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MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **July 28, 2022**. Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the meeting will be held virtually via communications media technology at **7:00 p.m.**

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://meet.goto.com/728948053>

DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll Free: 1.866.899.4679

ACCESS CODE: 728-948-053

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

*Please call the Council at 352.955.2200, or 800.226.0690, or email tucker@ncfrpc.org by July 26, 2022 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting. (You can call after hours and leave a message on voice mail too.) **THANK YOU.***

Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.



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AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Virtual Public Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology
Gainesville, Florida

July 28, 2022
7:00 p.m.

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

June 23, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Robert Brown, Hamilton County
James Catron, City of Madison
Cynthia Chestnut, City of Gainesville
Rick Coleman, City of Newberry
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer
Ward Ketring, City of Perry
Travis Land, Suwannee County
John Meeks, Levy County
Dayna Miller, City of Alachua
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
James Tallman, Union County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Donnie Waldrep, Madison County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristin Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Glass, Suwannee River
Water Management District
David Tyler, Florida Department
of Transportation

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Toby Witt, Columbia County

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp
Diana Davis
David Rathke

STAFF PRESENT

Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Tara Tucker
Lauren Yeatter

Executive Committee Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicize

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Anthony Adams called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Adams welcomed Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; and Sandra Buck-Camp, member of the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - May 26, 2022
- B. Monthly Financial Report - May 2022
- C. Interagency Agreement with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council to Assist with Local Government Comprehensive Plan Study Amendment
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointments
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Reappointments
- F. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Chair Appointment
Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Counties

Chair Adams asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cynthia Chestnut to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - David Rathke, Executive Director
Resiliency Florida

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced David Rathke, Executive Director, of Resiliency Florida. Mr. Rathke gave a presentation to the Council concerning Resiliency Florida and related matters. Chair Adams thanked Mr. Rathke for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

A. New Members -

1. Rick Coleman, City of Newberry
2. Ken Cornell, Alachua County
3. Dayna Miller, City of Alachua

Chair Adams welcomed new members Rick Coleman, City Commissioner, City of Newberry; Ken Cornell, County Commissioner, Alachua County; and Dayna Miller, City Commissioner, City of Alachua, to the Council.

B. Resolution of Appreciation - LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper

ACTION: Commissioner Brown made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler to approve a resolution of appreciation for former Council member LaBarfield Bryant. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Brook Ward
2. Sandra Woodard

ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Stegall, to approve a Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Program member Book Ward alternate Children at Risk Representative on the Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board; and Sandra Woodard the voting Children at Risk Representative on the Dixie County, Gilchrist County, and Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards. The motion carried unanimously

D. Employee Certificates of Service - Carmelita Franco - 15 years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that Carmelita Franco joined the Council staff on April 30, 2007. He noted that Ms. Franco currently serves as Planning Administrative Assistant of Local Government Comprehensive Planning. Mr. Koons presented a 15-year Certificate of Service and a 15-year service pin to Ms. Franco. He thanked her for her dedicated service to the Council.

E. Committee Appointments

Chair Adams requested that the 2022-23 Committee appointments as recommended by him be ratified by the Council.

ACTION: Commissioner Stegall made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks to ratify the 2022-23 Committee appointments as recommended by the Chair of the Council. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Authorization to Begin Auditor Selection Process

Mr. Koons reported that the Executive Committee recommended designating the Executive Committee, along with a representative from the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, to serve as the Audit Committee, and authorize the Audit Committee to establish selection criteria, begin the auditor selection process, negotiate a contract for audit services and present a recommendation for auditing services to the Council for approval.

ACTION: Commissioner Stegall made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis to approve the Executive Committee recommendation to designate Executive Committee along with a representative from the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, to serve as the Audit Committee, and authorize the Audit Committee to establish selection criteria, begin the auditor selection process, negotiate a contract for audit services and present a recommendation for auditing services to the Council for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Land, Warehouse and Office Building

Mr. Koons reported that, on May 26, 2022, the Council set a minimum bid sale price of \$1,338,309 for the land, warehouse and office building located at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida; authorized the Executive Director to re-advertise for sealed bids to sell the land, warehouse and office building; and authorized the Executive Director to sign a letter of intent to lease a 6,012 square foot office building located at 2201 NW 40th Terrace, Gainesville, Florida for a five-year term at \$16.00 per square foot and leasehold improvements of an estimated amount of \$100,000 with a right of first refusal to purchase said office building. He stated that the minimum bid sale price was set at the appraised value plus the 34.1 percent increase in value over the past two years plus five percent.

Mr. Koons stated that bids for sale of the land, office and warehouse were published in the Florida Administrative Register and The Gainesville Sun on June 3, 2022 and June 10, 2022. He also stated that the bid notice and bid package were posted to the Council website on June 2, 2022. Mr. Koons reported that no bids were submitted by the noticed deadline of June 16, 2022 at 2:00 p. m.

Mr. Koons reported that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Executive Director to re-advertise for sealed bids to sell the land, warehouse and office building located at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida with a minimum bid sale price of \$1,338,309.

