

Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc.'s

Quarterly Review Newsletter

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Pre-Register Now for the COVID-19 Vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines continue to arrive in Florida in extremely limited supply. As we await additional vaccine supply from the Federal Government, we urge currently eligible Florida residents to save their place in line by pre-registering today.

<https://myvaccine.fl.gov/#/>

ETHEL THELMA WATERS

1938



2021

A WOMAN OF SERVICE

A Tireless Advocate for women, children, and migrant laborers.

*“What we do for ourselves, when we die, dies with us.
What we do for others, when we die, lives on.”*

The **Harvest** is **Plentiful**, but the **Laborers** are **Few**.

Mission work is not always across the oceans. Most times, it is right around us. Thelma saw the harvest and worked diligently and consistently to bring needed changes to fruition. She was a champion for those who needed help the most. Her service to mankind spanned 50 years:

- She was instrumental in the construction of 45 single-family housing utilizing the U.S Department of Agriculture, Rural Development’s (RD) 502 housing programs in her hometown, Indiantown, Martin County, FL.
- She opened a daycare center for farmworker children while the parents worked in the fields for extraordinary little pay.
- She advocated for a medical clinic, so children and parents could have access to medical care.
- She was one of the founding members of a housing nonprofit corporation, established to provide decent, sanitary, and affordable housing - so families could have running water, up to code electric and plumbing and a place where the whole family could sit and eat together; a place where children could study. The result was 150 units of rental housing utilizing RD’s Farm Labor Housing Program, leveraging \$10,472,800 in loans, grants, and rental assistance. Most people take these things for granted, but for agricultural workers, it was degrading how they lived.
- She was a leading force in her community for civil rights, voting rights and improved political representation.
- She was a founding, signatory member of the Village of Indiantown.

Her earthly labors resulted in her being inducted into the **Florida Women Hall of Fame** on January 28, 2021. Her heavenly labors resulted in her trading her cross for a crown. To sum up her life:

*“If I can help somebody as I pass along
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song
If I can show somebody, he is traveling
wrong Then my living shall not be in vain.”*

Contributed By Laurretta B. Stephens

HUD TO ENFORCE FAIR HOUSING ACT TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

HUD No. 21-021

HUD Public Affairs

*HUD directive begins
implementation of the policy
set forth in Biden executive
order to prevent and combat
sexual orientation and gender
identity-based discrimination*

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today announced that it will administer and enforce the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) issued a memorandum stating that HUD interprets the Fair Housing Act to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and directing HUD offices and recipients of HUD funds to enforce the Act accordingly. The memorandum begins implementation of the policy set forth in President Biden's [Executive Order 13988 on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation](#) (Executive Order), which directed executive branch agencies to examine further steps that could be taken to combat such discrimination.

"Housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity demands urgent enforcement action," said Acting Assistant Secretary of FHEO, Jeanine M. Worden. **"That is why HUD, under the Biden Administration, will fully enforce the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. Every person should be able to secure a roof over their head free from discrimination, and the action we are taking today will move us closer to that goal."**

The significance of this action is underscored by a number of housing discrimination studies which indicate that same-sex couples and transgender persons in communities across the country experience demonstrably less favorable treatment than their straight and cisgender counterparts when seeking rental housing. Despite this reality, the Department has been constrained in its efforts to address housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity by legal uncertainty about whether most such discrimination was within HUD's reach.

The memorandum relies on the Department's legal conclusion that the Fair Housing Act's sex discrimination provisions are comparable in text and purpose to those of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which bars sex discrimination in the workplace. In *Bostock v Clayton County*, the Supreme Court held that workplace prohibitions on sex discrimination include discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity.

HUD has now determined that the Fair Housing Act's prohibition on sex discrimination in housing likewise includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Accordingly, and consistent with President Biden's Executive Order, HUD will enforce the Fair Housing Act to prevent and combat such discrimination.

"Enforcing the Fair Housing Act to combat housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity isn't just the right thing to do-it's the correct reading of the law after *Bostock*," said Damon Y. Smith, Principal Deputy General Counsel. **"We are simply saying that the same discrimination that the Supreme Court has said is illegal in the workplace is also illegal in the housing market."**

The memorandum directs actions by HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and HUD-funded fair housing partners to enforce the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. Specifically, the memorandum directs the following:

- HUD will accept and investigate all jurisdictional complaints of sex discrimination, including discrimination because of gender identity or sexual orientation, and enforce the Fair Housing Act where it finds such discrimination occurred.
- HUD will conduct all activities involving the application,

interpretation, and enforcement of the Fair Housing Act's prohibition on sex discrimination consistent with its conclusion that such discrimination includes discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity.

- State and local jurisdictions funded by HUD's Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) that enforce the Fair Housing Act through their HUD-certified substantially equivalent laws will be required to administer those laws to prohibit discrimination because of gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Organizations and agencies that receive grants through the Department's Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP) must carry out their funded activities to also prevent and combat discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- FHEO Regional Offices, FHAP agencies, and FHIP grantees are instructed to review, within 30 days, all records of allegations (inquiries, complaints, phone logs, etc.) received since January 20, 2020, and notify persons who alleged discrimination because of gender identity or sexual orientation that their claims

may be timely and jurisdictional for filing under this memorandum.

