that all **Floridians have a quality affordable home** and suitable living environment.



WE'RE PROUD TO OFFER PROFESSIONAL  
**CONSULTING SERVICES**

In the areas of affordable housing, fair housing, ending homelessness, & related issues

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION



# Presenter Information

Elissa Plancher

Technical Advisor

Florida Housing Coalition

[plancher@flhousing.org](mailto:plancher@flhousing.org)

850-274-9764



THE FLORIDA

# Webinar Logistics

- Participants are muted
- Enter your questions in the box in your webinar panel
- Handouts are available with this webinar
- Forgot to ask a question or want to ask privately? Email me at [plancher@flhousing.org](mailto:plancher@flhousing.org)
- This webinar is being recorded and will be available at [www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org)
- A survey will immediately follow the webinar; **please** complete it! Thanks!

# Agenda

FHFC PSH Pilot Project: Village on Wiley



Managing Entity & CoC Coordination



Special Purpose HUD Voucher Programs



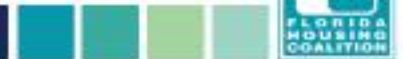
Miami-Dade Housing Trust's PHA Set-Asides

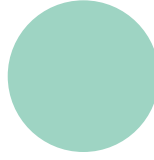
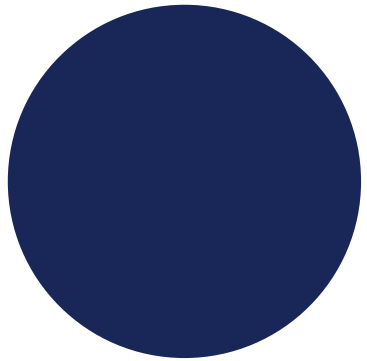
Florida  
Housing  
Finance  
Corporation's  
PSH Pilot  
Projects

Duval

Miami-Dade

Pinellas





# Village on Wiley

Ability Housing  
Duval County

- Purpose was to evaluate cost benefit of PSH specific to high utilizers of crisis services
- Competitive process
- Special funding appropriation from FHFC
  - Construct PSH community
  - Analyze impact on public systems

## Background



# PSH Project Details

- 43-unit apartment complex
- 49 scattered-site units, owned/leased by Ability Housing
- Pairs a permanent housing subsidy with supportive services
- After two years:
  - 68 out of the original 92 participants were still enrolled in the pilot project during the final evaluation.
  - 77 of the 92 participants have retained their housing.

# Successful Outcomes

---



59% reduction in inpatient costs



58% reduction in hospital costs



43% reduction in ER costs



65% reduction in arrest-related costs



72% reduction in jail-related costs



66% average income increase



PRESENTING  
**THE SOLUTION  
THAT SAVES**

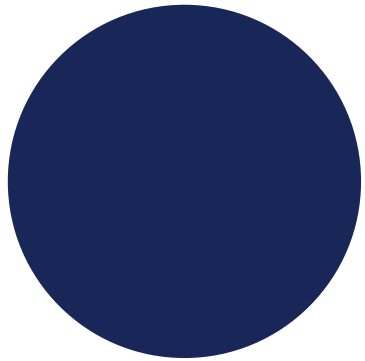
Two Year Evaluation Report

# Village on Wiley: The Solution That Saves

<https://abilityhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/The-Solution-That-Saves-2018-Two-Year-Evaluation-1.pdf>

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION





# Managing Entity/CoC Coordination



# Housing Coordination

# Purpose of Housing Coordination

1. Increase and improve collaboration and coordination between Managing Entities, Local Homeless Coalitions, Designated Lead Agencies of Continuum of Care Plans, Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), and other key state and local agencies as they relate to housing-related services;

2. Find safe, affordable, stable housing for individuals with mental health and/or co-occurring diagnoses; Ensure that these individuals receive the necessary support services to be successful in the community; and

3. Increase the number of discharges from state mental health treatment facilities to stable community housing in lieu of discharges to community crisis stabilization units, to addiction receiving facilities, or to placements increasing the risk of subsequent homelessness.

