

Housing for ALL Floridians



Homelessness in Florida

*Homeless and Extremely Low Income Families and Individuals
Need Housing Options*

2010

Unless otherwise stated, all data and statistics included in this booklet were obtained from the DCF *FY 2008-2009 Annual Report on Homeless Conditions in Florida*.

OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

A family with children living paycheck to paycheck when the **mother is laid off**.

A family who **loses their home to foreclosure** with no resources to obtain other housing.

A skilled construction worker or office professional who **can't find a job in today's market**.

A **single mother** making minimum wage who loses the struggle to afford rent, childcare, transportation and food.

A child who **ages out of foster care** with no support system or stable housing.

A family whose father suffers a **debilitating illness**, is unable to work and has to wait up to 2 years to get social security benefits.

A man who suffers from **mental illness** without resources for treatment.

A woman escaping an **abusive relationship** with nothing but the clothes on her back.

A man without an address, phone number, clean clothes, and a place to shower that **can not secure gainful employment despite having needed skills**.

An **elderly couple** living on a fixed income struggling to pay their rising housing and utility bills; increasing food and medication costs.

All these situations are true; real people who have become homeless in Florida.

While most people have a single image of what a homeless person looks like, the **real face** of

The UNEXPECTED FACE of OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

homelessness is the **unexpected face**. The face that *looks like you and I*.

Homeless people are:

Men, women and children

Families and individuals

Young and old

Students and graduates

Full-time employees and unemployed

Well dressed and in battered clothing

Professionals and unskilled laborers

Able-bodied and disabled

Addicted and non-addicted

Previous renters and homeowners

From middle class and low income households

Homeless people are **OUR**:

Neighbors

Friends

Fellow congregants

Family - children, parents, aunts and uncles

Co-workers

Children's classmates

Homelessness crosses all racial, religious, class, ethnic, cultural and educational lines.

HOMELESSNESS AFFECTS EVERYONE!

OUR NEIGHBORS AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS

- Families / individuals making less than Florida's housing wage of \$19.60 per hour
- Families and individuals laid off and unable to find work
- Families renting homes in foreclosure
- Single women with children
- Families with poverty level incomes
- Youth aging out of foster care
- Persons being released from correctional facilities
- Women and children escaping domestic abuse
- Persons with severe and persistent mental illness
- Persons with physical and mental disabilities
- Rent-burdened households that spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing costs

CAUSES of HOMELESSNESS

Reports by the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office on Homelessness; and the United States Conference of Mayors, *Hunger and Homelessness Survey* indicate that while there is not one single factor that leads to homelessness - **homelessness is rooted in the lack of housing at affordable costs.**

Without the financial ability to make ends meet and afford an apartment or home, individuals and families face homelessness.

Other factors that contribute to homelessness include:

| | |
|--|---|
| Loss of job | Foreclosure |
| High housing / rental costs | Low-paying jobs |
| Poverty | Family break-ups |
| Domestic violence | Physical and mental disabilities |
| Health problems and related costs | Addictions |
| Catastrophic illness | Disasters (i.e. fire, storms) |
| Death of a family member | Family Crisis |
| Lack of transportation | |

(car or public system to get to work or human service organizations)

In Florida, homeless people (when given a list of options) have identified the following reasons for their homelessness:

- Employment / financial reasons (50%)**
- Medical / disability problems (16%)**
- Housing issues (12%)**
- Family problems (12%)**
- Force to relocate from home (7%)**
- Other reasons (1%)**
- Natural / other disasters (1%)**

BY THE NUMBERS: HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA

How many people are homeless in Florida?

57,687 men, women and children¹

How old are homeless people?

16% are children

78% are adults

5% are over the age of 60

How many are veterans?

14% are veterans

Where do homeless people come from?

The majority of homeless people in Florida are our neighbors and have lived in Florida here for a while

68% have lived in the County they reside for more than a year

16% have lived in the County they reside for at least 3 months

How does Florida compare to other states?

Florida has the 3rd largest homeless population in the nation²

How long are people homeless?

38% are homeless for 3 months or less

22% are homeless for more than 3 months, less than 12 months

39% are homeless for more than a year

How many times do people experience homelessness?

