

2.10 Affordable Housing – Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation

The EAR will evaluate the success of the non-profit housing development corporation in achieving the affordable housing objectives of the comprehensive plan.

Related Objectives & Policies

Objective 2:

By 2000, create a non-profit housing development corporation, formed with a cross section of representatives from business, government, housing advocates, and the community at large, which will assist the City and County in achieving a new goal of 500 dwelling units per year for very low-, low- and moderate- income residents of Collier County.

Comments:

The Workforce Housing Advisory Committee included the creation of a non-profit Housing Development Corporation (HDC) as one of its final recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners in April of 2003. The BCC approved the recommendation unanimously and subsequently approved \$98,000 to assist in the organization, start-up and funding for the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) for its inaugural year.

The Steering Committee for the CHDO is in the process of naming a nine-member Board of Directors. Once created, the board will create an Advisory Board to assist in the creation of an overall vision for the CHDO.

The CHDO will operate as a private nonprofit organization with a 501 (c) federal tax exemption. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a certified CHDO is a community-based service organization whose primary purpose is to provide and develop decent, affordable housing to low-income households. Furthermore, it must serve a specific, delineated geographic area, either a neighborhood, several neighborhoods, or the entire community but not the entire state.

The Collier County CHDO will utilize federal HOME set asides and technical assistance to assist the County in achieving its mission of creating affordable housing for all residents of Collier County.

Before the creation of the countywide housing development corporation, the Empowerment Alliance of South West Florida operated as an HDC, but was restricted to the geographic area of Immokalee. They have been in existence for several years and are in the midst of constructing a 26-unit affordable single-family housing subdivision in Immokalee.