

Affordable Housing Committee of the NEFRC

Excerpt from the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, Communities and Affordable Housing Element:

“OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE AND PROVIDE QUALITY PLACES IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Policy 10: NEFRC and its partners will include data in the *Regional atlas* that addresses the amount of affordable housing in each County. This information will be based on the amount of units that might be rented or sold at a rate that represents no more than 30% of the median annual household income in the County Region. With this data, NEFRC will develop a Regional, affordable housing needs plan. Inclusion of the plan or a successor plan will be considered in the next update of the SRPP.

Pillar: Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(4)(a)F.S.”

Staff recommends a NEFRC committee be convened on this issue now for several reasons. First, the SRPP identifies a need for a plan at a regional level. Given current market conditions that indicate a resurgence of building permits for housing units in at least some of our counties, the time is now to review alternatives and make recommendations to help all of our communities thrive. In addition, the SHIP program, which was formally more limited, is now being more widely used for programs such as rental subsidy and homeless housing. Northeast Floridians in need of assistance deserve a full and focused review of the policy options available to their counties. Lastly, the policy changes that have made it more difficult for rural transit operations to provide service have slowed the mobility that was hoped for when the SRPP was written, making broader affordable housing options in more locations desirable so our citizens have more options as they seek employment and quality of life.

Proposed Work Program

July: Review the Local Housing Assistance Plans and Programs of each County. What is working particularly well and why?

August and September: Housing Experts on SHIP, Homelessness, Federal and State programs, the Private Sector Role, etc.

October and November: In light of what is working well and what has been learned about other programs, what are the regional recommendations?

December: Committee presentation to the Full Board on findings.

Logistics: Convene at 8:30am before each Full Board and Executive Committee Meeting