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/samh/managing-entities/2018/IncDocs/Guidance%2021%20HOUSING.docx>

# Central Florida Cares Health System & Brevard Homeless Coalition

---



- Pilot project that targets high utilizers of homeless services, hospitals, jails, DOC, and law enforcement
- Collaboration between CFCHS, Brevard Homeless Coalition, Street to Home Project, and Brevard Health Alliance
- Will be proposed to the Space Coast Health Foundation

# Central Florida Cares Health System

## Other Housing Coordination Activities

- Funding to expand supportive services
- Provider engagement in CoC Committees
- Step-down supports for PSH participants
- MHFA and Diversion Trainings
- TA to network service providers and community partners



# Big Bend Community Based Care & Opening Doors of NW Florida



The Housing and Resource Specialist is on the Board of Directors for Opening Doors NWFL and is involved with the ICARE project (funded by the Challenge grant)



Facilitates collaboration and coordination to execute federally mandated Coordinated Entry policies, procedures, and practices to ensure the most vulnerable receive housing interventions.



The ICARE project continues to be a great example of Care Coordination using the Housing First approach and bi-weekly meetings are attended by the Housing and Resource Specialist.

## I-Care Program: Opening Doors of NW Florida

- Temporary housing and case management to people experiencing homelessness.
- Linkage to landlords
- Deposit assistance
- Employment
- Life Skills
- Benefit acquisition
- Medical/Mental Health services

# I-Care Success



24 people  
housed through  
the program



22 people have  
moved on to self  
sufficiency

# Central Florida Behavioral Health Network

- Housing Development Projects, anticipated to add 240 rental units
  - Polk County
    - Blue Sky Communities and CASL, in collaboration with CFBHN, City of Lakeland, and Polk County Government submitted FHFC application
  - Lee County
    - Housing Project in development phase
  - Sarasota County
    - Arbor Village, anticipated to open August 2019

# Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

- Treasure Coast Homeless Coalition & Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network have rented two homes for persons stepping down from Mental Health Court.
  - Four men have moved into shared apartments after becoming roommates through this initiative.
  - Most recent house currently has four women residing.

# Projects for Assistance to Transition from Homelessness

(PATH)

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION



# What is PATH?

- Provide support services for people who are homeless (or at imminent risk) and who have:
  - Serious mental illness(es)
  - Co-occurring disorder
- Services Include:
  - Street outreach
  - Case Management

# PATH Services

- Goals to obtain community mental health services for the individual;
- Coordinating and obtaining needed services for the individual, including services relating to shelter, daily living activities, personal and benefits planning, transportation, habilitation and rehabilitation services, prevocational and employment services, and permanent housing;
- Assistance to obtain income and income support services, including housing assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI);
- Referrals to other appropriate services



# South Florida Behavioral Health Network (SFBHN)

- New Horizon's Community Mental Health Center
  - CoC Housing Provider
  - 50/140 units are occupied by PATH consumers
- Joint street outreach:
  - Miami Beach Police Department
  - City of Miami Homeless Outreach Team
  - City of Miami Gardens Police Department
  - Aventura Police

# SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, & Recovery

(SOAR)

# What is SOAR?

- Model used when applying for SSI/SSDI benefits
  - Complete all forms, submit as one package
  - Submit documentation
  - Provide written medical summary report
- Best practice for people experiencing homelessness who:
  - Lack an address
  - Have mental illness (and possibly other disabilities)
  - Benefit from having an authorized representative (ie: case manager/SOAR processor)

How does using  
the SOAR model  
help end  
homelessness?

- Economic mobility
- Ability to pay for rent
- Decrease financial assistance need throughout systems, allowing for more people to get served

# SOAR Data in Florida

## FY 2017-2018

- 421/680 Approved Initial Applications
- 62% Approval Rate
- 90 Average days to decision
- 187 Applicants living outdoors or in shelters

## FY 2018-2019

- 443/783 Approved Initial Applications
- 57% Approval Rate
- 92 Average days to decision
- 232 Applicants living outdoors or in shelters

# SOAR Critical Components

## FY 2017-2018

- 94% completed the SSA 1696
- 87% collected medical records
- 47% completed the Medical Summary Report (MSR)

## FY 2018-2019

- 98% completed the SSA 1696
- 84% collected medical records
- 39% completed the Medical Summary Report (MSR)



SOAR in  
Your State

Online  
Courses

OAT &  
Outcomes

Library &  
Tools

Ask a  
Question

## Library Home

Welcome to the SOAR Resource Library!

