

## **SB 68 / HB 163: Homelessness**

***This bill creates a dedicated revenue source and increases Challenge grants that help end homelessness.***

### **What is the purpose of SB 68 / HB 163?**

Local continuums of care (CoC) are a framework for a comprehensive and seamless array of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing, and services to address the various needs of people who are homeless and people who are at risk of homelessness. The purpose of a CoC is to help communities or regions envision, plan, and implement comprehensive and long-term solutions. CoCs work with other agencies, which are funded by Challenge grants, to provide a variety of necessary services.

- ▶ The bill creates a dedicated revenue source for Challenge grants provided to the State Office on Homelessness and local homeless CoCs dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in Florida. The bill increases the amount of funds each CoC may receive annually through Challenge grants.
- ▶ The bill aligns The Affordable Care Act of 1986 bringing state law in line with corresponding federal statutes to eliminate outdated provisions and allow sources of matching federal funds to be accessed faster.

### **Why is SB 68 / HB 163 necessary?**

- ▶ The recent Point in Time count reported more than 28,000 homeless (sheltered/unsheltered) individuals in Florida. Local agencies need additional revenue to support the increasing need for services and to meet the demands of people who are homeless.
- ▶ Florida's laws and language on homelessness are outdated. There needs to be a designated funding source in line with state need. This bill eliminates the possibility of homeless providers having to decrease their services because of funding limitations.

### **How would SB 68 / HB 163 work?**

- ▶ The bill increases the amount of funds available to each CoC for Challenge grants from \$500,000 to \$750,000 per CoC lead agency.
- ▶ The bill replaces the term 'regionally developed plans' with the term 'local continuum of care plans' to bring state statute in line with federal law.
- ▶ The bill revises the goals of the State Office on Homelessness to promote a federal policy agenda that responds to the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, rather than addressing only people who are currently homeless.

**Vote YES on SB 68 / HB 163 to end homelessness in Florida!**