50% are experiencing homelessness for the first time

28% have been homeless 2 or 3 times

22% have been homeless 4 or more times

How many homeless people have been in foster care?

9% have a history of being in foster care

14% have spent at least 1 night homeless since leaving foster care in the last 12 months³

How many homeless people has a disabling condition?

44% report having a disabling condition

(Condition may include one or more of the following: physical conditions, mental illness, addictions, developmental and HIV/AIDS)

¹ The definition mandated for homeless counts by the federal government does not allow for persons 'doubled up,' staying in motel rooms or living in tents due to a lack of adequate alternative housing could not be counted.

² Fourth Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, July 2009.

³ Department of Children and Families Independent Living Transitional services Critical Checklist, 2008.

THE UNMET NEEDS

Affordable Housing is the number ONE unmet need in the state of Florida that leads to homelessness.

Housing needs include:

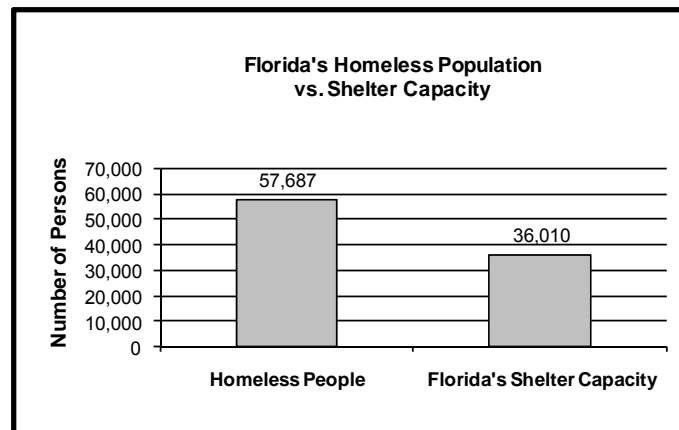
- Affordable (and permanent) housing
- Emergency shelter
- Permanent supportive housing
- Transitional housing

Homeless service gaps include:

- Rent subsidies
- One-stop centers to access services
- Prevention resources
- Employment at wages that cover housing costs
- Discharge planning from healthcare, foster care and correctional facilities
- Money to cover everyday shelter and housing operating costs
- Supportive services (case management, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment
- Transportation
- Job training and placement
- Day Resource Centers

LACK of SHELTER TONIGHT

At least 21,677 Florida residents have **no place to go** for safe shelter tonight.



LACK OF PREVENTION ASSISTANCE

Preventing homelessness is the most effective and cost efficient way to stop homelessness in Florida. It **costs nearly 90 percent less to prevent** an episode of homelessness for a family of 4 than to help the family out of homelessness.*

In 2009, nearly **8,500 applications** for DCF's Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program (EFAHP) were received between **July 1 and July 27**. With enough funding to assist only 4,000 families, applications were no longer accepted after August 7. In total, only 4,188 families were assisted — and **more than 4,300 families were not assisted**. This doesn't include the families that were unable to apply.

In the proceeding 3 fiscal years, these funds were exhausted by the end of October — just 3 months into the budget year.

*According to a Dakota County, Minnesota study, it costs just \$1,600 in financial prevention assistance to keep a family of four from becoming homeless while it costs an average of \$12,000 to assist the same family out of homelessness.

PREVENTION STOPS HOMELESSNESS

By 2010, there will be **more than 2.3 million “cost-burdened” households in Florida.**⁴ These households **spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs**, leaving little for other basic — food, medical care, childcare and transportation — expenses and nothing left over to save.

Consequently, when faced with a **single, unexpected circumstance, everything begins to spiral downward towards and often into homelessness.**

These crisis’s can include:

- Car break down,
- Unexpected medical expenses
- Loss of time (and pay) on the job when taking care of a sick child
- Job loss
- Injury that prohibits work
- Death of a family member

Prevention services include financial assistance for:

- Rent or mortgage payments
- Utility payments
- Car repairs
- Emergency homeless repairs
- Childcare
- Uniform and related employment expenses

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WAY TO STOP HOMELESSNESS

Study after study in communities through the nation have concluded it **costs significantly less — as much as 90 percent less — to prevent** an episode of homelessness than to help an individual or family out of homelessness.

