



**COMMUNITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING
STRATEGIES ALLIANCE (CAHSA)**

FINAL REPORT

**Submitted to the Miami-Dade County Board of County
Commissioners**

Pursuant to Resolution R-558-06

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 - **Appendix 4** contains the organizational material approved by the Task Force at the inaugural meeting.
 - **Appendix 5** consists of the agendas for the four community meetings held in November as well as the initial flyer announcing the Miami-Dade Housing Summit on December 2, 2006.
 - **Appendix 6** consists of the recommendations compiled from the participants in each of the community meetings.
 - **Appendix 7** presents the report from the Miami-Dade County Housing Summit held December 2nd at Miami-Dade College.
 - **Appendix 8** comparison of CAHSA recommendations to Human Services Coalition's 14 Point Plan.

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SECTION I: THE CAHSA PROCESS

On May 9, 2006 the CAHSA Task Force was established by the Board of County Commissioners (R-558-06) to assist in addressing the housing crisis in Miami-Dade County. The Board unanimously passed the resolution which not only assigned specific task and responsibilities to the Task Force, but ensured participation from a broad cross section of the community by including a list of organizational members. (See **Appendix 1** for the complete Resolution with the list of member organizations.)

The CAHSA Task Force serves as a forum where many of the housing concerns of residents and policy makers are discussed. The CAHSA process has incorporated the work of the long standing Housing Policy Work Group (HPWG) as well as establishing a nexus of coordination between the Mayor's Land Use Group and the other CAHSA committees (see **Diagram 1**).

The Task Force was entrusted with the following specific duties, functions and responsibilities:

- To identify the data gathering processes and procedures necessary to evaluate the housing crisis in Miami-Dade County as it relates to households whose income is up to 100 percent of the area median income, and to develop innovative solutions to address this housing crisis. **(Task Completed)**
- To establish methods of obtaining input on community needs and priorities, this may include public meetings, conducting focus groups and convening ad hoc panels. ***(Task performed as part of the CAHSA process and recommendations submitted to institutionalize the community input process.)***
- To develop solutions that should include, but not limited to, recommending additional legislation and enforcement of existing legislation. **(Task Completed)**
- To develop methods to inform the public about available funding and financing opportunities, rental and homeownership opportunities through an expanded public information and consumer education program. **(Recommendations Submitted)**
- To plan and implement the convocation of a Miami-Dade County Housing Summit to be held with the purpose of charting the course in program and policy development for the County as it establishes a comprehensive affordable housing strategy. **(Task Completed)**

- To offer guidance in establishing a one-stop clearinghouse for information relating to housing in Miami-Dade County. (**Task Completed**)
- To serve in an advisory capacity to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and the Mayor of Miami-Dade County and other public and governmental entities with respect to affordable housing issues. (**On-Going**)

At its official inauguration on June 15, 2006 the CAHSA Task Force members established nine committees and agreed to meet regularly in order to fully consider the topics identified as critical to the resolution of the housing crisis facing our community. The full Task Force has met at total of six times. The number of independent committee meetings is noted below as part of the summary of the committee reports. (See **Appendix 2** for a complete list of the committees and their mission.)

- During the first meetings, held in July, each committee agreed to define the most problematic issues within their area of concern and to prioritize their importance.
- The goal of the second meeting, held in August, was to evaluate the data available to policy makers as well as to analyze the current state of policy in the specific area of concern to each committee.
- During the September meetings, each committee Chairperson submitted recommendations, pilot projects and policy adjustments to the other Chairs in an effort to coordinate the submittal of recommendations to the full CAHSA Task Force for consideration.
- The October meetings allowed each committee to summarize its work and submit a committee report to the CAHSA Task Force.

It is worth noting that most committees have met several times a month. This is a measure of the commitment of the CAHSA members to the process. As evident by the detail of the full committee recommendations included in **Attachment 3**, Committee members spent scores of hours researching the topics within their purview and days of discussion to narrow their research into feasible recommendations.

Public Forums

The CAHSA committee members also planned and conducted forums designed to channel ideas from the community into the CAHSA process. Committee representatives shared the ideas of the Task Force at four CAHSA forums held around the county. The four forums attracted over 200 individuals. (See **Appendix 6** for the summarized comments made by the community participants at each forum.) In addition, the Miami-Dade County Housing Summit was held on December 2, 2006 at the Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus under the auspices of the CAHSA Task Force, Miami-Dade County and its community

partners. The Summit attracted over 500 participants. (See Appendix 7 for the Summit report and participant comments.)

Structure of the Report

Section II of this report presents a summarized list of the most substantive recommendations submitted to the Task Force by selected committees. Section III of the report presents some of the housing initiatives undertaken by the County in recent months which address some of the concerns voiced in the CAHSA recommendations. Also included in this report are eight appendixes:

- **Appendix 1** consists of the Resolution which created the CAHSA Task Force, including the list of member organizations.
- **Appendix 2** presents a complete list of the committees and their mission
- **Appendix 3** includes the full text of all Committee recommendations as well as any supplementary documents submitted by the Committees for consideration by the CAHSA Task Force. Also included in Attachment 3 are the recommendations from the Office of ADA Coordination addressing some appropriate housing policy concerns that should be considered in light of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
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Diagram 1

Affordable Housing Initiatives



