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HOUSING ELEMENT

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HOUSING ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Housing Element is to: 1) identify existing and projected deficits in the supply of housing to meet the needs of the County's population, particularly the very low and low income families; 2) analyze housing trends and the causes, scope and nature of any housing problems, 3) develop appropriate plans, programs and policies to bring about the accomplishment of the necessary housing, whether through private-sector efforts, non-profit, public/private partnerships or the public sector, and 4) to guide and coordinate all housing activities to eliminate duplications and increase efficiency of the housing delivery system.

The Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan has several other characteristics that distinguish it from other Plan elements. First, housing is primarily provided by the private sector, and market demand largely dictates the type and location of housing projects. The County's development regulations (e.g., Zoning and Building Codes) only guide the private sector in the development and construction of housing. Second, because housing is an essential human need, the public sector has the responsibility to ensure adequate, safe housing, especially for low, and very low income families, elderly and other disadvantaged groups. Third, the primary criterion for those seeking housing is not local jurisdiction except for those families who can afford to choose a specific location. Factors determining housing selection include personal choice, financial limitation, value, safety and rent.

Much of the planning and coordination of affordable housing services delivery is done through other documents, required as part of State and federal funding programs. As a result the Housing Element does not establish separate targets and approaches, but primarily utilizes the housing needs targets and reflects the strategies identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and supports its efforts to meet the need of very low, low and moderate income households, the homeless and non-homeless special needs populations.

Every five years Palm Beach County is required to submit a Five-Year Consolidated Plan to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development which describes how the County will pursue the overall goals of the community planning and development programs, as well as housing programs. The Consolidated Plan addresses both the unincorporated County and the jurisdiction of the 29 municipalities who possess inter-local agreements with the County for affordable housing and community development purposes. The Palm Beach County Five-Year Consolidated Plan, October 2015–September 2020 (July 2015) identifies affordable housing issues and certain housing program's expected resources and goals for the period of 2015-2020. In addition, the Consolidated Plan also includes data on substandard housing, special needs populations, homeless populations, and those at risk of homelessness.

Every three years, Palm Beach County is required to submit a Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) to the Florid Housing Finance Corporation as a condition of receiving an annual funding allocation from the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. The LHAP establishes the program strategies through which the County will use SHIP funding to serve local housing needs during the three-year period for households with incomes up to 140% of Area Median Income.

The affordable housing needs through the 2020 planning period, as well as data pertaining to rural and farmworker housing and substandard housing, are based on data provided by the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies (University of Florida).

Terms used in the Housing Element are defined in the definitions section of the Introduction and Administration Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

B. Assessment and Conclusions

Housing Affordability

Housing is typically considered to be affordable if monthly rents including utilities, or monthly mortgage payments including property taxes, insurance and utilities (“gross housing costs”), do not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the median adjusted gross annual income for very low, low and moderate income households. Households are considered “cost-burdened” when a household’s gross housing cost exceeds thirty percent (30%) of gross household income, resulting in less available income for other necessities such as food, clothing, and transportation. Severe cost burden is the situation wherein a household’s gross housing cost exceeds fifty percent (50%) of gross household income. In accordance with typical lending standards, debt-to-income ratios such as front end and back end ratios are also considered when determining affordability. Typical front end ratios allow up to 35% of household income to be committed for mortgage and related expenses, and typical back end ratios allow up to 42% of household income to be committed to the mortgage and all other credit related debt.

The focus of County efforts is on affordable housing options for households in the very low income range (0-60% AMI), and on low, moderate and middle income range workforce housing, which the County’s program defines as households from 60% up to 140% of AMI.

Housing Needs for Very Low and Low Income Households

Based on data provided by the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies (University of Florida), approximately 104,245 renter and owner households with very low (0-50% of AMI) and low incomes (50%-80% of AMI) countywide were cost-burdened or severely cost burdened in 2015. Further, the Shimberg Center projects a countywide increase from 2015 through 2025 of 14,278 severely cost burdened households, including 8,288 owners and 5,990 renters.

Workforce Housing Needs

Data provided by the Shimberg Center offer an assessment of housing cost burden estimates for Workforce Housing households with low (60%-80% of AMI), moderate (80%-120% of AMI) and middle incomes (120%-140% of AMI) located in the unincorporated portion of Palm Beach County in 2010, 2015 and 2020.