ACTION: Commissioner Bouie-Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler to authorize the Executive Director to re-advertise for sealed bids to sell the land, warehouse and office building located at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida with a minimum bid sale price of \$1,338,309. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #92 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-2ESR)
- #93 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)
- #95 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #96 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. She stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #92 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-2ESR); Item #93 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR); Item #95 - City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER); and #96 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Finance Committee - Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget

Commissioner Hope, Council Treasurer of the Council and Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met virtually with the auditor earlier in the evening and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. He stated that the auditor issued an unqualified report and that the document contained no findings. Commissioner Hope also stated that the overall prevailing conclusion was that the statements provided were found in all material respects, to fairly present the financial position of the Council at the end of the last fiscal year. He noted with respect to the Council's General Fund that revenues collected vs. those budgeted, revenues received were (3.7) percent less than budgeted amounts, with respect to expenditures, funds expended were (24.3) percent less than budgeted amounts.

Commissioner Hope reported that the revenues received and the expenditures made resulted in an increase in the Council's General Fund Balance of \$275,972. He also reported that the audit contained various reports on compliance, internal control and management and in these reports no material weaknesses or problems were cited. Finally, Commissioner Hope stated that the Finance Committee was pleased with the report and it is clear from the auditor's findings that the Council is in very sound financial condition.

ACTION: Commissioner Hope made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cynthia Chestnut, to accept the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants and to approve making the final payment to the auditor in the amount of \$17,175 for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Audit. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Rural Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, stated the Florida Department of Transportation is currently updating the Department's Strategic Intermodal System Cost Feasible Plan.

Ben Glass, Legislative and Community Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated hurricane season began on June 1, 2022 and reminded Council members to have a hurricane preparedness plan.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. He stated that the Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. Mr. Koons also stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the May 2022 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the May 2022 report.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV, Mayor Janice Mortimer, gubernatorial appointee Lorene Thomas, and he attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board virtually via communications media technology on June 10, 2022.

Mr. Koons stated the Policy Board heard a presentation from Jared Perdue, Secretary of Florida Department of Transportation. He stated the Policy Board accepted Assembled Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and received a financial report. Mr. Koons also stated the Policy Board adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23, received a legislative report, adopted the 2023 Legislative Agenda and elected officers for the 2022-23 Policy Board Executive Committee.

C. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. Mr. Koons noted that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars: Talent and Supply Education, Innovation and Economic Development,

Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems, and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the June 2022 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

D. Financial Disclosure Report Filing

Mr. Koons reported that all members of the Council are required to file a financial disclosure form by July 1st of each year. He stated that Council members must file a financial disclosure forms filed by county commissioners and city commissioners for their elected offices fulfills this requirement. Mr. Koons stated gubernatorial members must file a financial disclosure form with the Supervisor of Elections office in their respective counties to fulfill this requirement. He noted Council members should have recently received a copy of the financial disclosure form.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Commissioner Stegall invited Council members to the City of Lake Butler Fourth of July celebration which will be held on July 2, 2022 at Lakeside Park in Lake Butler.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Adams stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on July 28, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Anthony Adams, Chair

7/28/22
Date



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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report - June 2022

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council’s activities for June 2022. The following paragraphs discuss revenues and expenditures to the budget for the month and year to date.

Revenue

The total revenue for the Council for year to date is within budgeted figures. Revenue at the end of nine months is 79 percent of budget.

Expenditures

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of nine months is 53 percent of budget.

Conclusion

In conclusion, staff is pleased with the financial condition of the Council. The adjusted general fund balance should remain at an acceptable level at the end of the fiscal year.

Overall, as is regularly reported, the financial condition of the Council is sound. Staff is not aware of anything in the current fiscal year that will change this situation.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
June 30, 2022

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking / Savings	2,106,543
Accounts Receivable	871,461
Other Current Assets	21,926
Total Current Assets	<u>2,999,930</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,999,930</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	13,979
Other Current Liabilities	391,902
Total Liabilities	<u>405,881</u>
Equity	<u>2,594,049</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>2,999,930</u>

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
June 30, 2022

SUMMARY STATEMENT

	Adopted Budget FY 2021-22	June 2022	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Revenue	2,013,500	409,656	1,583,438	79%
Expenses	2,013,500	136,688	1,069,261	53%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
June 30, 2022

REVENUE

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2021-22	June 2022	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Program Development	41,000	503	33,227	81%
Regional Planning				
Regional Planning & Review	70,000	0	70,083	100%
Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance				
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	58,900	0	164,189	279%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	133,200	84,978	101,978	77%
Hazards Analyses	17,600	0	0	0%
Transportation				
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning	483,800	92,878	196,325	41%
Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit	200,700	28,646	166,901	83%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	25,600	7,562	20,522	80%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	205,500	65,851	166,652	81%
Economic Development				
Economic Strategy & Technical Assistance	115,000	17,500	97,506	85%
Economic Strategy & Technical Assistance - Recovery	200,000	20,000	55,000	28%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	32,500	8,675	24,955	77%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	92,500	0	87,907	95%
Vision North Central Florida	0	0	2,500	
Local Government Assistance				
General Technical Services	20,000	0	19,929	100%
City & County Planning Services	237,200	68,063	297,315	125%
Local Government Comprehensive Plan Study		15,000	15,000	
Community Development Block Grant Administration	80,000	0	63,449	79%
Total Revenue	2,013,500	409,656	1,583,438	79%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
June 30, 2022

