

Housing Action Team

Background

On June 7, 2004, the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) adopted the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)*. The *SRPP* is based on extensive public input and contains 22 goal areas that reflect the priority issues of the Region. On March 14, 2005, the Council held a workshop to discuss the actions necessary to implement the *SRPP* Goals and Policies. The Council identified six regional priorities and created action teams, which are charged with recommending specific Council actions. The action teams are:

- Coastal High Hazard Areas
- Housing
- Natural Resources
- Regional Collaboration and Economic Development
- Connecting People and Places
- Education

Council Member José Riesco chairs the Housing Action Team and Council Member David Rice serves as co-chair. The Housing Action Team last met on April 4, 2005. The Action Team members will work to advance the issue of the Housing Goal Section of the *SRPP*.

Goal 6: Housing

Ensure the availability and equitable distribution of adequate, affordable housing for very low, low, and moderate- income households within the region.

Target: Reduce the percentage of households with a cost burden in our Region to less than 30% by 2010.

At the April 4th meeting, the team identified three issues around which action should be focused. They are:

- The coordination of a Regional Housing Strategy
- The need for a database of tools, actors and actions to be utilized by municipalities for the provision of affordable housing
- Funding and incentives for affordable housing

Since the April meeting, staff has actively followed the affordable housing activities in all three counties as well as in the Treasure Coast Region. The Council held a joint Executive Committee meeting with the Treasure Coast Planning Council on August 1, 2005, where the issue of affordable housing was established as a mutual priority. As recommended by the Action Team, staff has also begun to develop a list of possible tools and to track the housing activities and policies of local governments throughout the region. Finally, a multi-disciplinary stakeholder group has been identified and invited to the next Action Team Meeting.

Recommended Actions:

At the last meeting, specific actions were identified by the Housing Action Team for recommendation to the Council.

1. Develop a multi-disciplinary Action Team comprised of stakeholders that includes, but is not limited to: housing advocates, developers, special needs advocates, insurance representatives, and tax assessors to address affordable housing issues. The stakeholders should be linked to specific affordable housing issues/concerns.
2. Acknowledge and utilize the affordable housing research, assistance, and programs undertaken by local governments in the region as well as programs of interested parties and organizations.
3. Develop an educational program that addresses the importance and need for affordable housing.
4. Provide assistance to local governments in identifying resources and opportunities to promote affordable housing.
5. Set the parameters for a regional housing strategy.

Meeting on September 12

The second Action Team meeting will focus on housing from a regional perspective. The objective of the meeting is to seek consensus on recommended action steps for the Council to take, revise them as necessary and discuss the specific measures necessary to initiate them. Instead of discussing specific policies and tools, the meeting should focus on identifying ways that the Council can expand its role in the promotion of affordable housing in South Florida.