The 2010 analysis identified that 38,894 households in the unincorporated area experience a housing cost burden of exceeding 30%, or a severe housing cost burden exceeding 50% of their household income. For the period from 2010-2020, the Shimberg Center data identified that an additional 3,897 households located in the unincorporated area will experience a housing cost burden or a severe housing cost burden. From 2010 through 2020 nearly 16% of the households (42,563) within the unincorporated County with low, moderate and middle incomes (60%-140% of AMI) will experience a housing cost burden of exceeding 30%, or a severe housing cost burden exceeding 50% of their household income.

Housing Needs for Special Needs Populations

Special needs populations can include the homeless, the elderly or frail elderly, the physically disabled, persons with mental illness, persons with developmental disabilities, alcohol or other drug addiction, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, abused/neglected children, victims of domestic violence, veterans, youth aging out of foster care, and ex-offenders. The Community Services Department is the County's lead entity regarding special needs issues and assistance.

The County's 2017 Point in Time Count indicated 1,607 persons were homeless on the day of the county, of which 780 of those individuals were sheltered and 827 unsheltered.

The Shimberg Center estimates that as of 2015 countywide there are 31,866 cost burdened households with a disabled member and income less than 50% AMI.

Need Resulting from Overcrowded and Substandard Units

In addition to addressing the identified demand, efforts are also directed toward maintaining existing housing units through policies to eliminate substandard housing and provide for relocation.

The Shimberg Center's 2015 estimates indicated that countywide:

- 15,344 (2.49%) of the units have more than one person per room (an indication of overcrowding)
- 10,108 (1.9%) of the occupied units in the unincorporated area use no home heating fuel source
- 8,576 (1.3%) of the units lack complete kitchen facilities
- 5,335 (0.8%) of the units lack complete plumbing facilities

Addressing Housing Needs

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan is considered the best available data source to determine the housing needs and targets for Palm Beach County when considering the housing funding that is reasonably expected to be available to the County for the FY 2015-2016 through 2019-2020 time period. The Plan addresses households that will experience cost burden issues in its jurisdiction, both in the unincorporated County and within the 29 municipalities who possess inter-local agreements with the County for affordable housing and community development purposes.

The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability (HES) administers the Five Year Consolidated Plan and the federal funds covered thereunder, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs. These various programs are reflected within the Five-Year Consolidated Plan's estimates of available funding and the housing goals for the period from 2015-2020. Additionally, HES administers the County's Local Housing Assistance Plan which establishes housing strategies and funding allocations for the State Housing Initiatives partnership (SHIP) program.

The County's Planning, Zoning, and Building Department (PZB) administers the Affordable Housing Program (AHP) assisting primarily in serving some of these cost burdened very low and low income (60% of AMI and below) households. With the AHP, builders of residential developments receive certain development incentives in order to provide the housing units

attainable to qualified income eligible households for at least 15 years (for-sale) and 30 years (rental).

In addition, Palm Beach County through PZB's Workforce Housing Program (WHP) assists in serving some of the households that will experience cost burden issues. The WHP is designed to serve low, moderate, and middle income households (60-140% of AMI) by requiring a component of housing units in new development in certain unincorporated areas of the county be provided for these income groups at rents and sale prices that are to remain affordable for periods of at least 15 years (for-sale) and 30 years (rental).

In September 2008, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County. The Plan outlines a strategy to design, fund and develop permanent housing solutions for the County's homeless population. The objective of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County is to create a local homeless response system that will completely eliminate homelessness in ten years. A key step toward that objective was the 2012 opening of the County's first Homeless Resource Center, located in the City of West Palm Beach, which is designed to provide initial services and short-term housing to homeless persons residing in the County.

There are various agencies and facilities serving special needs populations in Palm Beach County. Some of the providers deal only with a single, discrete population; others may serve multiple populations. Some of the agencies only address only housing and shelter needs, while others may provide a range of services, including advocacy, case management, and direct services.

Geographic dispersal must also be addressed in order to avoid the concentration of affordable housing in specific areas of the County, and at the same time consideration must also be given to the availability of public services and employment opportunities when locating affordable housing.

II. GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

It is the **GOAL** of Palm Beach County to facilitate the provision of an adequate supply of safe, sanitary and affordable housing to meet the needs of the County's residents, with special attention to the needs of very low, and low income households in addition to special needs populations.