The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, the Manatee/Sarasota homeless coalition, spent an average of **\$1,136 to prevent** a household from becoming homeless. Compared to the average **shelter cost of \$13,200 for a family of three for one year**⁵ — a **cost savings of \$12,064.**

A Dakota County (Minnesota) study shows it cost just **\$1,600 in financial assistance to keep a family of four from becoming homeless** while it cost, in their community, an average of **\$12,000 to assist the same family out of homelessness.**

⁴ Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse

⁵ Federal Emergency Management Administration of the Emergency Food and Shelter Grant Program (EFSP) throughout the country.

HOUSING ENDS HOMELESSNESS

RAPID REHOUSING / HOUSING FIRST

Getting homeless families and individuals back into their own housing as quickly as possible is an efficient and cost effective way to help our homeless neighbors. Once the person/family is housed, the supportive services (e.g. counseling, employment assistance, legal, substance abuse treatment, educational opportunities, etc.) can be brought directly to the household.

Allowing people to remain homeless is costly.

The financial cost of homelessness include more than just shelters and homeless services — it also includes costs incurred by the criminal justice and health care systems.

In Denver, the Housing First program has **reduced incarceration days and costs by 76 percent**. The same Denver program shows **emergency shelter costs were reduced by an average of \$13,000 per person**. Costs for **emergency room visits decreased by 34.3 percent** and **inpatient hospital costs were reduced by 66 percent**.

In San Francisco, a cost/benefit analysis revealed it cost an average of \$16,000 a year to permanently house and provide services to a formerly homeless person, while a person living on the street had an average cost of \$61,000.

The overall quality of life for a community can be significantly improved as the number of families and individuals living and sleeping on the streets is reduced.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The single, largest **contributing factor to homelessness** in our state is a **lack of affordable housing**.

To afford a two bedroom apartment at fair market rental rates in Florida, a household needs an **hourly wage of \$19.60 or an annual income of \$40,776**.

More than **one million extremely-low income households in Florida** earn **\$17,786 or less**, which is 30 percent of Florida's area median income of \$54,445. (2000 US Census; American Community Survey, 2007)

Because of Florida's housing crisis, CNAs, pharmacy aides, child care workers, waiters and waitresses, hotel clerks, retail salespersons, bank tellers, school bus drivers, cashiers, and maids/housekeepers **must pay most of their wages for rent**.

- A person working full time at minimum wage earns about **\$15,080 annually** - less than 30 percent of Florida's median income. Therefore they **must work 108 hours per week** or **2.7 full time jobs** in order to afford a two-bedroom in Florida or **pay no more than \$377** in rent per month.
- A **disabled person** who depends on SSI (receiving \$674 per month) can afford **rent of no more than \$202 a month for rent**, while the fair market rate for a one bedroom apartment is \$858. (2006 Out of Reach Report, NLIHC)

According to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), **60 percent of the remaining housing need in Florida is among households with incomes below 30 percent of area median income**.

In 2005, **only three (3) percent** of the state-assisted rental property funding approved **targeted** these Floridians with **the greatest need**; while **90 percent of Florida's unmet housing need is experienced by households with incomes below 50 percent of AMI**.

2009 HOMELESS POPULATION BY COUNTY

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Alachua | 1,596 |
| Baker | N/C |
| Bay | 352 |
| Bradford | 78 |
| Brevard | 1,207 |
| Broward | 4,154 |
| Calhoun | N/C |
| Charlotte | 541 |
| Citrus | 297 |
| Clay | N/C |
| Collier | 329 |
| Columbia | 554 |
| DeSoto | 319 |
| Dixie | N/C |
| Duval | 3,244 |
| Escambia | 713 |
| Flagler | 39 |
| Franklin | N/C |
| Gadsen | N/C |
| Gilchrist | N/C |
| Glades | 220 |
| Gulf | N/C |