EXPENDITURES

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2021-22	June 2022	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Audit	17,000	17,175	17,175	101%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	160,000	7,345	34,476	22%
Contractual Services	118,000	111	78,092	66%
Dues, Publications, Subscriptions & Training	55,000	720	37,522	68%
Furniture & Equipment	15,000	0	0	0%
Insurance & Bonding	25,000	5,158	16,615	66%
Legal Services & Public Notices	11,000	811	8,580	78%
Machine Rental & Maintenance	7,000	0	3,709	53%
Meeting Expenses	20,000	0	0	0%
Moving Expense	2,000	0	0	0%
Office Supplies	26,000	1,438	13,780	53%
Personnel	1,286,400	98,500	774,513	60%
Postage	9,000	405	3,599	40%
Printing	2,000	0	2,109	105%
Recruiting	2,000	0	0	0%
Reproduction	22,000	1,538	9,071	41%
Telephone	12,000	201	5,349	45%
Travel	80,000	1,336	13,695	17%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	92,500	1,950	50,976	55%
Contingency	51,600	0	0	0%
Total Expenses	2,013,500	136,688	1,069,261	53%



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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Anthony Adams, Chair

SUBJECT: Florida Association of Counties
Presidential Advocate Awards

At the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting held in Orlando on July 1, 2022, Florida Association of Counties President Ralph Thomas awarded Presidential Advocate Awards to Alachua County Commissioner Ken Cornell, Alachua County Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV, Taylor County Commissioner Thomas Demps, Levy County Commissioner John Meeks and Alachua County Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler.

The Presidential Advocate Award recognition is given to county commissioners who have shown exceptional leadership in serving on policy committees of the Florida Association of Counties, guiding the policy development process and advocating with the Florida Association of Counties during the 2022 Legislative Session to advance the legislative agenda of counties.

Congratulations to Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Demps, Commissioner Meeks and Commissioner Wheeler.

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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Anthony Adams, Chair

SUBJECT: Florida Association of Counties
Board of Directors Election

At the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting held in Orlando on July 1, 2022, Alachua County Commissioner Ken Cornell was elected to the Board of Directors.

The Florida Association of Counties helps counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration. For more than 85 years, the Florida Association of Counties has represented the diverse interests of Florida's counties, emphasizing the importance of protecting home rule - the concept that communities and their local leaders should make the decisions that impact their community.

The Florida Association of Counties is the only association representing Florida's counties - bringing together the collective experience and knowledge of 377 county commissioners and supported by thousands of county professional staff. The Florida Association of Counties provides the cohesive platform that enables county officials and staff to speak with a unified voice on behalf of all Floridians. Through the Florida Association of Counties, counties are better able to serve not only their communities, but the entire state of Florida.

Throughout the state, Florida's counties perform vital public services such as public safety, fire and emergency medical services, jails, parks, libraries, healthcare, growth management, economic development, and roads.

Congratulations to Commissioner Cornell.

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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Anthony Adams, Chair

SUBJECT: Florida Small County Coalition
Officers and Board of Directors Election

At the Florida Small County Coalition Meeting held in Orlando on June 29, 2022, the Coalition elected officers and Board of Directors. Levy County Commissioner John Meeks will serve a second year as Immediate Past Chair of the Coalition. In addition, I will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Commissioner Meeks also received an Outstanding Leadership Award from the Coalition for his service as Vice-Chair of the Florida Association of Counties Rural Caucus. Union County Coordinator Jimmy Williams received Special Recognition from the Coalition at their annual meeting.

The Coalition is a statewide alliance of county commissions from small and rural counties. The purpose of the Coalition is to give increased visibility and support to the issues to small counties and rural communities. The Coalition's primary mission is to help Florida's small and rural counties address legislative issues from a small county/rural perspective and work effectively with state agencies leadership.

The Coalition believes in the importance of a state rural policy that protects the character of our small and rural areas; promotes economic development; and, maintains and promotes the viability of existing small county economies such as agriculture and eco-tourism. The Coalition supports programs that improve the financial viability and fiscal capacity of Florida's local governments in small counties.

The Coalition supports programs that help provide services to Floridians who reside in small counties; Floridians who visit their communities for enjoyment; and, visitors from outside the state who travel through small counties in route to destinations in and out of Florida.

Congratulations to Commissioner Meeks and Coordinator Williams.

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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Employee Health Insurance Proposal

RECOMMENDATION:

Review health insurance alternative proposals and either select the replacement plan or select an alternative plan for employee health insurance, for dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND:

United Healthcare has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with an increase in premiums for the coming year beginning September 1, 2022. The total change in the cost to the Council for the coming year would be \$235 or 3.2 percent. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$7,487.

United Healthcare is proposing an increase of 14.6 percent in life insurance premiums for the coming year. United Healthcare is proposing a decrease of (8.0) percent in the cost for dental insurance to employees for the coming year.

