

May 24, 2021

Scott Farmer, Executive Director NC Housing Finance Agency 3508 Bush Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Mr. Farmer,

NC REALTORS® (NCR) greatly appreciate all the efforts of the you, the Board, and the staff of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (the NCHFA) to assist the people of North Carolina with their housing needs. We value our longstanding partners and are committed to your efforts.

As we are coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand your Agency will be instrumental in ensuring the housing stability of homeowners in NC. We know the NCHFA has the knowledge, staff, resources, and confidence of the industry and public to successfully operate another relief program. This was demonstrated by the operation of the North Carolina Foreclosure Prevention Fund in partnership with the United States Treasury from 2010-2019.

Based on your successfully proven track record of distributing funds to homeowners for the purposes of foreclosure prevention and mortgage assistance, we were supportive and are very pleased to know that the federal money granted for the purposes of foreclosure prevention and mortgage assistance was appropriated to the NCHFA for distribution.

There is a looming and heretofore unaddressed need as North Carolinians emerge from the economic hardships caused by the pandemic. Financial institutions have modified loans and provided forbearance on mortgages throughout the last 18-months. At some point though, the bills will come due, and this assistance will help hard-hit North Carolinians who qualify for this assistance and prevent homelessness.

We ask HFA prioritize the use of these funds for mortgages, insurance costs, property taxes, and homeowner association fees which have not been covered by other relief funds. While the U.S. Treasury guidelines allow for various uses of these funds, we believe the biggest need will be in the way of mortgage assistance as many other resources have already been appropriated for rent, utilities, and internet fees.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact Cady Thomas, Chief Lobbyist, <u>Cady@FocusPublicAffairs.com</u>, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Marks 2021 President NC REALTORS®

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