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**FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY LAND TRUST
ANNOUNCES KICK-OFF OF 2020 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND APPROVAL FOR
CDBG-DR FINANCING**

**Award from Florida Housing Finance Corporation kicks off with Holiday
Affordapalooza fundraiser on Big Pine Key, building on previous grants from the
local community**

Big Pine Key, FL (December 2, 2019) – The Florida Keys Community Land Trust (Florida Keys CLT), a non-profit organization committed to providing hurricane-resilient houses for working families based in the Florida Keys, announced today approval for CDBG-DR grant funding from Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The announcement kicks off the 2020 capital campaign and Holiday Affordapalooza fundraiser on Sunday, December 8 to celebrate completion of the first phase of homes and raise funds to construct additional storm resilient, single-family rentals on Big Pine Key. Four houses have been completed, five are in permitting and 17 more have been approved for funding.

Florida Keys CLT and Rural Neighborhoods are partnering to create the Seahorse Cottages Community in Big Pine to rebuild Seahorse RV Park with 17 storm resilient, single family rental homes for families earning 70% of their income in Monroe County. The \$8.64M project received \$1.10M in conventional financing from CenterState Bank and was awarded \$7.54M in CDBG-DR financing from Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The homes will be built high above storm surge and sea level rise for households with yearly incomes at or below 80% of Monroe's average median income (AMI).

Nearly 50% of the homes in the Sands Subdivision of Big Pine Key were destroyed by Hurricane Irma, including the entire Seahorse RV Park. Maggie Whitcomb, founder of Florida Keys CLT said, "If I'd known how challenging, complex and costly it is to build hurricane-resilient workforce homes in the Florida Keys, I might have reconsidered. Now though, we have families in permanent homes, and I am enormously grateful for the opportunity to serve our hardworking locals."

The first homes completed by the Florida Keys CLT were made possible by grants from the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, Ocean Reef Community Foundation, Center for Disaster Philanthropy, United Way of the Florida Keys and the Florida Keys Hurricane Recovery Foundation. Florida Keys CLT also partners with Habitat for Humanity of the Lower Keys to help process applications.

Just over half of workers in the Florida Keys' workforce are employed by the tourism industry. "Support for Holiday Affordapalooza is still needed," explains Lindsey Anderson, Executive Director of Florida Keys CLT. Anderson is seeking out local hospitality and tourism businesses emphasizing, "these are the establishments who rely most on local labor."

Fully tax-deductible sponsorships are still available for Holiday Affordapalooza starting at \$250 each. Contact Florida Keys Community Land Trust Executive Director Lindsey Anderson at Lindsey@affordablekeys.org or 917-941-4633. To donate or for more information, visit affordablekeys.org.

About Florida Keys Community Land Trust

The Florida Keys Community Land Trust is a non-profit 501(c)3 established in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma to build storm-resilient homes for working families of the Florida Keys. Through the community land trust model, Florida Keys CLT constructs single-family rental homes built above storm surge and sea level rise for households in Monroe County earning less than 80% AMI. For more information, visit www.affordablekeys.org