



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

(850) 482-9633 www.jacksoncountyfl.gov 2864 Madison St. Marianna, Fl. 32446

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dylan Bass / Public Communications Officer
(850) 573-1327
bassd@jacksoncountyfl.gov

April 17, 2023

Seeking Applicants for: Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

Jackson County Board of County Commissioners is seeking 3 volunteer citizen representatives to serve on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

The Jackson County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) was established per Section 420.9076, Florida Statutes, for participation in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. All 11 municipalities and the unincorporated area within the county participate jointly with the County acting as program administrator. The committee's mission is to review the established policies and procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and adopted comprehensive plan of the local governments and to recommend specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing while protecting the appreciation in value of the property. Recognizing that housing is foundational for all, the purpose of the AHAC is to undertake an annual review of affordable housing incentives and make recommendations to the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners concerning monetary and non-monetary initiatives and incentives that will encourage and facilitate affordable housing opportunities.

The AHAC is composed of eight to eleven volunteer community members representing those with a role in the affordable housing industry, citizens of the county, and a locally elected official. Included in the categories of membership are citizens who are actively engaged in:

- Residential home building industry in connection with affordable housing.
- Banking or mortgage industry in connection with affordable housing.
- Areas of labor actively engaged in home building in connection with affordable housing.
- Advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing.
- For-profit provider of affordable housing.
- Not-for-profit provider of affordable housing.
- Real estate professional in connection with affordable housing.
- Serves on the local planning agency pursuant to s. 163.3174.
- Resides within the jurisdiction of the local governing body making the appointments.
- Represents employers within the jurisdiction.
- Represents essential services personnel, as defined in the local housing assistance plan.

Current Affordable Housing Incentives Strategies

- **Expedited Permitting:** To encourage the construction of affordable housing units, the county has established an expedited permitting review process for documented affordable housing projects. The incentive also waives permitting fees for affordable housing projects which incorporate SHIP funds.
- **Flexible Densities/Affordable Accessory Residential Units:** To allow and encourage the construction of accessory dwelling units (granny flats) adjacent to single-family units.
- **Establishment of Ongoing Oversight:** The SHIP Administrator will review and submit a staff report to the BOCC of the anticipated impact on the cost of building a home before any changes are implemented to local policies, ordinances, regulations, and plan provisions within the County.
- **Process of Ongoing Review:** The AHAC provides, prior to adoption, an ongoing review of policies, procedures, ordinances, regulations, or plan provisions that increase the cost of housing.
- **Affordable Green Building:** Jackson County encourages green building requirements for all new construction and rehabilitation projects.

The Jackson County AHAC is seeking to add three new volunteer citizen representatives from the following categories:

- **Residential Home Building Industry**
- **Areas of Labor Actively Engaged in Home Building**
- **Essential Services Personnel** includes teachers, educators, other school districts, community colleges, university employees, police and fire personnel, health care personnel, and skilled building trades personnel.

The Committee meets monthly beginning in July and ending in November each year. For information on how you can volunteer to guide affordable housing in Jackson County, contact: Kim Cole Sweazy at 850-482-9083 or sweazyk@jacksoncountyfl.gov.

###

COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1
ALEX B. MCKINNIE

DISTRICT 2
EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD

DISTRICT 3
PAUL DONOFRO JR.

DISTRICT 4
DONNIE BRANCH

DISTRICT 5
JIM PEACOCK