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Hamilton | 123 |
| Hardee | 1,410 |
| Hendry | 727 |
| Hernando | 185 |
| Highlands | 1,782 |
| Hillsborough | 7,473 |
| Holmes | N/C |
| Indian River | 662 |
| Jackson | N/C |
| Jefferson | N/C |
| Lafayette | 69 |
| Lake | 491 |
| Lee | 931 |
| Leon | 437 |
| Levy | 115 |
| Liberty | N/C |
| Madison | N/C |
| Manatee | 558 |
| Marion | 678 |
| Martin | 211 |
| Miami-Dade | 4,333 |
| Monroe | 1,040 |

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Nassau | N/C |
| Okaloosa | 2,361 |
| Okeechobee | 383 |
| Orange | 1,279 |
| Osceola | 374 |
| Palm Beach | 2,147 |
| Pasco | 4,527 |
| Pinellas | 4,163 |
| Polk | 820 |
| Putman | 911 |
| St. Johns | 1,237 |
| St. Lucie | 788 |
| Santa Rose | 317 |
| Sarasota | 787 |
| Seminole | 368 |
| Sumter | 52 |
| Suwannee | 343 |
| Taylor | N/C |
| Union | N/C |
| Volusia | 1,874 |
| Wakulla | N/C |
| Walton | 85 |
| Washington | 3 |

N/C = No count conducted in these counties.

These numbers reflect the number of homeless people counted in a single 24-hour period, known as a point in time count, during the last week of January 2009. Point in time counts are always undercounts because of the innate difficulty in locating every homeless person in a single day. This process is labor intensive, and requires hundreds of volunteers. Additionally cold and/or wet weather adversely affects the process.

Those counted during the 2009 homeless count were persons sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (parks, streets, vehicle), sleeping in emergency shelter facility or staying in transitional housing after having been homeless on the street or in an emergency shelter.

This count did not include those persons who are 'doubled up' or sharing the housing of another person or family, or those who are staying in motels due to lack of other adequate housing.

LEAD AGENCIES for HOMELESS CONTINUUM of CARE

Continuum of Care Lead Agencies are those agencies responsible for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required homeless continuum of care planning and grant. These agencies are eligible to apply for state-funded Challenge Grant and Homeless Housing Assistance Grants for their communities.

Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless & Hungry

Jim Wright
PO Box 5494
Gainesville, FL 32627
P: (352) 378-0460
F: (352) 373-4097
E: achomeless@yahoo.com
www.acchh.org

**Alachua, Bradford, Levy,
Putnam**

Homeless & Hunger Coalition of Northwest Florida

Corinne Coleman
PO Box 549
Panama City, FL 32402-0549
P: (850) 215-9007
F: (850) 215-9003
E: corinneecoleman@yahoo.com

**Bay, Calhoun, Gulf
Holmes, Jackson,
Washington**

Brevard County Dept. of Housing & Human Services

Rosa Reich
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building B, Suite 106
Viera, FL 32940
P: (321) 633-2076
F: (321) 633-2170
E: Rosa.reich@brevardcounty.us

Brevard

Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership

Robert Gregg (chair, advisory board)
Government Center
115 South Andrews Avenue, Suite A-370
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
P: (954) 357-6101
F: (954) 357-5521
E: greggr@nsu.nova.edu
www.broward.org/humanservices

Broward

Charlotte County Homeless Coalition

Angela Hogan
PO Box 380157
Murdoch, FL 33938-0157
P: (941) 627-4313
F: (941) 627-9648
E: angela.hogan@cchomelesscoalition.org
www.cchomelesscoalition.org

Charlotte

LOCAL LEAD AGENCIES for HOMELESS CONTINUUM of CARE

Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition

Barbara Wheeler
PO Box 1527
Eustis, FL 32727-1527
P: (352) 860-2308
F: (352) 726-3280-call 1st before sending fax
E: mfhc@tampabay.rr.com
www.midfloridahomeless.org

**Citrus, Hernando, Lake,
Sumter**

United Way of Suwannee Valley Homeless Service Network of Suwannee Valley

Rita Dopp
325 N.E. Hernando Avenue
Lake City, FL 32055
P: (386) 752-5604
F: (386) 752-0105
E: unitedway@bellsouth.net
www.unitedwaysuwanneevalley.org

