

By Senator Smith

29-00856-09

2009726__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to housing assistance grants; amending
3 s. 420.622, F.S.; authorizing the agencies that
4 provide a local homeless assistance continuum of care
5 to use homeless housing assistance grants, provided by
6 the State Office on Homelessness within the Department
7 of Children and Family Services, to acquire
8 transitional or permanent housing units for homeless
9 persons; providing an effective date.

10
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12
13 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 420.622, Florida
14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on
16 Homelessness.—

17 (5) The State Office on Homelessness, with the concurrence
18 of the Council on Homelessness, may administer moneys
19 appropriated to it to provide homeless housing assistance grants
20 annually to lead agencies for local homeless assistance
21 continuum of care, as recognized by the State Office on
22 Homelessness, to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate
23 transitional or permanent housing units for homeless persons.
24 These moneys shall consist of any sums that the state may
25 appropriate, as well as money received from donations, gifts,
26 bequests, or otherwise from any public or private source, which
27 ~~money~~ is intended to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate
28 transitional or permanent housing units for homeless persons.

29 (a) Grant applicants shall be ranked competitively.

29-00856-09

2009726__

30 Preference must be given to applicants who leverage additional
31 private funds and public funds, particularly federal funds
32 designated for the acquisition, construction, or ~~and~~
33 rehabilitation of transitional or permanent housing for homeless
34 persons;; who acquire, build, or rehabilitate the greatest
35 number of units;; and who acquire, build, or rehabilitate in
36 catchment areas having the greatest need for housing for the
37 homeless relative to the population of the catchment area.

38 (b) Funding for any particular project may not exceed
39 \$750,000.

40 (c) Projects must reserve, for a minimum of 10 years, the
41 number of units acquired, constructed, or rehabilitated through
42 homeless housing assistance grant funding to serve persons who
43 are homeless at the time they assume tenancy.

44 (d) No more than two grants may be awarded annually in any
45 given local homeless assistance continuum of care catchment
46 area.

47 (e) A project may not be funded which is not included in
48 the local homeless assistance continuum of care plan, as
49 recognized by the State Office on Homelessness, for the
50 catchment area in which the project is located.

51 (f) The maximum percentage of funds that the State Office
52 on Homelessness and each applicant may spend on administrative
53 costs is 5 percent.

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.