Click on the links below to see articles, webinars, and other materials about various topics.

### About SOAR

What is SOAR?  
National Outcomes

### SOAR TA Center Products & Services

e-Newsletters  
Infographics  
Issue Briefs  
Leadership Academy  
Online Application Tracking (OAT) Program  
SOAR Online Course  
SOARing Over Lunch Calls  
Special Topics

### SSI/SSDI Applications

#### Application Toolbox

- Social Security Administration (SSA) Forms and Resources
- SOAR Tools and Worksheets
- SOAR Tools and Worksheets - *Child SSI Applications*
- Sample SSI/SSDI Application packet - Adult
- Sample SSI Application packet - Child
- Sample Medical Summary Reports

Appeals  
Engagement

# SOAR Online Training & Tools

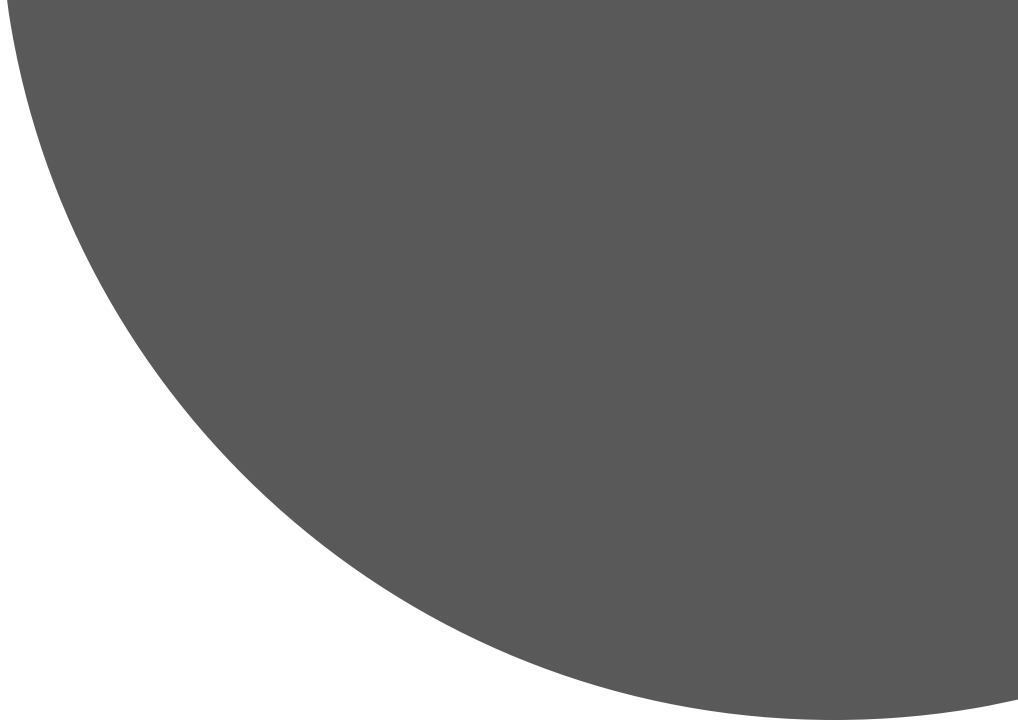
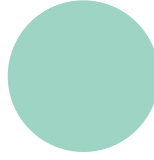
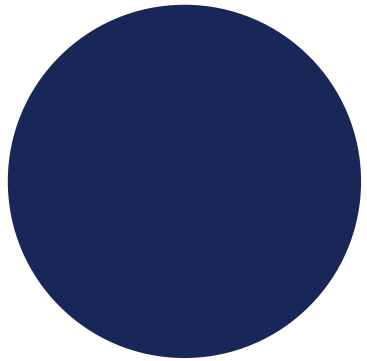
<https://soarworks.prainc.com/course/ssisdi-outreach-access-and-recovery-soar-online-training>

# Lutheran Services Florida (LSF Health Systems)

## SOAR Initiative

- Regional SOAR Team Lead
  - Provides TA in collaboration with the SAMHSA TA Center
- LSF-funded direct service providers
  - Receive Adult Mental Health funding
  - Must employ one employee who is the SOAR processor





