

December 18, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Office of Governor
PL 05 The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

To Governor Scott:

On behalf of the vulnerable people who are still struggling after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, we, the undersigned 197 members of the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition, urge you to formally request robust federal housing resources and programs, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP), as well as a special allocation of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, national Housing Trust Fund, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and New Markets Tax Credit as soon as possible.

History has shown us that DHAP is an effective and proven solution for individuals and families with the greatest needs – including low income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and other at-risk populations – after devastating disasters. By providing temporary rental assistance and wrap-around case management, DHAP helps the lowest income families find permanent housing solutions, secure employment, and connect to public benefits as they rebuild their lives and get back on their feet.

Today, we need DHAP more than ever. After Hurricanes Irma and Maria, for example, extremely low income families are facing significant barriers to accessing FEMA's transitional shelter assistance. FEMA's transitional shelter program must be renewed every 14 days, creating great instability for those relying on it. Because it expires permanently six months after the initial disaster declaration, transitional shelter will create severe housing instability for many households. Moreover, hotels participating in FEMA's transitional shelter program often charge daily "resort" fees, require security deposits, and require that displaced households have credit cards – all of which are barriers for low income households that have already depleted any savings that they may have had and that are often unbanked or underbanked.

Without DHAP, displaced, low income families often have little choice but to move into uninhabitable or overcrowded homes, stay at shelters, or sleep in their cars or on the streets. According to the [Miami Herald](#), the [Orlando Sentinel](#), and other local news sources, there are numerous accounts of individuals who are unable to access FEMA's transitional housing assistance and who are facing enormous issues in finding accessible, affordable rental homes.

Before HUD can stand up its DHAP program, however, FEMA must enter into an interagency agreement with HUD. While FEMA has the authority to do this without any further state action, the agency has been reticent to do so without a request from your office. **We urge you to request that FEMA enter into an interagency agreement with HUD immediately to allow HUD to stand up its DHAP program to serve eligible hurricane survivors in the state.**

Florida suffers from a severe shortage of affordable rental homes. Even before the storms, there were only 27 affordable and available homes for 100 families with extremely low incomes in Florida. Cities like Orlando and Miami have even fewer affordable and available homes, with 18 and 21 homes, respectively, for every 100 extremely low income households. The damaged

caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria means that there is even less supply and more demand, especially with the influx of families displaced from Puerto Rico.

For that reason, **we urge you to request other targeted federal housing and community development resources that can be used to rebuild our communities and ensure that the current affordable rental housing crisis across the state is not made worse.** This includes a special allocation of four specific housing programs: the National Housing Trust Fund, a new federal resource designed specifically to address the shortage of affordable rental housing for people with the greatest needs; Low Income Housing Tax Credits, along with broadly supported modifications to increase efficiency and expand the program's reach to the lowest income households; HOME Investment Partnerships program funding; and New Markets Tax Credits.

DHAP and these targeted resources are necessary to ensure that the housing recovery is complete, equitable, and speedy.

Sincerely,

Florida Organizations

Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches, Inc.
Affordable Homeownership Foundation, Inc.
Arcadia DeSoto Habitat for Humanity
Bay Area Legal Services
Big Bend Continuum of Care
Brevard Neighborhood Development Coalition
Catalyst Miami
Catholic Charities of Central Florida
Charlotte County Government
City of Deltona
City of Fort Myers
City of Pompano Beach
Community Hope Center
Councilwoman Teresa Watkins Brown, City of Fort Myers
De Hostos Senior Center, Inc.
disAbility Solutions
Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches
Family Matters of Flagler
First Community Christian Pentecostal Church of God
Florida Alliance of Community Development Corporations
Florida Housing Coalition
Florida Legal Services
Florida Supportive Housing Coalition
Habitat for Humanity Florida
Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties
Housing Foundation of America, Inc.
Housing Leadership Council
Invictus Development

Jacksonville Local Initiatives Support Corp
Marion County Homeless Council
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare
Metro North Community Development Corporation
Miami Homes For All
Missio Dei Community
Mission House, Inc.
National Foundation for Debt Management
New Florida Majority
Organize Florida
Pinellas Homeless Leadership Board
Refuge Ministries of Tampa Bay/International
Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF)
Soukup Strategic Solutions
St. Francis House
St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc.
Tarpon Springs Housing Authority
The Community Justice Project
The Hendricks Company
The Wright Foundation
Trailblazers Unlimited, Inc.
United Way of Broward County
United Way of Florida
Winter Haven Housing Authority
Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc.