OBJECTIVE 1.1 Provision of Affordable Housing

The County through the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability, shall provide ongoing implementation and monitoring of programs, and shall pursue and secure additional funding sources. The Commission on Affordable Housing shall have responsibilities as defined in the Palm Beach County Affordable Housing Ordinance (Palm Beach County Code, Section 12-242 – Section 14-248).

Policy 1.1-a: For the period 2015-2020, Palm Beach County shall utilize the strategies identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan for Palm Beach County in its efforts to meet the need of very low and low income households.

Policy 1.1-b: The Commission on Affordable Housing shall have responsibility for reviewing progress and making recommendations on affordable housing policies in the County through an annual report and special reports in accordance with the Palm Beach County Affordable Housing Ordinance (Palm Beach County Code, Section 12-242 – Section 14-248).

The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability shall continue to evaluate the County's progress in encouraging affordable housing for very low, low and moderate income persons.

Policy 1.1-c: The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability shall continue to provide for the administration of local activities related to the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program, and the Robert Pinchuck Memorial Affordable Housing Trust Fund (the "Affordable Housing Trust Fund").

Policy 1.1-d: The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability shall continue to provide for the administration of formula grants for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Community Services Department shall provide administration of the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG).

Policy 1.1-e: The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability shall pursue additional funding and utilize all available federal state and local programs and resources to meet the housing needs of very low, low, and moderate income households, including rural and farmworker households.

Policy 1.1-f: The County shall continue to expand the housing stock through the utilization of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and other efforts to identify and secure additional funding sources; including:

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund will continue to provide funding to programs as approved by the Board of County Commissioners and pursuant to the Local Housing Assistance Plan and F.S. 420.975.

Policy 1.1-g: The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability in coordination with the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department shall provide the ongoing monitoring and tracking of affordable housing units being funded and built through County programs, and the evaluation of progress being made in meeting the current and projected affordable housing need.

Policy 1.1-h: The County shall continue the review and streamlining as needed, of those ordinances, codes and regulations related to the permitting process, in order to continue the reduction of excessive requirements and amend or add other provisions that increase private sector participation in adding to the supply of affordable housing. The County shall designate the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department as the lead agency, with assistance from the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability, Engineering and other appropriate Departments.

Policy 1.1-i: The County shall inventory all surplus County-owned land and foreclosed properties that could be used to promote affordable housing provision and production. The Property and Real Estate Management Division shall coordinate identification of such lands with municipalities, the Palm Beach County School Board, the South Florida Water Management District and other public land owners in Palm Beach County, to produce a list of viable sites for affordable housing developments and special needs housing, including rural and farmworker households. The County's Property and Real Estate Management Division, in coordination with the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability, shall be responsible for the review of the inventory. The County may also provide direct land grants to private not-for-profit agencies and may make land available for exchange with developers and property owners, securing land for public purposes while offering exchange sites for affordable housing.

Policy 1.1-j: Planning, Zoning and Building shall establish a Task Force to establish principals and criteria to guide the location and development of single room occupancy units, including accessory apartments, as alternatives for affordable housing in the unincorporated County.

Policy 1.1-k: The County shall increase its effectiveness addressing Housing needs by:

1. designating the Planning, Zoning and Building Department as the lead department for all data efforts for the Housing Element;
2. coordinating housing policy objectives with all County agencies, such as the Department of Planning, Zoning and Building; the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability, the Housing Finance Authority, and other public and private entities.
3. The County shall also assist and encourage public/private partnerships with private community-based non-profit agencies and other private sector agencies that further County housing policy objectives, in order to improve cooperation among participants involved in housing production and to enhance the feasibility of producing and delivering affordable housing.

Policy 1.1-l: The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability with the assistance of the Commission on Affordable Housing shall continue to coordinate with the municipalities in the provision of affordable housing within their city limits, to assist

the County with the provision of affordable housing. Among the strategies to be explored are:

1. Tax abatements;
2. Provision of infrastructure for affordable projects by practices such as tax increment financing;
3. Conveyance of public property;
4. Payment into the County's Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and
5. Incentives and interlocal agreements with municipalities that will assist the County with the provision of affordable housing affordable housing units within the Revitalization and Redevelopment Overlay and CDBG Target Areas.

