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FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY LAND TRUST APPLIES FOR SECOND ROUND OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY FINANCING

CDBG-DR financing would be used to expand the previously approved Seahorse Park workforce housing previously destroyed by Hurricane Irma

Big Pine Key, FL (February 2020) – 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 that they have submitted applications for a second round of CDBG-DR grant funding from Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The second application adds 9 more units to the already-approved 17-unit project called Seahorse Cottages, creating 26 units with two lots for playground and public space.

[The Florida Keys Community Land Trust](#) was awarded \$7.54M last year in CDBG-DR financing for the 17-home Seahorse Cottages Community in Big Pine Key. The project will rebuild Seahorse RV Park with storm resilient, single family rental homes for families earning 70% of their income in Monroe County. Nearly half of the homes in the Sands Subdivision of Big Pine Key were destroyed by Hurricane Irma in 2017, including the entire Seahorse RV Park.

“We hope to be approved for the FHFC funding so we can continue our mission to provide safe, beautiful and affordable housing to The Avenues,” said Maggie Whitcomb, founder of the Florida Keys CLT. “The Keys were already in an affordable housing crisis before Irma hit, and we want to keep skilled labor in our community because we need them to rebuild. “

Florida Keys CLT has completed four homes, with 5 more in permitting and 17 approved for funding. The homes are 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), or \$63,000.

“We learned a lot building our first four homes and are excited to apply our experience on a larger scale,” said Executive Director Lindsey Anderson. “We believe we’ve learned how to provide homes that anyone would be proud to live in on limited resources.”

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