Staff has secured alternative proposals for health insurance from United Healthcare for your consideration. Attached is a summary of the renewal plan and two alternative plans with coverage and costs. The alternative proposals include changes to benefits for employees.

Also, please find attached for your information a graph showing the total cost to the Council and employees for health, life and dental insurance costs from Fiscal Year 2013-14 through Fiscal Year 2022-23.

The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Council at its July 28, 2022 meeting concerning employee health insurance, dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2022.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachments

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

**SUMMARY OF HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT PLANS
UNITED HEALTHCARE**

July 21, 2022

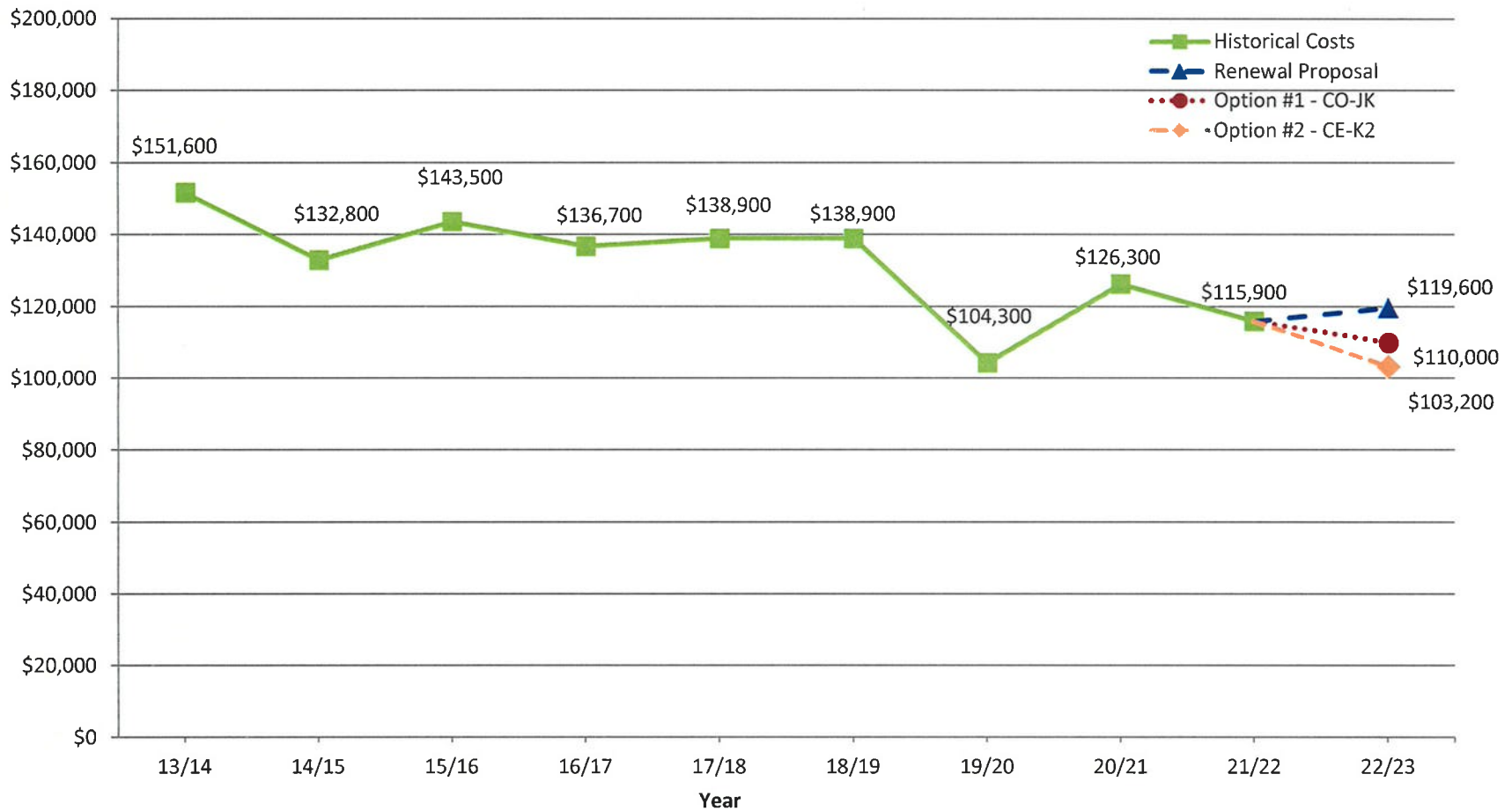
	<u>DEDUCTIBLE</u> (Individual/Family)	<u>CO-INSURANCE</u> (In Network/Out Network)	<u>OUT-OF-POCKET MAXIMUM</u> (Individual/Family)	<u>PRESCRIPTIONS</u> (Generic/Brand/ Non-Preferred)
<u>CURRENT PLAN</u>				
CE-KQ/RX849	\$3,500/\$7,000	90%/60%	\$8,000/\$16,000	\$10/\$35/\$70
<u>RENEWAL PLAN</u>				
CO-IK/RXL27Y	\$3,500/\$7,000	90%/60%	\$8,000/\$16,000	\$10/\$40/\$150
<u>OPTION #1</u>				
CO-JK/RXNH2Y	\$4,500/\$9,000	80%/N/A	\$8,150/\$16,300	\$10/\$40/\$140
<u>OPTION #2</u>				
CE-K2/RXL29Y	\$6,500/\$13,000	50%/NA	\$8,550/\$17,100	\$15/\$50/\$150