The feasibility of these strategies shall be evaluated and recommendations will be made by the Department of Economic Sustainability in coordination with the Commission on Affordable Housing.

Policy 1.1-m: The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability with the assistance of Planning, Zoning and Building shall provide for the coordination, outreach and information dissemination of all aspects of the housing delivery system including availability and location of affordable housing assisted with Federal, State, or County funds.

Policy 1.1-n: The County shall provide education-awareness programs, so that the public can gain a better understanding of the need for affordable housing. These programs should also address residents' aversion to the proximity of affordable housing and the general negative public perception regarding affordable housing.

Policy 1.1-o: The County shall preserve affordability of workforce and affordable housing units developed through the Workforce Housing Program and the Affordable Housing Program as follows:

1. The Workforce Housing Program will target households with incomes ranging from 60%-140% of area median income.
2. The Affordable Housing Program will target households at or below 60% of area median income.

The Workforce Housing Program and Affordable Housing Program units shall be made available at a rate affordable to the specified income groups, and only to income-eligible households for a period of time to be set forth in the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC). All Workforce Housing Program and Affordable Housing Program criteria shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

Policy 1.1-p: Planning, Zoning and Building shall continue to ensure the Unified Land Development Code contains minimum standards and specifications for the construction of manufactured structures, mobile homes or buildings in residential zoning districts, and include supporting infrastructure and public facilities. To ensure the availability of adequate sites manufactured structures or buildings shall be permitted in all residential zoning districts, subject to the limitations set forth in the Future Land Use Element, and further restricted by the Palm Beach County Unified Land Development Code.

Policy 1.1-q: Planning, Zoning and Building, and the Engineering Department shall provide for the continuation of the Traffic Performance Standards Methodology for affordable housing pursuant to the Transportation Element.

Policy 1.1-r: Planning, Zoning and Building shall encourage through the development review process, affordable and public housing developments to include day care and adult care facilities, and basic accommodations for the provision of job training, empowerment training and entrepreneurial training programs.

Policy 1.1-s: The County shall develop a program to address the housing needs of the elderly and other special needs groups with very low, low, and moderate incomes.

Policy 1.1-t: *Deleted in Amendment Round 03-1*

Policy 1.1-u: *Deleted in Amendment Round 18-B*

Policy 1.1-v: *Deleted in Amendment Round 18-B*

Policy 1.1-w: The County shall identify sites (County owned properties) that are suitable for the Workforce Housing and/or Affordable Housing Programs.

OBJECTIVE 1.2 Substandard Housing

The County shall provide for the elimination of substandard housing through code enforcement and shall establish principles to guide housing conservation, rehabilitation and demolition.

Policy 1.2-a: The County shall provide for increased code enforcement activities and designate the Code Enforcement Division responsible for the following:

1. Provide annual inspections of the housing stock in the County's most blighted unincorporated neighborhoods where code violations are most prevalent; and
2. Provide for continued special concentrated code enforcement activities such as "target area programs" and the utilization of the "Community Support Team", where warranted.

Policy 1.2-b: *Deleted in Amendment Round 18-B*

Policy 1.2-c: The County shall provide for the input and assistance of private, not-for-profit community-based organizations and other private interests to coordinate activities designed to eliminate or rehabilitate substandard housing stock, and shall encourage public/private partnerships to accomplish this objective. The County shall target these activities within its most blighted districts. The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability shall participate in these activities.

Policy 1.2-d: The County shall continue to permit mixed-use and other innovative reuses, including single room occupancies (SRO's) of the existing housing stock that result in the removal of substandard housing units.

Policy 1.2-e: The County shall facilitate quality affordable housing, through stabilization of neighborhoods and identification and improvement of existing housing and

neighborhoods, including those of historical significance, through rehabilitation and adaptive reuse strategies, in order to increase affordable housing stock.

Policy 1.2-f: Planning, Zoning and Building, shall continue to locate, identify and evaluate additional historically significant housing properties associated with the archeological, architectural, historical, engineering and cultural development of the unincorporated portion of Palm Beach County through the update of its historic sites survey, and list the sites in the Florida Master Site File (FMSF).

Policy 1.2-g: The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability shall continue to pursue federal and state funding, including CDBG funds, for the rehabilitation or demolition of substandard housing. Allocation of funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund should also be provided.

