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**Joe Steckler**



### Should I Admit Defeat?

In researching this article, I came up with some grim answers on Section 8 and Section 202 affordable housing. We need a heck of a lot more work to make the system user-friendly. More importantly, it is way past time for the County and cities to work together with nonprofits to address the issue.

Section 202 housing, sometimes called subsidized housing for the elderly, applies to seniors 62 years or older. There are only six locations in Brevard designated as Section 202 housing and all have waiting lists of two, three, or even four years. The Section 8 housing voucher program in Brevard is currently closed, and you cannot get on a waiting list. In some cases, there is no Section 8 housing available to those who already have their housing voucher. Section 8 housing is becoming less available due to this type of housing being renovated, with higher rents forcing out tenants. Landlords and Brevard County need to work together to increase the availability of Section 8 housing.

While there are many hoops to jump through, HUD money could be used to renovate property for affordable housing and that money would never have to be returned if the housing projects are used 40 years for the purpose intended. Do you wonder why Brevard's Housing and Human Services Department has not sought out HUD sources for construction of affordable housing?

The homeless population in Brevard will continue to grow while we address the Lagoon, high speed trains, gun rights, and other hot potato issues. Those up for election never mention affordable housing and other issues affecting seniors that we continue to attract to Brevard County. If we ignore the housing problem, we will admit defeat, when victory could be achieved.

**Joe Steckler**  
 President  
 Helping Seniors of Brevard

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