Special Purpose  
HUD Voucher  
Programs



# Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers

HUD's Section 811 Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program

(NED)

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION



# Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities

- Assist non-elderly persons with disabilities who are:
  - Transitioning out of institutional or other separated settings;
  - At serious risk of institutionalization;
  - Homeless; or
  - At risk of becoming homeless



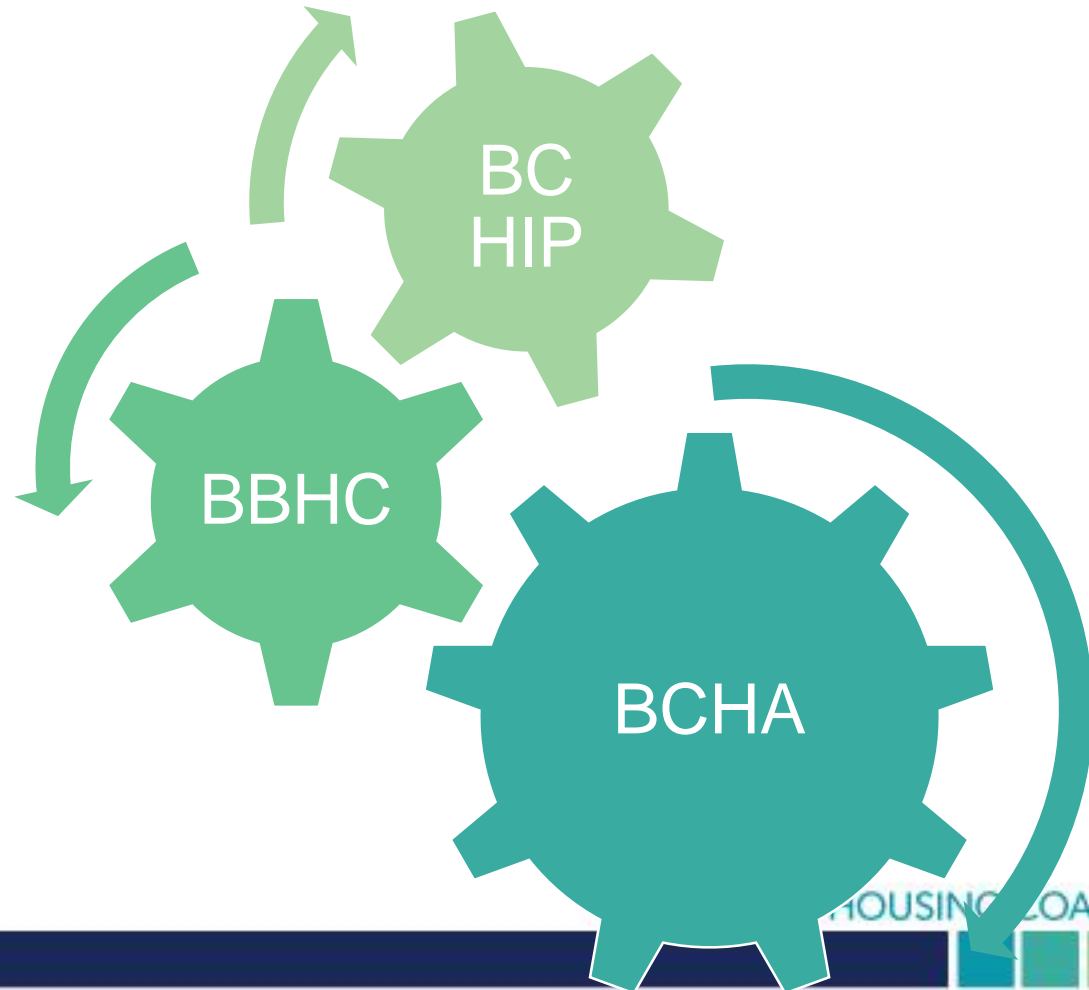
# 2018 NED Awards in Florida

17 Public Housing  
Authorities

674 Vouchers

Total Award:  
\$5,654,856

# Broward County's NED Application



# Collaborative Effort

---



## **Broward County Housing Authority**

Applicant



## **Partnerships**

Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership

Broward Behavioral Health Coalition

Other Human Services Community Providers

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION



# Collaborative Effort Continued

---

Data Sharing

Coordinated  
Entry

Strategic  
Planning

Multi-System  
Collaboration

# Broward County Housing Authority

79 NED  
Vouchers

\$705,692



# Family Unification Program (FUP)

# FUP-Eligible Populations

## Families

- Imminent placement of the family's child(ren) in out-of-home care
- Delay in discharge of the child(ren) to the family from out-of-home care