**Columbia, Hamilton,
Lafayette, Suwannee**

Collier County Housing

Marcy Krumbine
3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Bldg H
Naples, FL 34112
P: (239) 252-HOME (4663)
F: (239) 403-2331
E: marcykrumbine@colliergov.net

Collier

Highlands County Coalition for the Homeless

Florida's Heartland Rural Consortia for the Homeless
Richard Reinhardt
1200 W. Avon Blvd., Ste 206
Sebring, FL 33825
P: (863) 452-1086
F: (863) 452-2347
E: richard.reinhardt@fhrch.org
www.fhrch.org

**DeSoto, Glades, Hendry,
Hardee, Highlands,
Okeechobee**

Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville Duval, Clay

Dawn Gilman
4527 Lenox Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32205
Dawn Gilman's Direct Line—(904) 384-1366
P: (904) 384-1366
F: (904) 353-2132
E: dgilman@eshcnet.org
www.eshcnet.org

LOCAL LEAD AGENCIES for HOMELESS CONTINUUM of CARE

EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless

Brunie Emmanuel
PO Box 17222
Pensacola, FL 32522
P: (850) 439-3009
F: (850) 436-4650
E: director@ecoh.gccoxmail.com
www.ecoh.org

Escambia, Santa Rosa

Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County

Rayme L. Nuckles
PO Box 360181
Tampa, FL 33673-0181
P: (813) 223-6115
F: (813) 223-6178
E: rayme@homelessofhc.org
www.homelessofhc.org

Hillsborough

Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc.

Louise Hubbard
2525 St. Lucie Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32960
Louise Hubbard Direct Line - (772) 567-7790 x12
P: (772) 778-4243
F: (772) 567-5991
E: irhsclh@aol.com
www.tchelpspot.org

Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie

Lee County Department of Human Services

Janet Bartos
1500 Colonial Blvd., Ste 214
Fort Myers, FL 33907
P: (239) 322-6600
F: (239) 275-7437
E: leehomeless@gmail.com
www.leehomeless.org

Lee

Big Bend Homeless Coalition

Stephanie Shepherd
2729 W. Pensacola Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304
P: (850) 576-5566
F: (850) 577-0586
E: sshepherd@bigbendhc.org
www.bigbendhc.org

**Leon, Franklin, Gadsden,
Liberty, Madison, Taylor
Jefferson, Wakulla**

LOCAL LEAD AGENCIES for HOMELESS CONTINUUM of CARE

Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness

Richard Martin
1445 2nd Street
Sarasota, FL 34236
P: (941) 955-8987
F: (941) 365-4368
E: richard.martin@suncoastpartnership.org
www.info@suncoastpartnership.org

Manatee, Sarasota

Marion County Homeless Council

David Fullarton
1740 E. Silver Springs Blvd. (zip: 34470)
P O Box 162
Ocala, FL 34478
P: (352) 732-1369
F: (352) 622-2975
E: dave@mchcfl.org
mldcfullarton@msn.com

Marion

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust

David Raymond
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 27310
Miami, FL 33128
P: (305) 375-1490
F: (305) 375-2722
E: dray@miamidade.gov
www.miamidade.gov/homeless

Miami-Dade

Southernmost Homeless Assistance League

Wendy Coles, PhD
PO Box 2990
Key West, FL 33045-2990
P: (305) 292-4404
F: (305) 295-4376
E: flshal@comcast.net
www.shal.cc

Monroe

Okaloosa/Walton Homeless Continuum of Care

Lenore Wilson
305 Lovejoy Road
Ft. Walton Beach FL 32547
P: (850) 226-7694
F: (850) 226-7995
E: ravenLen@aol.com
www.okaloosawaltonhomeless.org

Okaloosa, Walton

LOCAL LEAD AGENCIES for HOMELESS CONTINUUM of CARE

Homeless Services Network of Central Florida

Cathy Jackson
1940 Traylor Blvd
PO Box 547068
Orlando, FL 32854
P: (407) 893-0133
F: (407) 893-5299
E: cathy@hsncfl.org
www.hsncfl.org