Council Cost per Month/Annum

	<u>Month / Annum</u>	<u>Annual Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Current Plan - Existing Cost	\$7,252 / \$87,024	N/A	N/A
Renewal Plan - Proposed Cost	\$7,487 / \$89,844	\$2,820	3.2%
Option #1 - CO-JK/RXHN2Y	6,933 / \$83,196	(\$3,828)	(4.4%)
Option #2 - CE-K2/RXL29Y	\$6,511 / \$78,132	(\$8,892)	(10.2%)

N/A - Not Applicable

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Total Health, Life and Dental Insurance Costs 2013-14 to 2022-23



Note: Number of Council employees decreased from 16 employees to 13 employees during Fiscal Year 2013-14.
 Number of Council employees decreased from 13 employees to 9 employees during Fiscal Year 2014-15.
 Number of Council employees decreased from 9 employees to 8 employees during Fiscal Year 2018-19.
 Number of Council employees decreased from 8 employees to 7 employees during Fiscal Year 2019-20.



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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, Chair
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

I. COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., July 28, 2022. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the meeting will be a virtual meeting conducted via communications media technology. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level items which require Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- #99 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #100 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #101 - City of Lake Butler Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #102 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)

Please be advised that the Clearinghouse Committee meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on Clearinghouse Committee Full Packet).

v:\chouse\meeting\chair reports\2022\chairreport.220728.docx



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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2023-27

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2023-27 as recommended by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee and authorize that it be noticed for a 30-day public comment period.

BACKGROUND:

Every five years, the Council prepares an update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to meet our contractual obligations with that agency and to qualify our counties and municipalities for funding under its economic development program.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee met July 20, 2022 to review and recommend to the Council the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, including Goals and Objectives and Priority Project Areas. The Strategy has been organized using the Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars for Securing Florida's Future Economy. By organizing the Strategy by the Six Pillars, it is in alignment with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Five-Year Strategic Economic Development Plan and the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars 20-Year Strategic Plan. Eligible projects must be regional in nature, must be connected to jobs and must include private investment, and can be funded through either planning grants or construction grants from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Please find attached the draft Executive Summary; Background Statement; Plan of Action; Goals and Objectives; and Vital Project Areas for the Strategy. The proposed priority project areas organized by the Six Pillars as recommended by the Committee are listed below.

1. Talent Supply and Education

- a. Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry.

2. Innovation and Economic Development

- a. Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity.
- b. Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.

3. Infrastructure and Growth Leadership

- a. Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including highway interchanges along interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure.

4. Business Climate and Competitiveness

- a. Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive.
- b. Educate government and businesses on continuity and recovery plans in the event of natural or man-made disasters to address workforce retention and ensure access to loan and other assistance programs.

5. Civic and Governance Systems

- a. Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development.

6. Quality of Life and Quality Places

- a. Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.

Next, a 30-day public comment period on the draft Strategy will occur subject to Council approval. The final Strategy will be presented to the Council at its September 22, 2022 meeting for adoption. The final adopted Strategy will then be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration by September 30, 2022.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2023-2027



North Central Florida
Regional Planning Council - DRAFT

July 2022

North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2023-2027

July 2022

Grant Period: January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022
This document has been prepared with financial assistance
from the U.S. Economic Development Administration

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603
352.955.2200



Executive Summary



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Executive Summary

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has served as the North Central Florida Economic Development District since January 1978, when the Council received its district designation from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Counties that are members of the Council and the municipalities located within those counties are included in the North Central Florida Economic Development District, and are designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as redevelopment areas and are eligible for financial assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

“The Regional Planning Council is a federally designated Economic Development District.”

The primary function of the North Central Florida Economic Development District is to create and update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy provides the framework by which economic development projects in the region qualify for grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The Strategy is developed by the Strategy Committee which is comprised of a broad range of regional economic development, business, civic, education and workforce development professionals.

“The Strategy is based upon the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Six Pillars of Florida’s Future Economy.”

The following report provides a description of current economic and demographic conditions of the region, an analysis of regional strengths and weaknesses and an analysis of regional industry clusters. The report also

lists the economic development goals and objectives as well as the Priority Project Areas developed by the Strategy Committee. The report includes a plan of action that outlines the activities necessary to implement the goals and objectives of the Strategy.

The Strategy uses the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Six Pillars of Florida’s Future Economy as the organizing framework. The Six Pillars are: Talent Supply & Education; Innovation & Economic Development; Infrastructure & Growth Leadership; Business Climate & Competitiveness; Civic & Governance Systems; and Quality of Life & Quality Places.



Commerce and Retail Center of Region, Gainesville



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Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



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Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

A. Background

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is a continuing regional economic development planning process with broad based community participation designed to help guide the economic growth of the region. The purpose of the Strategy is to create an economic environment that fosters job creation, a more resilient and diversified economy, and improves the quality of life for the residents of the North Central Florida Economic Development District. The Strategy provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of local governments, private industry, organizations and individuals concerned with economic development.