OBJECTIVE 1.3 Relocation Housing

The County shall provide for relocation housing and minimize the displacement of very low and low-income households.

Policy 1.3-a: The County, within its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) areas, and to the extent required by regulations of the funding sources being utilized (CDBG and/or HOME), and shall assist in the relocation of displaced persons as funds are available. The County shall pursue all available sources of funding to assist in the relocation of those persons of very low and low income.

Policy 1.3-b: The County shall require that developers, following development approval, facilitate the relocation of very low and low income families displaced by a proposed project, through, at a minimum, the provision of information on available, affordable units in the area, to the displaced very low and low income households and service agencies.

OBJECTIVE 1.4 Provision of Special Needs Housing

The County shall provide for the creation and preservation of housing and programs to adequately address the needs of all households with “special needs”, including the homeless, the elderly or frail elderly, the physically disabled, persons with mental illness, alcohol or drug addiction, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, abused/neglected children, victims of domestic violence, veterans, youth aging out of foster care, and ex-offenders, and including rural and farmworker populations. The County and shall ensure the provision of foster care, group homes and other special needs facilities in a range of land use categories. The efforts indicated in the following policies shall be directed toward the meeting the needs identified by the Palm Beach County Five-Year Consolidated Plan, 2015-2020, the “Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County,” and the farmworker housing deficit needs identified by the Shimberg Center in Policy 1.4-a.

Policy 1.4-a: Palm Beach County shall utilize the strategies identified below in its efforts to meet the need for special needs housing. The Shimberg Center (University of Florida) estimates a total of 31,866 cost-burdened households countywide which have a disabled member and income less than 50% AMI, including 16,232 owners and 15,564

renters. The Shimberg Center also estimates a need for 165 multi-family units countywide to meet farmworker housing needs.

1. The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability ~~and~~ with recommendations from the Commission on Affordable Housing shall continue to help address the county's special needs housing deficiencies by establishing policies and procedures that will provide continued financial assistance to proposed eligible housing projects that will produce affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for households with special needs. Special Needs housing and services shall remain a priority in the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability's Five Year Consolidated Plan. Also, the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability shall market its housing assistance programs in order to facilitate participation by eligible special needs individuals and households.
2. The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability and the Community Services Department shall provide technical and financial assistance to providers of special needs housing and services. Local funding sources shall continue to include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the Home Investment Partnership Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG), and the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program, and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The above mentioned county agencies shall also continue to directly apply for state and federal special needs housing funds when warranted.
3. The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability and the Community Services Department shall provide coordination and outreach with agencies involved in the development of housing for all special needs populations, including rural and farmworker populations.
4. The Community Services Department shall continue to serve as the County's lead agency for implementation of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in September 2008.

Policy 1.4-b: The County, through the Building Division and the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability, where applicable, shall provide for the compliance of housing projects, including special needs housing projects, with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Policy 1.4-c: The County shall provide for foster care, group homes and other special needs facilities to be permitted in residential neighborhoods. Farmworker housing is currently permitted in the Agriculture Reserve (AGR), Agriculture Production (AP) and Special Agriculture (SA) land use categories.

Policy 1.4-d: The location of special needs and farmworker housing shall be guided by the following principals and criteria. Special needs housing shall be located in proximity to the appropriate support infrastructure, services and facilities including Palm Tran and existing transportation disadvantaged programs. Special needs housing shall be permitted in all appropriate residential, commercial and institutional land use categories, through the use of group homes, Congregate Living Facilities (CLF's), accessory apartments and rental housing associated with places of worship. Farmworker housing

shall be located in proximity to areas of agriculture employment and shall require a minimum of twenty-five (25) acres. The Planning, Zoning, and Building Department and the Community Services Department, shall be responsible for establishing any additional principles and criteria as may be necessary.

Policy 1.4-e: The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability, in coordination with the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department shall to the extent feasible provide the ongoing tracking of the number of units being funded and built through both County and private sector efforts, and the evaluation of progress being made in meeting the housing needs of special needs populations.

Policy 1.4-f: *Deleted in Amendment Round 18-B*

Policy 1.4-g: The County shall participate with non-profit agencies and other support groups to plan and coordinate arrangements for low-cost rental housing and non-housing support services such as information services, technical assistance and financial assistance for farmworkers and their families.

