



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Housing and Human Services

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building B, Suite 103
Viera, Florida 32940

TO: James Liesenfelt, Interim County Manager
FROM: Juanita D. Jackson, Director Housing and Human Services Department
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2025057

CEER #2025057, titled Homelessness, was received by the County from Advocate Florida

Citizen Statement:

I am concerned about our homeless population in Brevard County. Especially our Veterans. When someone serves our country for us, we should honor them and treat them with the respect they deserve. The fact that our veterans are being forced into homelessness because of choices/decision that our cities, municipalities, legislators are making based on their own feelings and not one person making these decisions (I bet) has ever gone out and had a conversation with someone who is homeless and found out their story. Why are they without a roof over their head, extra clothes to wear, food to eat, etc. Does anyone sitting in those seats making these decisions actually care about any of the homeless population, veteran or non-veteran? I am curious to wonder how many of them actually have a heart, conscience to actually even care. They are people, human beings, someone's mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter. Let's hope it is not someone in your family that would ever be in their situation.

Citizen Recommendation:

Brevard County should have a place for them to sleep, shower, eat, get the services they need to get off the streets, fields, wherever it is they are allowed to be now, instead of being thrown into a "statistic" of they are just bad people, breaking the law, standing on my sidewalk, down my street, as everyone just drives by, in fear. Help them! The affordable housing complexes that are being built in the area (are they really affordable at starting rates of \$1600-\$2300) should be just that- affordable! Give them something to be hopeful for and want to strive for something better for themselves, but they can't do that if the government entities are just always going to put them down and turn them away at every turn.

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners is not the Lead Agency for homeless and homeless prevention. The Brevard Homeless Coalition (BHC) is the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designated Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency for homeless and homeless prevention services for Brevard County. The BHC is the recipient of funding to support this population and collaborates with communities and agencies throughout the County to help provide critical interventions to Brevard's homeless individuals and families and those vulnerable to homelessness. The BHC manages federal and state housing and services funding, coordinates local and national advocacy and planning efforts, administers the Homeless Management Information System, a local information technology system which tracks and measures the success as a CoC.

The CEER specifically addresses that Brevard should have a place for the homeless to sleep, shower, eat, receive wrap around services and the affordable housing complexes that are being built are not affordable. The CoC 2023-2026 Strategic Plan has a Build measure, build upon and create new multi-sector partnerships to increase the number of affordable housing units, and shelter beds through innovative solutions.

The annual Point-In-Time (PIT) is an annual census of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. According to the Brevard County 2024 PIC the unsheltered veteran count reduced by 20%, 65 in 2023 to 52 in 2024. Brevard County Veterans Services will assist homeless veterans with applying for VA benefits with priority processing. Veterans Services will also refer homeless veterans to the Viera VA clinic homeless coordinator to see if they can receive a HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) certificate. Veteran Services also partners with Florida Department of Veteran Affairs, HOPE Florida, Brevard Homeless Coalition, National Veterans Homeless Support, Veterans Connections, Cocoa Veterans Village, Brevard Veteran Memorial Center, America Legion, Disabled Veterans of America, and many other veteran organizations that focus on Brevard's Homeless veterans.

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) into law, which provides over \$1.9 trillion in relief to address the continuous impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, State and local governments, individuals, and businesses. To address the need for homelessness assistance and supportive services, Congress appropriated \$5 billion in ARP funds to be administered through HOME to perform four activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. These activities include: (1) development and support of affordable housing, (2) tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), (3) provision of supportive services; and (4) acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units. On April 8, 2021, HUD allocated HOME-ARP funds to 651 grantees using the established HOME formula.

Brevard County Housing & Human Services has received \$4,524,586 in HOME-ARP grant funds. The Brevard County HOME Consortium which consist of Brevard County and four cities in Brevard (Cocoa, Melbourne, Palm Bay, and Titusville), following input from community stakeholders, purposes to utilize the funding in the following categories: supportive services (\$500,000 or 11% of funding), development of affordable rental housing (\$3,045,898 or 67%), non-profit operating (\$150,000 or 3%), non-profit capacity building (\$150,000 or 3%), and administration and planning (\$678,688 or 15%) to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2025057 as current processes address the recommendation concerns as provided in the staff analysis.

cc: Frank Abbate, County Manager

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 12:06 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2025057

Recommendation # 2025057

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2025057 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Advocate Florida
Address PO Box 540939, Merritt Island FL 32954
Phone (224) 277-2134
Email iadvocateforflorida@yahoo.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2025057
Recommendation Title Homelessness
Areas Affected Entire County/State/ Nation
Department Affected
Current problem I am concerned about our homeless population in Brevard County. Especially our Veterans. When someone serves our country for us, we should honor them and treat them with the respect they deserve. The fact that our veterans are being forced into homelessness because of choices/decision that our cities, municipalities, legislators are making based on their own feelings and not one person making these decisions (I bet) has ever gone out and had a conversation with someone who is homeless and found out their story. Why are they without a roof over their head, extra clothes to wear, food to eat, etc. Does anyone sitting in those seats making these decisions actually care about any of the homeless population, veteran or non-veteran? I am curious to wonder how many of them actually have a heart, conscience to actually even care. They are people, human beings, someone's mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter. Let's hope it is not someone in your family that would ever be in their situation.
Recommendation Brevard County should have a place for them to sleep, shower, eat, get the services they need to get off the streets, fields, wherever it is they are allowed to be now,

instead of being thrown into a "statistic" of they are just bad people, breaking the law, standing on my sidewalk, down my street, as everyone just drives by, in fear. Help them! The affordable housing complexes that are being built in the area (are they really affordable at starting rates of \$1600-\$2300) should be just that- affordable! Give them something to be hopeful for and want to strive for something better for themselves, but they can't do that if the government entities are just always going to put them down and turn them away at every turn.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.