

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

## The Path Forward – Strategies for Success

### FIVE-YEAR PLAN



*The Path Forward – Strategies for Success* is a compilation of recommendations that aims to increase the availability of affordable housing in Volusia County. The recommendations originated from the Affordable Housing Initiative, which incorporated industry experts, community leaders, private sector representatives, nonprofit representatives and Volusia County residents. This five-year plan addresses strategies that will help remove barriers, increase resources and focus on the importance of communication.

## OUR PRIORITIES

Throughout the months-long planning process there were three recurring priorities that consistently arose in discussions. At least one, if not all, will enhance each recommended strategy in the plan. Below is a description of each priority and an easy-reference icon for use while reviewing the document.

### 1. Resource Expansion



Prioritizing resource expansion allows for the discovery of new ideas and concepts that are compatible with, and build upon, previously used methods to increase the supply of affordable housing. Resource expansion includes exploration of innovative funding opportunities and identification of surplus property suitable for the development of affordable housing.

### 2. Maximize Cost and Time Savings



Collaborative efforts among the county, municipal partners, nonprofit organizations and housing developers can increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of affordable housing development if regulations and processes are streamlined to prioritize increasing and preserving the supply of affordable housing stock.

Programs can be developed to perpetuate the affordability of assisted housing by implementing program policies that require it.

### 3. Effective Communication



Effective communication among all parties invested in increasing and preserving affordable housing is imperative for success.

Communication strategies include:

- Encouraging community participation in affordable housing initiatives
- Educating the public about programs, plans and policies
- Involving municipalities in every step of the process

Tracking and sharing milestones via consistent and periodic updates to a community dashboard report will allow everyone to stay informed about Volusia County's programs.

## STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS



### **Housing is a basic community need that benefits everyone if there is an adequate supply.**

*The Path Forward* – Strategies for Success is an outline of the recommended steps necessary to attain that benefit and offers guidance on how to support efforts to increase or maintain affordable housing in Volusia County. Please read the full plan at [Volusia.org](http://Volusia.org).

While this document is intended to be a five-year plan, it will evolve as progress is made, new topics emerge and future direction is needed. The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) will review the recommendations on an annual basis to ensure the strategies remain in alignment with its original intent. Committee members will review recommended changes to action steps, timelines or outcomes to ensure the recommendations remain relevant to the issue.