



July 13, 2022

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**Executive Director**

Katrina Knight, MSW

*Please remember  
Good Shepherd Center  
in your will and  
estate plans.*

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency  
Attn: Annie Baumann-Mitchell  
3508 Bush St  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Dear Annie,

As the Executive Director of Good Shepherd Center, the largest provider of homeless services in the Cape Fear region, and as the Chair of our regional Housing Coalition, I am excited for the implementation of the HOME-ARP Plan and its targeted efforts to create safe, affordable housing for our most vulnerable neighbors across North Carolina. As a lead provider in our community, I urge NCHFA to consider prioritizing chronically homeless persons with disabilities when identifying which populations will be served by the construction of new units. In Wilmington and across North Carolina, this especially vulnerable population is the most under-resourced, and the lack of Permanent Supportive Housing that can meet their unique needs places an inordinate strain not only on homeless services providers and housing agencies, but on the entire emergency services system in our community.

In our community, Permanent Supportive Housing is the greatest need and the heaviest lift, both financially and in providing supportive services. Further, a lack of partner organizations either willing to take on the financial risk, or able to provide ongoing property management and intensive supportive services, leaves willing providers unable to meet the need without significant outside financial investments such as the HOME-ARP funds.

More daunting than the production and operation of PSH units is securing the ongoing rental subsidy and operating expenses that often exceed the modest rental income that makes these units affordable for tenants, many of whom can contribute no more than \$225 towards their rent and utilities without being cost-burdened. We appreciate the foresight to set aside operational reserves in the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to ensure the success of the selected projects – as PSH projects are often the least likely to pencil, yet the most vital to addressing our state's housing gaps, again I urge you to prioritize Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless adults with disabilities in the project selection process.

Please feel free to reach out to me for questions or clarification, and thank you for all you make possible for our state.

Sincerely,

Katrina R. Knight, MSW