## Transition Age Youth Aging Out of the Foster Care System

- 18-24 years old
  - Have left foster care
  - Leaving foster care within 90 days
- Is homeless, or at-risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older

# FUP Awards in Florida: 2018

6 Public  
Housing  
Authorities

374  
Vouchers

\$3,245,861

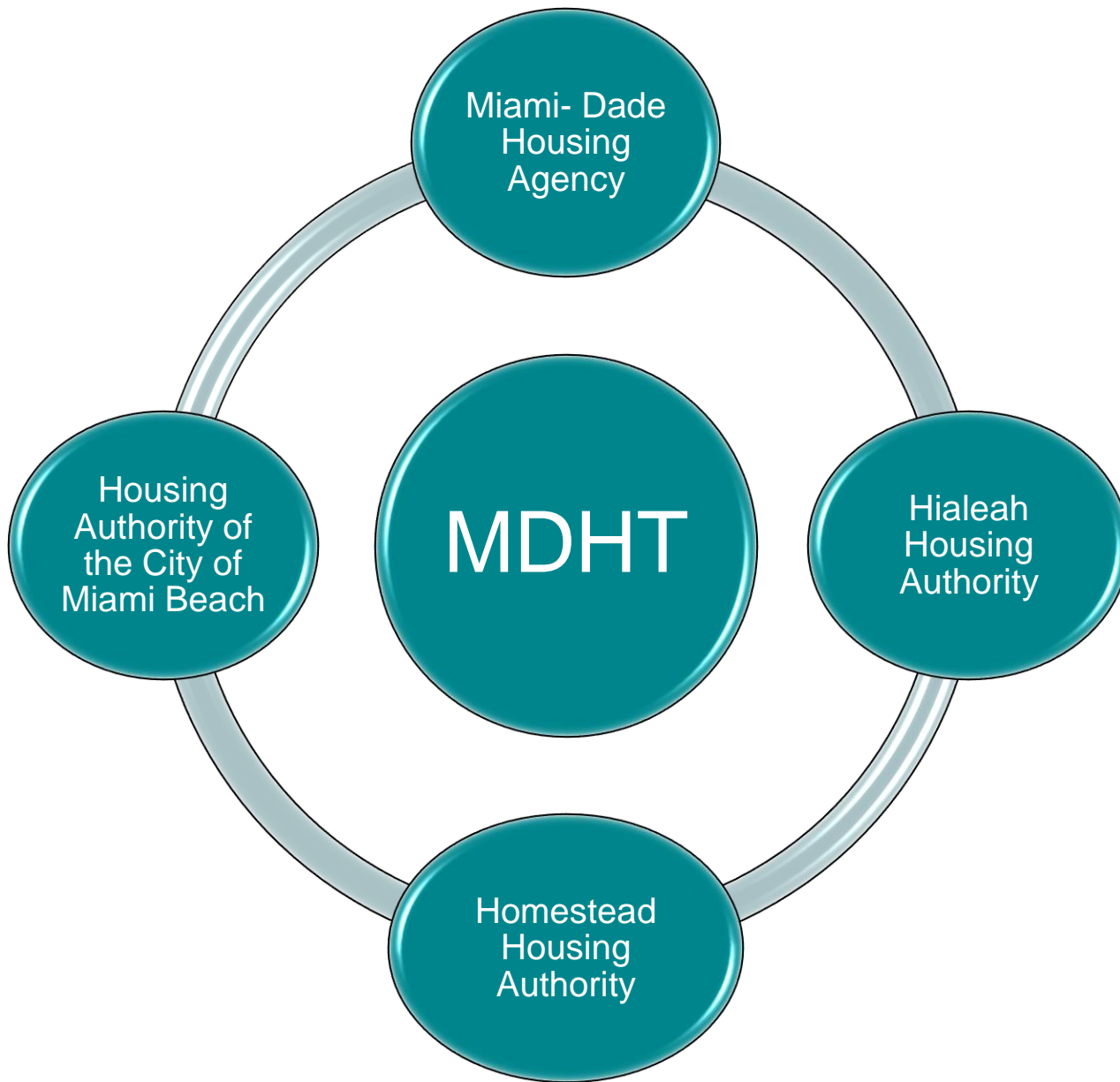
# FUP Rental Assistance Demonstration

- Targets transition age youth:
  - 18-21 years old
  - Who left foster care at age 16 or older; and
  - Who lacks adequate housing
- Participation in both FUP and Family Self Sufficiency
- Extends FUP Youth project from 18 months to 5 years, allowing for full-term participation in FSS
  - Can extend beyond 5 years, if FSS Contract of Participation is extended



# Miami-Dade Homeless Trust (MDHT)

CoC/PHA  
Collaboration



# Positive Impact of Developing a PHA Set-Aside Strategy



Direct access to subsidies or affordable units outside of the CoC's limited funded projects