Policy 1.4-h: The County shall coordinate with, and use the resources of the State of Florida, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer programs to improve housing opportunities for farmworkers.

Policy 1.4-i: The County shall continue to provide information and referral services to migrant workers for legal assistance to obtain adequate housing.

Policy 1.4-j: *Deleted in Amendment Round 18-B*

OBJECTIVE 1.5 Concentrations of Affordable Housing

The County shall make adequate provisions to enable the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to provide affordable housing, and shall support the distribution of housing for very low, low, moderate and middle income households, to avoid undue concentrations of very low and low income housing throughout the County through the Workforce Housing Program and the Affordable Housing Program.

Policy 1.5-a: The County shall provide for a sufficient amount of land for residential use to meet future housing needs, including very low, low, and moderate income, and to accommodate the projected population. The Planning Division shall be responsible for analysis and recommendations to the BCC for this task.

Policy 1.5-b: *Deleted in Amendment Round 04-1.*

Policy 1.5-c: *Deleted in Amendment Round 04-1.*

Policy 1.5-d: *Deleted in Amendment Round 18-B*

Policy 1.5-e: The County may provide incentives to increase the presence of moderate, or higher income households within areas of high concentrations of affordable housing. These incentives may include subsidy programs to reduce the purchase cost of units, and/or to facilitate the rehabilitation of housing units.

Policy 1.5-f: The Planning, Zoning and Building Department shall revise the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) to eliminate processing fees for residential Zoning petitions, which are for the purpose of providing affordable housing units in areas of low concentrations of very low, and low income households.

Policy 1.5-g: The County's mandatory Workforce Housing Program is established to facilitate development of workforce housing. The Program requires new residential developments to provide a percentage of housing units for households with incomes from 60% to 140% of area median income as a means to meet workforce housing needs and to disperse that needed housing in the unincorporated County. The Workforce Housing Program applies in the Urban/Suburban Tier. The Agricultural Reserve Tier is exempt from this program.

The Workforce Housing Program shall address specific criteria, including but not limited to:

1. Eligible developments must have a minimum number of 10 permitted units;
2. Workforce units can be both rental units and for sale units;
3. Workforce units built on site will be designed to be compatible with the overall development;
4. Workforce units built on-site can be clustered or integrated within the development;
5. Rental unit and resale unit affordability controls shall be guaranteed for a period to be set forth in the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC);
6. Workforce units may be allowed based on location, and land use compatibility, in any of the following land use categories: Commercial (mixed use); Industrial (mixed use); Economic Development Center; Institutional and Public Facilities, Traditional Town Development (TTD); and Multiple Land Use (MLU).

Incentives may include:

1. For all urban residential land use designations, a density bonus of up to 100%.
2. Traffic performance standards mitigation,
3. An expedited permit, zoning, and land use site plan approval process including engineering plating procedures.
4. A method to effectively offset impact fees and other development fees for the Workforce units.

A density bonus up to 100% shall be permitted when all program criteria are met and the increased density creates no compatibility issues with adjacent properties. For projects requesting greater than a 50% density bonus, the Workforce Housing development evaluation shall consider factors specified in the ULDC including, but not limited to: compatibility with adjacent properties, provision of workforce housing onsite, concentration of workforce housing, and proximity to employment centers.

Policy 1.5-h: The Planning Division shall prepare an annual report that describes all Workforce Housing Program and the Affordable Housing Program activities during the previous year. The annual report shall be provided to the Board of County Commissioners.

Policy 1.5-i: The County shall establish a Affordable Housing Program to allow new residential developments within the Urban/Suburban Tier only, the opportunity to provide housing units for households with incomes at 60% of area median income and below, as a means to meet affordable housing needs and to disperse that needed housing in unincorporated Palm Beach County. The Affordable Housing Program may provide incentives including density bonuses; density bonus units will be allowed only when consistent with Housing Element Objective 1.5 to discourage the undue concentration of very low and low income housing in the County.