Orange, Osceola, Seminole

Division of Human Services of Palm Beach County

Georgiana Devine
810 Datura Street, Suite 350
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
P: (561) 355-4775
F: (561) 355-4801
E: gdevine@co.palm-beach.fl.us
www.pbcgov.com

Palm Beach

Pasco County Community Development Division

Eugene Williams
5640 Main Street, Suite 200
New Port Richey, FL 34652
P: (727) 834-3445
F: (727) 834-3450
E: ewilliams@pascocountyfl.net
www.pascohomelesscoalition.org

Pasco

Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless

Sarah Snyder
5180 62nd Avenue North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
P: (727) 528-5762, direct
F: (727) 528-5754
Public: (727) 528-5763
E: sarah@pinellashomeless.org
www.pinellashomeless.org

Pinellas

Tri-County Human Services

Jacquelyn Henderson
Tri-County Human Services
1815 Crystal Lake Dr.
Lakeland, FL 33801
P: 863/709-9392 Ext. 222
F: 863/709-8923
E: JHenderson@TCHSonline.com

Polk (excluding Lakeland)

LOCAL LEAD AGENCIES for HOMELESS CONTINUUM of CARE

Homeless Coalition of Polk County

Mark Spiker
1820 S. Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803
P: (863) 687-8386
F: (863) 802-1436
E: hpolk@tampabay.rr.com
www.polkhomeless.org

Polk—Lakeland only

Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County

Jean Harden
PO Box 3422
St. Augustine, FL 32085
P: (904) 824-6623
F: (904) 824-6361
E: homelesscoalition@comcast.net

St. John's

Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless

Tony Schefstad
PO Box 6498
Daytona Beach, FL 32122-6498
P: (386) 258-1855
F: (386) 258-1854
E: tschefstad@vfcch.org
Public Line: (386) 258-1855
www.vfcch.org

Flagler, Volusia

STATE RECONIZED LOCAL HOMELESS COALITIONS

In most cases the state recognized homeless coalition in each community is the lead agency for the homeless continuum of care. However, in some communities there is a separate homeless coalition working in partnership with the lead agency and can be a source of information about homelessness in their communities.

Only those Coalitions that are not lead agencies are listed in this section.

Coalition to End Homelessness

Broward

Laura Hansen
PO Box 030177
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33303-0177
P: (954) 792-4000
F: (954) 915-1319
E: lhansenbch@help4homeless.org
www.help4homeless.org

Collier County Hunger and Homeless Coalition

Collier

Debby Mahr
1044 6th Avenue North
Naples, FL 34102
P: (239) 253-3449
F: (239) 263-6058
E: executivedirector@collierhomelesscoalition.org
www.collierhomelesscoalition.org

Miami Coalition for the Homeless

Miami-Dade

Ben Burton
3550 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 610
Miami, FL 33137
P: (305) 571-8101
F: (305) 571-8157
E: ben@miamihomeless.org
www.miamihomeless.org

Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County

Palm Beach

Anne Thernin
2100 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
P: (561) 478-5351
F: (561) 478-5356
E: annetherin@gmail.com
www.homelesscoalitionpbc.org

STATE RECONIZED LOCAL HOMELESS COALITION / LEAD AGENCIES

Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County

Pasco

Rev. Dan Campbell
P O Box 757
New Port Richey, FL 34652
P: (727) 842-8605
F: (727) 842-8538
E: homelesscoalition@verizon.net
www.pascohomelesscoalition.org

STATE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS and FLORIDA COALITION for the HOMELESS

State Office On Homelessness

Department of Children and Families
Tom Pierce
1317 Winewood Boulevard
Building 3, Room 201
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700
P: (850) 922-9850
F: (850) 487-1361
E: tom_pierce@dcf.state.fl.us
www.dcf.state.fl.us/homelessness

Florida Coalition for the Homeless

Rayme L. Nuckles, president
PO Box 3764
Tallahassee, FL 32315
P: (877) 205-0021
E: admin@fchonline.org
www.fchonline.org

NOTES

NOTES

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