“The Strategy is a continuing economic development planning process.”



Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center

The Strategy is developed by a committee appointed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The members of the Strategy Committee represent a broad spectrum of interests, including: local economic development organizations; local governments and workforce. The Strategy Committee meets to discuss progress on elements of the Strategy, and to make recommendations for amendments to the Strategy based on changes to the economic environment.

“The Strategy is developed by a broad spectrum of public and private interests.”

In addition to providing a cooperative framework for economic development coordination and planning, the Strategy also provides:

- An analysis of economic and community development problems and opportunities that incorporate relevant material from other government sponsored or supported plans;
- A background and history of the economic development situation of the region, with a discussion of the economy, including geography, population, labor force, resources and the environment;
- A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts;
- A section setting forth goals and objectives for taking advantage of the opportunities and solving the economic development problems of the area serviced;
- A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement objectives and goals set forth in the strategy; and
- Performance measures that will be used to evaluate whether and to what extent goals and objectives have been or are being met.

“The Strategy is required to qualify for federal economic development funds.”

The development and maintenance of the Strategy is required to qualify for U.S. Economic Development Administration assistance under its public works, economic adjustment and planning programs, and is a prerequisite for designation by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District. Since 1978, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has served as the designated planning agency for the North Central Florida Economic Development District.

Council has served as the designated planning agency for the North Central Florida Economic Development District.

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council region includes 52 county and municipal governments. The 12 counties include Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union. The 40 municipalities include (by County): Alachua - Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, LaCrosse, Micanopy, Newberry and Waldo; Bradford - Brooker, Hampton, Lawley and Starke; Columbia



North Central Florida Counties and Municipalities

- Fort White and Lake City; Dixie - Cross City and Horseshoe Beach; Gilchrist - Bell, Fanning Springs and Trenton; Hamilton - Jasper, Jennings and White Springs; Lafayette - Mayo; Levy – Bronson, Cedar Key, Chiefland, Inglis, Otter Creek, Williston and Yankeetown; Madison - Greenville, Lee and Madison; Suwannee - Branford and Live Oak; Taylor - Perry; Union - Lake Butler, Raiford and Worthington Springs.

The North Central Florida Economic Development District has a total of 7,869 square miles and is bordered on the west by the Gulf of Mexico and on the north by the Florida-Georgia state line. With the exception of Alachua County, the region is primarily rural, with a 2020 U.S. Census enumerated population of just over 575,000. Over one-half of the population, just over 296,000, resides in the Gainesville Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Alachua and Gilchrist Counties. Gainesville is home to the University of Florida, a land grant university, which is the primary economic driver of the region. Unlike many other regions of the state, north central Florida does not have beaches or theme parks, though it has a growing nature and eco-tourism base that takes advantage of the abundant presence of springs and rivers that flow through the region.



Suwannee River, Lafayette County

The regional climate is very temperate with summer high temperatures averaging in the low to mid-nineties and winter low temperatures averaging in the low to mid-forties. Record high temperatures have reached the low hundreds. Hard freezes are infrequent, with record low temperatures in the low teens. Average annual rainfall is approximately 50 inches. Hurricanes are a major source of concern throughout Florida. The remote coastal communities of the region are at the greatest risk for storm surge related flooding. However, the primary hurricane threats to most of the population centers of the region are from wind damage and rain induced local flooding.

While largely rural, the region benefits from an extensive transportation network. Interstate 75 is the primary north/south transportation artery that connects the region to central and south Florida, as well as the Southeastern U.S. and Midwest U.S. to the north. Interstate 10 is the east/west transportation artery that connects the region to Jacksonville on the east and the Florida panhandle and Alabama to the west. Rail service in the region is provided by CSX

“The region benefits from an extensive transportation network.”

Transportation, Norfolk Southern and other providers. Although the region is not home to a deepwater port, Columbia County will be host to an inland port facility that will be part of the Port of Jacksonville's international trade zone. There are numerous airport facilities in the region with substantial runway infrastructure. Currently, the Gainesville Regional Airport is the only airport with scheduled commercial service.

The economy of the region has proven relatively stable in relation to other areas of the state and nation. While the region has been negatively affected by the national economic downturn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, overall it has fared better than many other areas, with lower unemployment rates, rising trade exports and steadily rising Gross Domestic Product. State and local government, especially in education and prisons, remains the largest employment sector though a declining share of employment in the region. Health care is the second largest employment sector in the region, followed by retail trade.



