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**Independence Landing Receives Project Financing**

**From Florida Housing Finance Corporation**

TALLAHASSEE, (FL) – July 14, 2020 – Independence **Landing,** an affordable, safe, apartment rental community, focusing on independent living for adults with varying intellectual and or developmental disabilities, moved one step closer to becoming a reality as the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) selected it to receive construction funding at it recent June Board Meeting.

“We’ve come so far since a small group of committed parents and supporters met a few years ago with this dream that someday our adult children could live and thrive in a place of their own,” said Allison Tant, one of the founders and driving forces behind Independence Landing.

The FHFC funding, which includes tax credits and construction grants, has been on the wish list of the organization since its inception. After coming in a close second place in last year’s funding cycle, Independence Landing was the clear selection at the June FHFC Board meeting after scoring highest by the selection committee earlier in the month.

The milestone marks another hurdle for the non-profit organization as it prepares for the eventual opening of the facility in the SouthWood Community sometime in 2022. The community will provide one- and two-bedroom units for up to 72 individuals which are expected to be occupied immediately upon the completion of construction. Independence Landing will incorporate affordable housing, continuing education, recreational activities, and social opportunities with person-centered solutions for individuals with IDD. It will provide these services in a campus-style setting with green space, walkways, social areas, a fitness center and more. It will be the first and only community of its kind in North Florida.

The organization has raised over $500,000 in its initial fundraising effort and will be continuing to identify more funds for actual programming and other activities that will provide an even more engaging lifestyle for its residents. “This has been a journey of love for so many and to finally reach a point where we can do more than just plan is a tremendous reflection of who we are in North Florida and what we can be,” said Independence Landing Board Chair Gil Ziffer.

The City of Tallahassee signed a 60-year lease with the organization in 2018. Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey expressed enthusiasm with the latest FHFC news. “With so much in our lives wrapped up with the coronavirus, this is obviously great news for the future residents as it is for our entire community. Our City of Tallahassee family can’t wait for a grand opening event we can all be proud of.”

Next steps will include the selection of design and construction partners in addition to meeting with families that have an interest in the available apartments. “Over the past few years numerous meetings have been held with hundreds of interested individuals in our area”, said Brett Ketcham, Vice-Chair of the Independence Landing Board. We’ll be circling back with all those that have already expressed an interest and additional families that have recently made contact with us. We’re so excited to see something our entire community has chosen to embrace and work on together.  This is the start of a wonderful chapter in our community.”

The land sits across the street from the Florida State University Schools (K-12) otherwise known as Florida High. “”The connectivity opportunities that can exist between our school and Independence Landing are endless,” said Stacy Chambers, Superintendent of the school and a member of the Independence Landing Board of Directors. “Our campus and Independence Landing will not only be connected geographically, we’ll also be connected by our joint efforts to improve the lives of our students and our soon-to-be new neighbors.”

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