

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS WHERE THEY LIVE



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Legislators respond to persons who live in their districts. If they hear about an issue from the “folks at home”, they tend to talk to leadership about the issue. If they don’t hear from you, then all the lobbyists in the world can’t make them care about the issue.

DO I HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT?

NO! What you need to be able to do is simply explain that the issue of using all of the monies in the housing trust fund for housing is important to you and to the community. If you can give concrete examples of persons served or successful developments, that is also great. If the legislator asks a question that you don’t have the answer for, just say, “I don’t know, but I can get the answer and get back to you.” This is a perfect entrée for a second meeting.

WHAT IF THE LEGISLATOR CAN’T MEET AND THEY OFFER AN AIDE FOR A MEETING?

Great! The aides are critical to the process, and having an educated aide is virtually as important as having an educated legislator. Treat the aide with respect and give them the same information you would have given the legislator.

GET TO “THE ASK.”

Start and end your meeting with “the ask”—which means telling the legislator or aide that you are there to ask them to support using all of the monies in the state and local housing trust funds for housing. If they the President, Speaker, or Appropriations Chair, ask them to contact those persons to ask that they (leadership) present a budget with housing fully funded.

WHAT DO I DO AFTER THE MEETING?

It is critical that we know how the meeting went—good or bad. If the legislator had questions or concerns, we can help provide answers. After every meeting with a legislator, call or email the results to Jaimie Ross, 850.212.0587 or ross@flhousing.org.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION? HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHO MY LEGISLATORS ARE?

For more information and educational materials, go to www.sadowskicoalition.com.