Persons who believe they have experienced housing discrimination may file a complaint by contacting HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at (800) 669-9777 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TTY/Relay). Housing discrimination complaints may also be submitted online at hud.gov/fairhousing.

For more information visit:

https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_021?msdyntrid=pFkczOAVM0NRB7SemmhoeJGp0wHGwvfGqWSUeTFXPjo

Courtesy of HUD

USDA Invests \$266 Million to Improve Rural Community Facilities and Essential Services in 16 States and Puerto Rico

Funding Includes \$156 Million for Rural Health Care and Emergency Response Services

Release & Contact Info

Press Release

Release No. 0054.21

Contact: USDA Press

Email: press@usda.gov

WASHINGTON, March 23, 2021 – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under

Secretary for Rural Development Justin Maxson today announced that USDA is investing [\\$266 million to build and improve critical community facilities](#) (PDF, 162 KB) to benefit nearly 3 million rural residents in 16 states and Puerto Rico. This funding includes \$156 million to support health-care-related improvements and emergency response services that will benefit nearly 1 million rural residents in nine states and Puerto Rico.

For more information visit:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/23/usda-invests-266-million-improve-rural-community-facilities-and>

FNPH continues to be interested in our grantees contributing stories regarding the success of the families in your programs. We are certain all grantees are proud of the families they work with and we would like to spotlight them for all to see. Please submit your stories of the journey to homeownership of one, two, or a few of your families, a photo and authorization to FNPH. For more information or a submission, please email Stephen Lozada at slozada@fnph.org.

NEWS & NOTES

- Self Help Housing Spotlight is being updated if you have any changes that need to be made for your organization visit <https://www.selfhelphousingspotlight.org/>
- National Farmworker awareness week March 25-31, 2021.
- Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Extend Relief for homebuyers and rental property owners until April 30, 2021.
- USDA FY21 Single Family Funding allocation announced March 21, 2021 in an [unnumbered letter](#).
- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 a \$1.9 Trillion economic stimulus passed on March 11, 2021.
- HAC is hiring an Executive Assistant.
- Grantees if you know you need an extension, please request ahead of time to allow for national office to complete in a timely manner.
- For updated income limits visit: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD-DirectLimitMap.pdf>
- Single Family Housing Direct Eligibility Assessment tool: <https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do?pageAction=assessmentType>

Good Luck!

Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc. would like to offer congratulations to Crossville Housing Authority on the closing of their Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grant to rehab homes.

Crossville's Mission:

The mission of the Crossville Housing Authority is to serve low-income families within the Authority's jurisdiction. The Crossville Housing Authority will strive to provide safe and sanitary housing that is affordable, promotes the well being of our clients and provides stable housing without discrimination. We strive to meet the housing needs of our clients in a friendly, efficient manner.

Housing Services

- **Public Housing**
- **Housing For Elderly**
- **Housing For Disabled**
- **Youth Housing**
- **Apartments**
- **Single Family Homes**
- **Service Programs**

For more information visit: www.crossvillehousing.org



Need capital for your affordable housing project? HAC's loan funds provide low interest rate loans to support single- and multifamily affordable housing projects for low-income rural residents throughout the U.S. and territories. Capital is available for all types of affordable and mixed-income housing projects, including preservation, farmworker, senior and veteran housing. HAC loan funds can be used for pre-development, site acquisition, site development and construction/rehabilitation. Contact HAC's loan fund staff at hacloanfunds@ruralhome.org, 202-842- 8600.

FACT SHEET: Update on USDA Activities to Contain the COVID-19 Pandemic

***USDA Has Deployed 669
Disaster, Public Health
Specialists to Assist with
Federal Response***

Release & Contact Info

Fact Sheet

Release No. 0057.21

Contact: USDA Press

Email: press@usda.gov

WASHINGTON, Mar. 24, 2021 — In January 2021, President Biden released the National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness. The plan is driven by science, data, and public health to improve the effectiveness of our nation's fight against COVID-19 and to restore trust, accountability and a sense of common purpose in our response to the pandemic.

The National Strategy provides a roadmap to guide

America out of the worst public health crisis in a century. It is organized around seven goals:

1. Restore trust with the American people.
2. Mount a safe, effective, and comprehensive vaccination campaign.
3. Mitigate spread through expanding masking, testing, data, treatments, health care workforce, and clear public health standards.
4. Immediately expand emergency relief and exercise the Defense Production Act.
5. Safely reopen schools, businesses, and travel while protecting workers.
6. Protect those most at risk and advance equity, including across racial, ethnic and rural/urban lines.
7. Restore U.S. leadership globally and build better preparedness for future threats.

The plan calls on all parts of the federal government to contribute its resources—

facilities, personnel, and expertise—to contain the pandemic. Chief among the efforts is a whole-of-government response to stand up new federally supported community vaccination centers across the country.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responding to the President's call to action. In addition to personnel, USDA is offering its facilities, cold chain infrastructure, public health experts, disaster response specialists, and footprint in rural areas and Tribal communities across the country. Here are the some of the ways USDA is working alongside our federal partners to contain the pandemic and get our economy back on track.

For Full Story:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/24/fact-sheet-update-usda-activities-contain-covid-19-pandemic>

Courtesy of USDA/RD

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