

# Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing University of Florida

---

## 2004 Annual Report

### A. Background

The Housing Research Center at the University of Florida is called the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing. The Florida Legislature established the Center in 1988 (s. 1004.46, Florida Statutes) in the Rinker School of Building Construction of the College of Design, Construction & Planning at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. The enabling legislation called for the establishment of a multidisciplinary center that would work with other colleges and departments at the University of Florida and in collaboration with other institutions in the Florida State University System. A director and associate director head the Shimberg Center's activities. The key staff members include a manager of data services and an office manager. During 2003 four new faculty members were added to support the housing data management activities of the Center. During this same period the supporting staff included four full- or part-time graduate students and hourly employees. The Center supports three doctoral level and three masters level graduate research assistants. The total operating budget for the Center in 2003-2004 was \$1,013,556.

### B. Research

The Shimberg Center continued its work in several areas in 2004. The greatest share of center resources is directed to the ongoing development and expansion of the Florida Housing Data Center. This resource is available on the Internet at [www.shimberg.ufl.edu](http://www.shimberg.ufl.edu). The work of the data center staff included the preparation of the annual *State of Florida's Housing* report, a rental market study for the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, a report on the impact of real estate on the state's economy, and a further development of an inventory of assisted housing units in the state.

Courses offered by center staff experienced record enrollments as the popularity of the residential track of courses continued to grow. The community outreach office in Tampa became operational and began work on its first two contracts.

In 2004, the Center began collection of information about housing opportunities for persons with disabilities with an initial concentration on the role of public housing authorities. A housing summit was held to bring together professionals who serve persons with disabilities and executive directors of Florida's public housing authorities. Other studies included housing needs research for several communities in the state and a study of housing authorities for the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. The center also has worked to support the efforts of the Affordable Housing Study Commission and the Hurricane Housing Work Group created by Governor Bush.

In 2004, the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing continued to work with the support of The Ford Foundation to coordinate the establishment of a national Community Statistical Systems Network and knowledge clearinghouse. The mission of the CSS Network is to promote the development, adoption, and effective use of community statistical systems within the United States. Included in the Center's service activities was the production of six more newsletters. All material continues to be available through the Internet at [www.shimberg.ufl.edu](http://www.shimberg.ufl.edu).

### C. Publications and Outreach Activities

An important function of the Center is the dissemination of housing-related information. Since December 1989 the Center has published a bi-monthly newsletter titled, *Affordable Housing ISSUES*. Newsletter topics in 2004 were:

Oct '04	Manufactured Housing and Hurricanes
Aug '04	Top Impact of Construction & Real Estate on Florida's Economy- Update for 2004
Jun '04	Pressure Treated Lumber
Apr '04	Low-impact Development
Feb '04	Measuring Housing Affordability in Florida
Dec '03	Smart Growth Principles

Other reports published as part of the Center's Technical Note Series were:

*The State of Florida's Housing, 2004*

*Florida Rental Market Study*

*Public Housing Authorities in Florida: An Analysis of Selected Issues*

All of the Center's publications are available on the Internet at [www.shimberg.ufl.edu](http://www.shimberg.ufl.edu). The newsletters and Technical Notes may be accessed by selecting "Publications" on the homepage. Florida housing inventory data may be accessed by selecting "Fla Housing Data" on the homepage.

### **Tampa Community Outreach Office**

The Tampa Community Outreach Office, located in West Tampa in a facility owned by the Tampa Housing Authority, is a collaborative effort of the Institute of Urban Policy and Commerce, Florida A&M University; Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing, University of Florida; and the School of Social Work, University of South Florida. The goal of the Outreach Office is to house community development efforts of the three universities in a single location to provide a coordinated outreach function building on the strengths of each university. Funding support for this initiative has been received from the Bank of America Foundation. The Shimberg Center is participating in two current projects that have resulted from the Tampa office, evaluation studies of a HOPE VI development, Belmont Heights under contract with the Tampa Housing Authority and of the University Area Community Development Corporation in Tampa. Both evaluation projects make use of the center's housing data capabilities. The center is also serving on a working group to plan the Institute of Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida A&M University's annual community development conference.

## **Housing Summit**

The Shimberg Center hosted a February 2004 housing summit intended to open a dialogue between professionals who serve persons with disabilities and executive directors of Florida's public housing authorities. This meeting was Florida's first effort to bring together statewide leadership from both groups for a facilitated discussion of key issues regarding how persons with disabilities are served with federal programs administered through local public housing authorities.

## **D. Teaching**

A formal "residential track" within the construction management curriculum of the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction was approved in 1998 and implemented in 1999. This addition to the curriculum was the result of requests from the home building industry. Recognizing a need to expand training opportunities in non-profit management for those working in community development, the Shimberg Center participated in an effort to establish a campus-wide undergraduate minor in non-profit management. Over twenty undergraduates are now completing requirements for the minor.