

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Commission a Comprehensive Study (\$50,000)

The **Florida Housing Coalition (FHC)** possesses the resources and expertise to guide and advise municipalities on the best practices and policies, and modes of implementation, to address affordable housing. Formally involving the FHC in the policy review, formulation and implementation process will ensure that affordable housing recommendations are fully addressed.

Tenant Protection & Support

A. Rental Assistance Program (\$1 million per annum)

This proposal seeks to continue a Rental Assistance Program (RAP) to assist landlords and renters who are impacted by economic hardship to pay for rent or utilities that are currently in arrears, specifically for those who pay more than 30% of the income to put a roof over their head and/or have experienced a significant increase in rent. Funds may also be used to support the infrastructure necessary to facilitate payments as well as housing counselors for renters to assist them in mitigating additional hardships.

The City should work with and financially support the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid office in efforts to reduce eviction rates, human displacement, and homelessness. This should include support for The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), Eviction Diversion programs, and the Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) in conjunction with the Foreclosure Registry.

B. Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (\$1 million per annum)

Funds will be used to provide legal services to low-income and at-risk residents, as well as the personnel and overhead costs associated with those activities. Services for Duval County residents include but are not limited to: administrative hearings related to public or subsidized housing, credit report issues related to eviction, pre-foreclosure loss mitigation, foreclosure representation, and landlord-tenant disputes. Further JALA has agreed to facilitate discussions between interested parties in developing a “user friendly” bill of rights which clearly delineates the duties and responsibilities of both the tenant and landlord.

HOMELESSNESS

Determine, Dedicated Recurring Funding (\$100,000)

“The City and its partners should develop a dedicated recurring revenue source that could include corporate philanthropy and private philanthropy, municipal bonds, and/or other means.” With the goal of: *“Providing housing for the current 191 homeless individuals 55 years and older in Jacksonville. The cost to the community and respective institutions to not address the problem is \$25.9 million including indigent healthcare; in contrast, the cost to provide housing is only 52 percent or \$13.6 million.”*

To that end a consulting company should be retained to analyze the services and funding currently being secured to provide those services as well as the appropriateness of and the best possible path to creating a dedicated, recurring funding source to meet the goal of providing permanent housing and

wrap around services to the homeless in our community who are of the age of 55 or older. (I plan on introducing a resolution that binds the administration and council to conduct such a study.)

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Dedicated Funding for the JAX Care Connect Program (\$1.5 million per annum)

As noted in the report, according to the Primary Care Collaborative, a “medical home” is a model or philosophy of primary care that is patient-centric, comprehensive, coordinated (team-based), accessible, and focused on quality. It is a model for healthcare that preferably entails a location for achieving primary care excellence in the right place, time and manner that best addresses a patient’s needs.

- \$500,000 for JaxCareConnect to increase the daily provision of information, including guidance and navigation in EDs, a safety net system for those who significantly (re)utilize EDs, and patients without or in need of additional insurance (given contemporary healthcare costs)
- \$1,000,000 to free/low-cost healthcare providers addressing Social Determinants Of Health (SDOH), health equity, transportation barriers, and other resources. This includes the Duval County Health Safety Net Collaborative partners