



OFFICE OF ADA COORDINATION

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Community Affordable Housing Alliance Committee

Dear Committee Members:

The Office of Americans with Disability Act Coordination is a Miami-Dade County Department that provides guidance to County government on the requirements of Title II of the ADA. We applaud your efforts and all the committee members' efforts to bring more affordable housing to all people in need in Miami-Dade County. However, individuals with physical disabilities often need housing that not only is affordable but is accessible as well; housing where accessible building standards have been incorporated into the design.

After reading the committee reports submitted for your October 19th meeting, our office has the following recommendations:

- Improving enforcement of the Fair Housing Accessibility standards
- Including accessibility in any incentive program that is developed for affordability
- Expanding the Miami-Dade Housing Agency's Single Family Rehabilitation program so more people with disabilities may be served
- Extending the Single Family Rehabilitation program to renters so a person with a disability, who can't afford to make a needed modification, would be able to apply for a forgivable loan from the County. Modifications may be needed to limit the scope of work to the interior of the apartment or to reduce the size of the loan below that allowed for homeowners in the existing Single Family Rehabilitation program.
- Developing a central point of origin for all information on public housing and voucher programs in unincorporated Miami Dade and the various municipalities that participate in HUD programs.
- Developing new strategies to help people with disabilities who are below 30% of median income. This group of individuals is growing but the public housing program, which traditionally housed many of these people, is not.
- Developing Incentives that would encourage private sector builders, who don't take Federal funds to incorporate greater accessibility into their projects.
- Developing, through the Miami-Dade Housing Agency, ways to provide information on accessibility in its list of voucher program properties, to assist people with disabilities who are looking for accessible housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilenc Hyams
Senior ADA Coordinator Specialist