



Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. Affordable Housing Advocacy Project

WHAT

The Affordable Housing Project provides free legal assistance to eligible non-profit housing developers and community groups engaged in the acquisition, preservation, and re-development of affordable multi-family rental projects and the development of new affordable multi-family rental projects for low, very low, and extremely low income individuals. The Preservation component of the Project focuses on developments where affordability is threatened due to: (a) severe uninhabitable conditions, (b) expiration of subsidized funding, and/or (c) foreclosure.

WHY

Miami-Dade County has an extremely high cost of living, and affordable housing is a scarce resource for the low income population.

HOW

The Affordable Housing Project assists eligible non-profit developers and community groups through legal advocacy, policy development, educational trainings and community organizing.

Specific services include 1) providing legal and technical assistance to client and community groups for the development or preservation of affordable housing in Miami-Dade County; 2) providing policy development to client and community groups to overcome barriers associated with the development and preservation of affordable housing; and 3) representing tenants and community groups in litigation involving the preservation of affordable housing.

WHO

LSGMI provides free civil legal services to the neediest individuals within our community. Our clients are primarily women, children, seniors, and the working poor. In many cases, we are the safety net preventing these individuals from becoming homeless or dependent on welfare. On a daily basis, our team of attorneys, who are organized into legal specialty units and projects, provides high quality representation to clients with problems relating to housing, health care, education, disability benefits, family issues, and employment.

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Affordable Housing Advocacy Project Typical Case

- The Affordable Housing Project assists local non-profit affordable housing developers and tenant groups in the production and preservation of affordable housing and community development. From June 2010 through June 2011, the Project preserved more than 1500 units of affordable housing in and around Miami-Dade County.

The Affordable Housing Pro Bono Partnership supports the Project's work by providing high-quality pro bono business and transactional real estate legal services and other legal and educational resources to qualified nonprofit housing developers and tenant groups that contribute to the quality of life in our communities. The Pro Bono Partnership offers pro bono opportunities to business and transactional real estate attorneys in corporations and law firms, with a particular focus on engaging volunteers from corporate and real estate legal departments.

Through the efforts of the Pro Bono Partnership, Town Park Village, No. 1, Inc., a low-income housing cooperative in the heart of Overtown, received long awaited brand new impact resistant windows. The funding for the windows had been promised by the City of Miami since June 2009. With assistance from the Pro Bono Partnership, the loan documents between the City of Miami and Town Park were finalized and executed in May 2011, and by the end of June 2011, the property received the much needed windows which will protect the residents during periods of rain and hurricanes.

For further information, please contact attorney Shahrzad Emami: semami@lsgmi.org