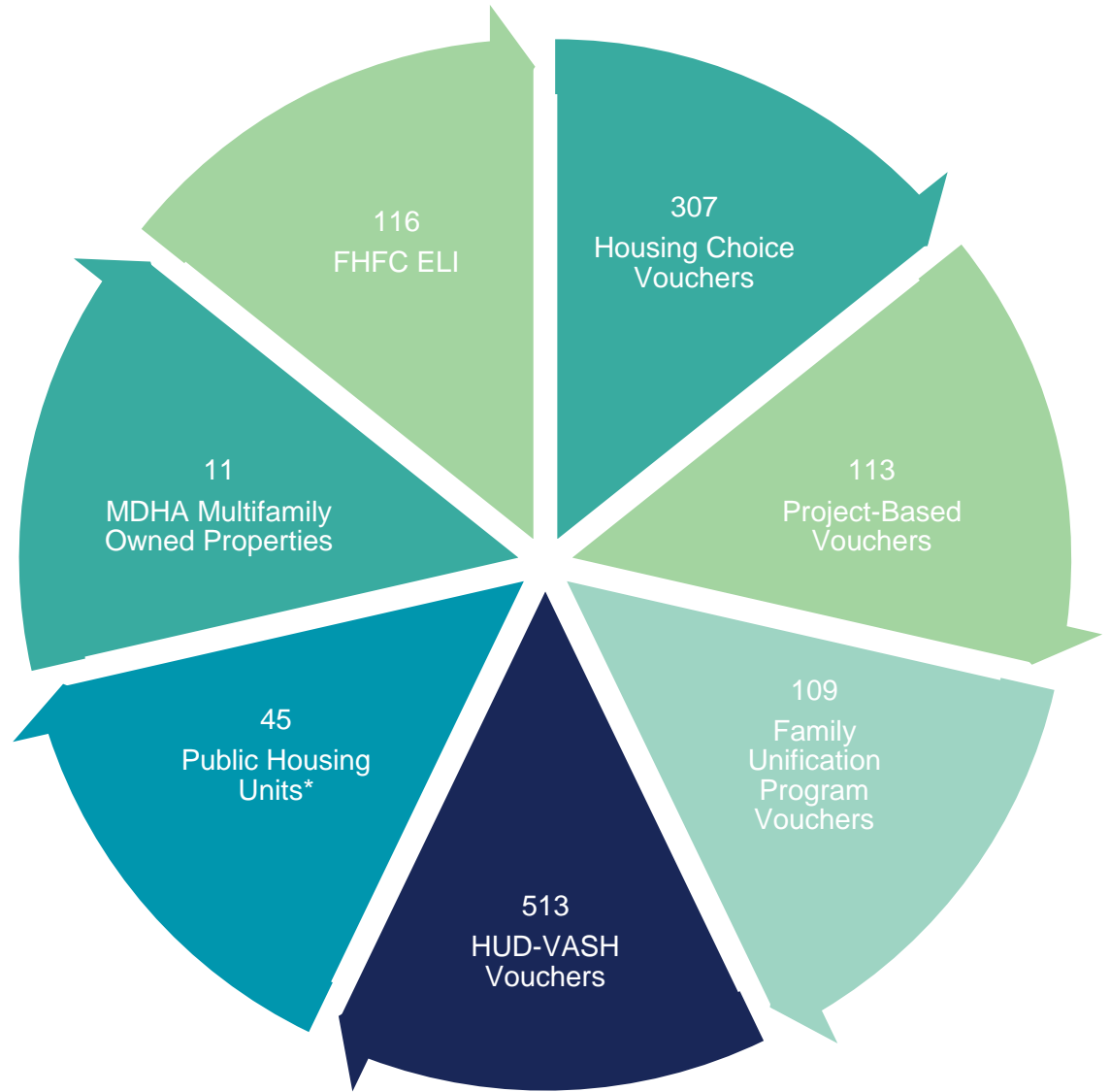


Implementing a move-up strategy for housing participants who no longer participate in the intensive services paired with a PSH housing subsidy



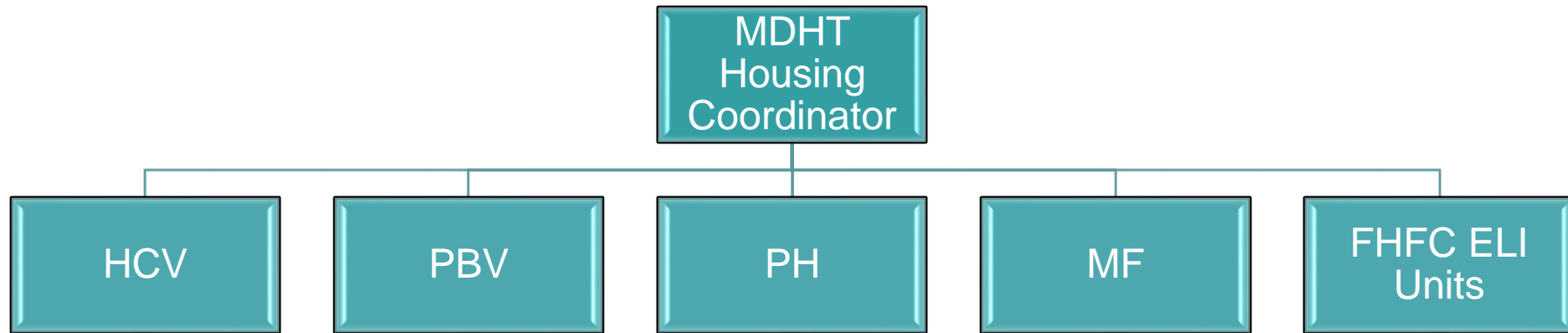
Better use of resources, creating flow in the CoC system

# MDHT/PHA Set-Asides





# Coordinated Entry



**Referral prioritization is based on:**

**Length of time homeless & Severity of disability**

# Other Special Voucher Programs & CES

## Family Unification Program

- Referrals are made by the Public Child Welfare Agency designee in coordination with MDHT
- CM provided by PCWA

## HUD-VASH

- Referrals are made by the VA in consultation with MDHT
- CM provided by VA

# Move-Up Vouchers

Program Type

HCV

NED



MOU requires supportive services be provided to the housing participant for 180 after transitioning from PSH to HCV

# Resources

- <https://abilityhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/The-Solution-That-Saves-2018-Two-Year-Evaluation-1.pdf>
- <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/samh/managing-entities/2018-contract-docs.shtml>
- <https://soarworks.prainc.com/>
- [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/ned](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/ned)
- [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/family](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/family)
- <https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/PIH2016-01.PDF>



[plancher@flhousing.org](mailto:plancher@flhousing.org)

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION



# Join Us For Our Next Webinar Next Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

**2018-2019 Legislative Wrap-Up for  
Advocates in Homelessness Services**

<https://www.flhousing.org/event/webinar-2018-2019-legislative-wrap-up-for-advocates-in-homelessness-services/>



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION



# Take the Survey



Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)



AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONFERENCE  
**HOME MATTERS**  
IN FLORIDA

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**AUGUST 26-28, 2019 | ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL | ORLANDO**

<http://flhousingconference.org/registration/>

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION