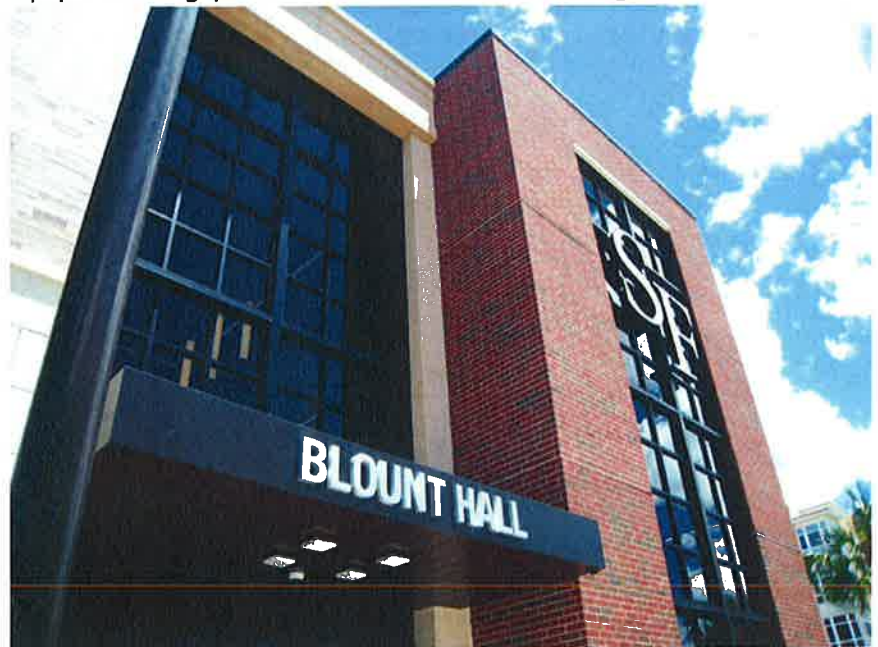
Industrial Water Supply Facility, Suwannee County

“The region is becoming known as an innovation center.”

The region is rapidly becoming known as an innovation center due to the success of the UF Innovate Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator in Alachua and the emergence of the UF Innovate Hub in Gainesville. A study by the Milken Institute identified the

University of Florida as the top performing public institution at transferring its research to the marketplace, and fifth in the nation overall.

Companies launched at the Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator have attracted over one-half billion dollars in private investments, contracts and grants. An estimated 16 percent of all biotech companies in Florida got their start at the Sid Martin facility.



Center for Innovation and Economic Development, Gainesville



Hurricanes and Tropical Storms

of Mexico could potentially result in a 46.6 percent loss to regional capital structure (building damage), a 38.8 percent regionwide job loss and a 34.0 percent population loss.

Each local government within the region has adopted a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which provides a detailed description of the process to be followed at the local level whenever an emergency or disaster occurs as a result of natural or human-made causes.



Hazardous Materials Response Training

The economy of the region is vulnerable to both natural and human-made disasters. Natural disasters include coastal storms, flooding, tornadoes and wildfires. Since over 95 percent of the drinking water source for the region is the Floridan Aquifer, the region is also susceptible to hazardous materials releases.

However, the most significant potential natural disaster facing the region is hurricanes and tropical storms. The 2011 North Central Florida Economic and Disaster Resiliency Study completed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council indicates that a Category 5 hurricane striking the region from the Gulf

“The economy of the region is vulnerable to both natural and human-made disasters.”

Under contract with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council serves as staff to the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee. The Committee is responsible for the preparation of a regional emergency response plan for hazardous materials releases for the district. In addition to the emergency response plan, the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee is also involved in establishing training programs, conducting emergency response exercises, providing public information campaigns and other activities aimed at minimizing risks from hazardous materials releases.