National Organizations:

American Academy of Housing and Communities
American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Americans for Financial Reform
Ballad Spahr
Boston Capital
Catholic Charities USA
Center for American Progress
Center for Community Change
Center for Popular Democracy
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Leadership Council
Coalition on Human Needs
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council on Affordable and Rural Housing
Davis and Harman
Du and Associates

Enterprise Community Partners
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Grounded Solutions Network
Habitat for Humanity International
Hawkins Delafield and Wood
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters - USA-JPIC
Housing Assistance Council
Housing Partnership Network
JPMorgan Chase
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
LOCUS
Low Income Investment Fund
Make Room
Money Management International
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Church Residences
National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Community Development Association
National Consumer Law Center
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Housing & Rehabilitation Association
National Housing Law Project
National Housing Resource Center
National Housing Trust
National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty
National League of Cities
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Resource Defense Council
National Stabilization Trust
National Urban League
Natural Resources Defense Council
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nixon Peabody

Oxfam America
 Pathstone Corporation
 PolicyLink
 Poverty and Race Research Action Council
 Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc.
 Prosperity Now
 Right to the City
 Shriver Center
 Smart Growth America
 Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
 Technical Assistance Collaborative
 The Arc of the United States
 The Schiff Group
 The Workers Center
 UnidosUS
 United Way
 Voices for Civil Justice
 Volunteers of America, Inc.

Other State and Local Organizations and Governments:

Fair Housing Center of Northern Alabama	Alabama
Fort Smith Community Development Department	Arkansas
California Rural Legal Aid	California
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California	California
Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley	California
Fair Housing of Northern California	California
Greater Napa Valley Fair Housing Center	California
Housing California	California
Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board	California
Napa Fair Housing	California
Project Sentinel	California
PYATOK Architects	California
Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation	California
Western Center on Law and Poverty	California
Connecticut Housing Coalition	Connecticut
Money Management International	Georgia
Fair Share Housing	New Jersey
Monarch Housing	New Jersey
Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity	New Jersey
Arbor Housing and Development	New York
Care for the Homeless	New York
Center for NYC Neighborhoods	New York
Community League of The Heights, Inc.	New York

Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation	New York
Morningside Housing Multicultural Tenant Organization	New York
New York City Housing Development Corporation	New York
New York Housing Conference	New York
Rebuilding Together NYC	New York
Rensselaer Housing Authority	New York
Tenants & Neighbors	New York
Allentown Housing Authority	Pennsylvania
Coalición de Coaliciones Pro Personas sin Hogar de PR, Inc.	Puerto Rico
MAVI-NEADA	Puerto Rico
The Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Community Development Corporation	Tennessee
Cambridge Development Group	Texas
Center for Public Policy Priorities	Texas
Community Hope Center	Texas
Easter Seal Houston	Texas
ECHOES	Texas
Family Restoration and Economic Empowerment	Texas
HAAM Ministries	Texas
House the Homeless, Inc.	Texas
Houston Center for Independent Living	Texas
Houston Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	Texas
Houston Coalition for the Homeless	Texas
Houston Local Initiatives Support Corp	Texas
I Am Pleased Development Center	Texas
Inclusive Communities	Texas
Invest in Texas	Texas
My Brother's Keeper Outreach Center	Texas
National Coalition for the Homeless (Portland)	Texas
New Hope Housing	Texas
Northwest Assistance Ministries	Texas
Organize Texas	Texas
San Antonio Local Initiatives Support Corp	Texas
Texas Appleseed	Texas
Texas Association of Community Development Corporations	Texas
Texas Homeless Network	Texas
Texas Housers	Texas
Texas Organizing Project	Texas
Texas Tenants' Union	Texas
True Casa Consulting	Texas
US Virgin Islands Housing Authority	USVI
Family Promise	Utah
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition	Vermont
Greenfield Institute	Washington

Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development

Wisconsin

CC: Congressional Delegation