

Gainesville.

Citizen centered

People empowered

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

CITY OF GAINESVILLE

ConnectFree Program for Affordable Rental Housing Projects

The City of Gainesville (City) is seeking eligible applicants to participate in the Affordable Rental Housing Projects portion of the ConnectFree Program. The purpose of the ConnectFree Program is to provide financial assistance for the cost of extension and connection to the City's water and wastewater systems to eligible properties located within the Gainesville Regional Utilities service area. Priority is given to low-income households* and/or properties located in low-income areas, AND properties with qualified public health, safety and environmental issues, as established by the City. **The City will reserve up to \$75,000.00 (up to \$37,500.00 per project for up to two (2) projects) of ConnectFree Program funds for the Local Government Contributions to Affordable Rental Housing Projects.**

**Low-income households are defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and adopted by the City for use in the ConnectFree Program.*

The ConnectFree Program for Affordable Rental Housing Projects provides financial assistance for the development and/or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing projects, including but not limited to, projects such as the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, **the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program** and other similar programs. To be eligible for financial assistance through the ConnectFree Program for Affordable Rental Housing Projects, the projects must meet certain program criteria such as, providing rental housing units to low-income households*; and demonstrating financial capacity to develop and manage the rental housing projects. Other eligibility criteria may apply, as determined by the City.

The City will accept applications for ConnectFree funding for Affordable Rental Housing Projects beginning **Thursday, August 8, 2019 through Thursday, August 29, 2019. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. (Local Time). Late applications will not be accepted.** Applications will be accepted **only** by hand-delivery to the City's Housing and Community Development Division Office in the Thomas Center, Building B, 306 NE 6th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Room 245, Gainesville, Florida **or** by email in the form of a full color PDF to wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org. **The City WILL NOT accept applications submitted by mail or FAX.**

All signatures within an application packet must be in blue ink; all attachments must be titled and labeled. **The City reserves the right to reject any and all applications.** Application forms are available from the City's website at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/HousingCommunityDevelopment.aspx>. If you have any questions, please contact John Wachtel at (352) 393-8565, or by email at wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org.

Applicants for rental housing project funding are required to attend the City's State Housing Initiatives Partnership Affordable Housing Advisory Committee meeting on September 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (Local Time). Those applicants may also be required to attend the Gainesville City Commission Meetings on September 19 and October 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. (Local Time). Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

The City of Gainesville is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/Drug Free Workplace Employer. The City of Gainesville is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all City programs, services and activities, and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request accommodations for non-English speaking persons, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with hearing impairments, please contact the City of Gainesville Office of Equal Opportunity at (352) 334-5051 (voice) or (352) 334-2069 TDD; TTY users please call 711.

FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/DISABILITY ACCESS JURISDICTIONS