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Housing Element Amendment History

| Round | Description | Adoption | OrdNum | Effective | Note* |
|-------|---|------------|---------|------------|--------------------|
| 89-1 | Adopted | 8/31/1989 | 1989-17 | 9/11/1989 | |
| 90-1 | Stipulated Settlement Agreement Amendments to find Plan in compliance | 9/18/1990 | 1990-32 | 10/4/1990 | Settlement |
| 91-1 | Definitions for affordable housing and Housing Trust Fund | 8/22/1991 | 1991-31 | 9/15/1991 | Settled by 1992-28 |
| 91-2 | Affordable Housing Trust Fund | 12/16/1991 | 1991-48 | 12/27/1991 | Settled by 1992-28 |
| 92-1 | Extend date for substandard housing program | 4/20/1992 | 1992-06 | 5/1/1992 | |
| 93-1 | Modify Affordable Housing and definitions (very low, low, etc.); revise Commission on Affordable Housing; Housing Trust Fund | 6/14/1993 | 1993-09 | 6/28/1993 | |
| 96-1 | Dispersal of low income housing and Voluntary Density Bonus Program | 9/26/1996 | 1996-32 | 11/22/1996 | |
| 96-2 | EAR Based amendments - Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Data | 12/16/1996 | 1996-51 | 1/26/1997 | |
| 97-1 | EAR Re-write (text and map revisions) | 9/22/1997 | 1997-32 | 12/3/1997 | |
| 97-2 | EAR Revisions Adopted (model element format) | 11/17/1997 | 1997-51 | 1/14/1998 | |
| 98-1 | Special Needs Housing and Geographic Dispersal | 9/16/1998 | 1998-45 | 11/12/1998 | |
| 99-1 | Managed Growth Tier System consistency addition a policy for Planning and HCD to develop policies consistent with the Tier System | 8/17/1999 | 1999-29 | 10/14/1999 | |
| 99-1 | To revise concentrations of affordable housing language | 8/17/1999 | 1999-32 | 10/14/1999 | |
| 01-1 | MGTS Revisions, including directives to HCD, Planning and the Commission on Affordable Housing, Affordable Housing, Voluntary Density Bonus Program | 8/27/2001 | 2001-45 | 10/22/2001 | |
| 01-2 | To revise regarding affordable housing, Voluntary Density Bonus, and TPS | 12/5/2001 | 2001-76 | 1/28/2002 | |
| 02-1 | To develop a workforce housing program through new Policy 1.5-c | 8/28/2002 | 2002-53 | 10/25/2002 | |

* NIE means not in effect - not within element

| Round | Description | Adoption | OrdNum | Effective | Note* |
|--------------|--|-----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| 03-1 | To revise housing data collection requirements in Policy 1.1-a and to delete Policy 1.1-t regarding the development of policies consistent with the Tier System. | 8/21/2003 | 2003-42 | 10/27/2003 | |
| 04-1 | To delete the Voluntary Density Bonus Program and replace with the Workforce Housing Program | 8/24/2004 | 2004-27 | 10/29/2004 | |
| 05-2 | To revise Workforce Housing Evaluation Timeframe to one year from three years; to add Objective 4.2, Public Health and Community Design, and associated policy | 11/28/2005 | 2005-55 | 1/24/2006 | |
| 06-1 | Workforce Housing | 8/21/2006 | 2006-22 | 10/23/2006 | |
| 08-1 | To update references to the Affordable Housing Study and to identify sites for workforce housing | 8/21/2008 | 2008-33 | 10/17/2008 | |
| 08-1 | To revise Policy 1.4-c for consistency with special needs housing language in the FLUE | 8/21/2008 | 2008-33 | 10/17/2008 | |
| 09-1 | To revise Policy 1.5-g to remove the "Scientific Community Overlay" | 8/25/2009 | 2009-32 | 10/23/2009 | |
| 09-1 | To establish the Program and eliminate Workforce Housing and Affordable Housing Programs outside the Urban Service Area | 8/25/2009 | 2009-33 | 10/23/2009 | |
| 13-1 | To update data regarding housing needs, change department names, correct scrivener's errors, and modify definitions in the Housing and Intro Admin Elements. | 4/25/2013 | 2013-11 | 6/8/2013 | |
| 18-B | To update Housing Element to revise objectives and policies related to housing programs, references, and to make related changes. | 5/2/2018 | 2018-07 | 6/21/2018 | |
| 19-A2 | To revise policies related to the Workforce Housing Program | 8/22/2019 | 2019-32 | 9/29/2019 | |

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