

The Florida Housing Coalition Applauds the Legislature for Funding Hurricane Housing Recovery Efforts with General Revenue

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With the signing of Senate Bill 4A from the 2022 Special Legislative Session A, the Legislature appropriated \$150 million from the state's General Revenue Fund specifically towards housing recovery efforts for those affected by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Of this \$150 million appropriation to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), \$60 million will be used to fund the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) and \$90 million for the Rental Recovery Loan Program (RRLP).

The Florida Housing Coalition applauds the Legislature for appropriating \$150 million in General Revenue towards these two hurricane housing recovery programs. These are just three of the reasons why the Legislature should be given tremendous credit for this policy decision:

1. \$150 million is to be appropriated specifically for hurricane housing recovery.

HHRP and RRLP will help Hurricanes Ian and Nicole-affected areas with home repairs, replacement of housing, relocation assistance, new construction, housing reentry assistance, and other vital housing recovery efforts on the road to recovery. Although these dollars are not going to address all the housing-related impacts of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, these funds are going to help thousands of low-to-moderate income Floridians recover from the impacts of these storms.

2. The Legislature reaffirmed its recognition that the SHIP and SAIL infrastructure are the best ways to deploy disaster housing resources.

The Hurricane Housing Recovery Program is a proven method of providing disaster housing assistance to Floridians because

it utilizes the existing State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program infrastructure to deploy resources quickly and effectively. The Rental Recovery Loan Program, which



is modeled after the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program, also utilizes existing housing infrastructure to provide disaster relief. By funding these two specific programs, the Legislature smartly recognized that the SHIP and SAIL infrastructure are the best ways to deploy housing resources quickly and effectively. This was a great policy decision to not have to reinvent the wheel and should be commended.

3. The Legislature did not use the Sadowski Housing Trust Funds.

By using General Revenue dollars instead of State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds, the state's affordable housing trust funds remain intact to fully fund SHIP and SAIL in the 2023 Legislative Session. The Florida Housing Coalition applauds the Legislature for funding hurricane housing recovery efforts with General Revenue. This act shows that the Legislature understands the great need for housing funding statewide.

The Florida Housing Coalition looks forward to working with the Legislature in the 2023 Session to fully fund our state's affordable housing programs and to enact statewide policy that sparks the production and preservation of affordable housing.



Kody Glazer is the Legal and Policy Director with the Florida Housing Coalition, specializing in local and state governmental affairs, fair housing, land use, and environmental law, and helped lead the Coalition's technical assistance on CRF administration. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Florida State University College of Law.