



PRESS RELEASE
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LAKE WORTH BEACH CRA & RIVIERA BEACH CRA AWARDED \$4,400,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPT. of HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS

Lake Worth Beach, FL – This week the Lake Worth Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (LWBCRA), along with Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (RBCRA) were awarded \$4,400,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help address the housing crisis in Palm Beach County. These competitive funds will assist the CRA Districts in Lake Worth Beach and Riviera Beach and are provided through HUD’s *Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing* (PRO Housing) program. The grant is provided to remove barriers to local housing production. This program is meant to cut bureaucratic red tape, build more homes, and lower the costs of developing, renting and/or buying a home.

The Lake Worth Beach CRA partnered with the Riviera Beach CRA to expand homebuyer education, incentivize affordable housing development, streamline permitting, purchase properties and improve public infrastructure. Funds will be used in both Lake Worth Beach and Riviera Beach to increase access to homeownership and unit production.

Annetta Jenkins, the Director of Neighborhood Services at the Riviera Beach CRA and Executive Director of Riviera Beach Community Development Corporation states, “Here in Riviera Beach we remain committed to doing all we can to provide decent, safe, and attainable housing for our residents. We can do this with pooling our resources and seeking out meaningful collaborations like this one with the Lake Worth Beach CRA and our nonprofit partners. We are so pleased that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development saw the merits of our efforts and we pledge to continue to remove obstacles to housing.”

Common barriers to housing include the high cost of land and development, lack of available units, underutilized vacant land and property, aging housing stock, inadequate infrastructure, and outdated local land-use and permitting policies and processes.

“The Lake Worth Beach CRA is very grateful for the opportunity and funding to assist in removing existing barriers and effectuating more affordable housing units in both CRA areas. Lake Worth Beach and Riviera Beach share similar challenges and both areas will benefit from a more focused strategy,” says Lake Worth Beach CRA Executive Director Joan Oliva.

PRO Housing helps communities continue to address restrictive land use or regulatory policies; improve and implement housing strategies; invest in local neighborhoods and increase community resilience; and facilitate the construction of new housing and repairs to existing homes. The Lake Worth Beach CRA, in partnership with the Riviera Beach CRA, is one of only eighteen applicants across the Country to receive these funds from the Biden-Harris Administration.

For more information, please contact the Lake Worth Beach CRA office at 561 493-2550 or info@lakeworthcra.org and please visit lakeworthbeachcra.org. You can also contact the Riviera Beach CRA at 561 844-3408 or online at www.rbcra.com.

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OUR MISSION

“The Lake Worth Beach CRA is investing in our community to revitalize and rebuild our neighborhoods and commercial corridors. We are dedicated to maintaining the character of the City, responding to community needs and encouraging sustainable economic growth to improve the quality of life for our residents and the future health of our City.”