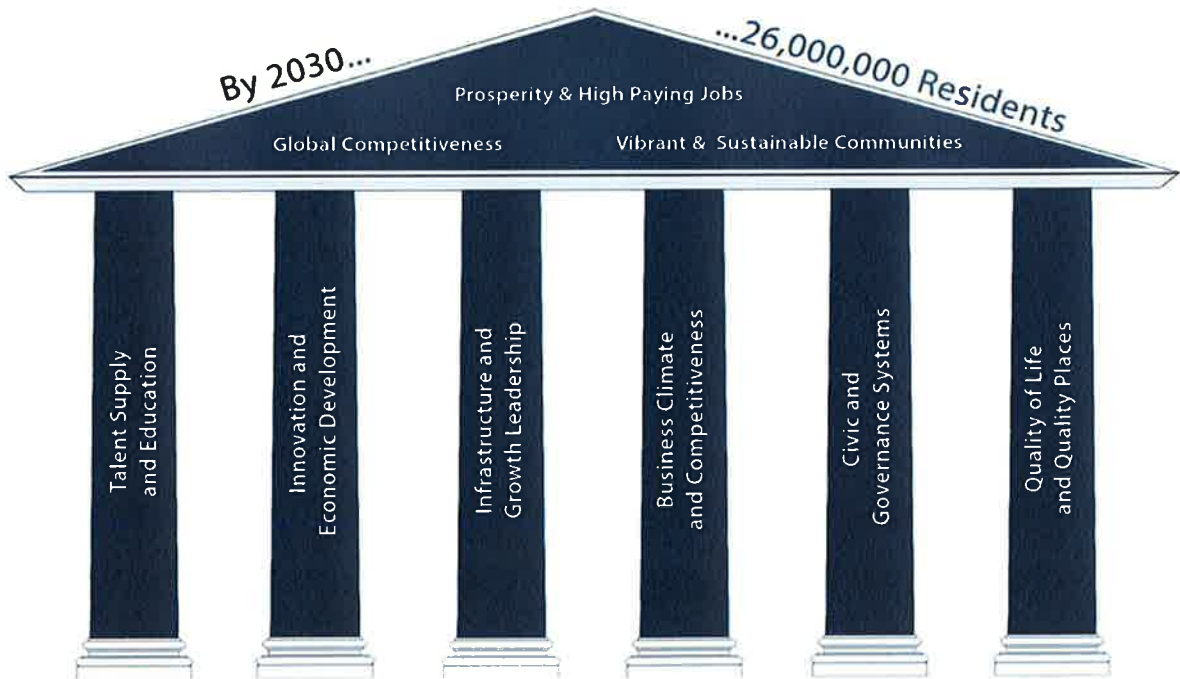
B. Goals and Objectives

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy establishes the goals and objectives necessary to solve the economic problems and capitalize on the resources of the region. Strategic projects, programs and activities identified in the Strategy are designed to fulfill these goals and objectives. The goals and objectives are organized using the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Six Pillars of Florida’s Future Economy.

“Florida Chamber Foundation’s Six Pillars is organizing framework for Goals and Objectives.”

- Goals are broad, primary regional expectations.
- Objectives are more specific than goals, clearly measurable, and stated in realistic terms considering what can be accomplished over the five-year time frame of the Strategy.

THE SIX PILLARS OF THE FLORIDA ECONOMY



The table below is the, “at-a-glance,” version of the North Central Florida Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

North Central Florida Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (2018 -2022)

October 2017 - September 2022

Vision					
<p>North Central Florida will become the leading rural region within Florida by creating a business environment that is a viable alternative to the urban areas of Florida. The region will be recognized as one of the best places to live, learn, work and do business in the state and nation.</p>					
Goals					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Enhance the region's competitiveness as a location for business, investment, talent, innovation and tourism o Expand north central Florida's intermodal transportation and communication systems to enhance the region's economic growth and prosperity. o Promote the region as a unique tourism destination, while preserving and enhancing the region's natural environment and quality of life. 					
Objectives					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Improve employment opportunities and residency in North Central Florida. o Foster opportunities for prosperity. o Grow local businesses. o Expand global commerce. o Increase north central Florida's attractiveness to employers, workers, residents and visitors. 					
Cross-Cutting Strategies					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen collaboration and alignment among north central Florida's public, private and non-profit entities toward a shared economic vision 2. Develop regional talent and innovation clusters using global best practices. 3. Position north central Florida as a globally competitive region by integrating economic development, infrastructure and other resources in support of regional economic development initiatives. 4. Diversify the regional economy by expanding existing industry clusters and supporting emerging innovation clusters. 					
Area-Specific Strategies					
Talent Supply & Education	Innovation & Economic Development	Infrastructure & Growth Leadership	Regulatory Climate & Government Services	Tourism & Entrepreneurial Economy	Quality of Life & Quality Places
<p>1. Convert and align education and workforce development programs to develop the region's current and future talent supply chain and meet employer needs.</p> <p>1.a. Expand options for high school students to become industry certified while still in high school, as an alternative to college path.</p>	<p>3. Grow, nurture and integrate efforts related to research and development, technology commercialization, and seed capital to create, nurture and expand regional innovation businesses.</p> <p>3.a. Support development of the Innovation Square research and development park in Gainesville, and the integration of the University of Florida's research enterprise and commercialization programs into the fabric of the Innovation Square project through the Florida Innovation Hub at the University of Florida and Progress Park in Alachua.</p>	<p>7. Advise the region's transportation, telecommunications, energy, water and wastewater systems to meet future demand and respond to changing business needs.</p> <p>7.a. Support the development of diverse, reliable and cost effective energy sources and systems to meet the region's economic and environmental goals.</p>	<p>9. Streamline permitting, development and other regulatory processes at the local level to meet changing business needs and provide a predictable legal and regulatory environment in the region.</p>	<p>13. Support and sustain regional partnerships to accomplish the region's economic and quality of life goals.</p> <p>13.a. Utilize the North Florida Economic Development Partnership's Economic Development Academy as a vehicle to provide a functional understanding of economic development concepts to local elected officials.</p>	<p>14. Ensure future growth and development decisions maintain a balance between sustaining the region's environment and enhancing the region's economy and quality of life.</p> <p>14.a. Create and sustain vibrant, healthy communities that attract workers, businesses, residents and visitors to the region.</p>
<p>1.b. Integrate education, training and workforce development to develop a strong supply chain.</p>	<p>3.b. Support the development of existing and new business incubators and accelerators throughout the region such as the Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center, the Santa Fe Center for Innovation and Economic Development in Gainesville and the Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator in Alachua.</p>	<p>7.b. Ensure the future supply and quality of water to meet the region's economic and quality of life goals by encouraging the use of the groundwater resources of the region in a sustainable manner and by strengthening local control of area surface and groundwater systems and supplies.</p>	<p>9.b. Develop a government revenue structure that encourages business growth and development.</p>	<p>13.b. Work with the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities to add economic development information to their curricula for newly elected officials.</p>	<p>14.b. Promote and incentivize local government in the development of vibrant city centers.</p>
<p>1.c. Support efforts by Florida Gateway College, North Florida Community College and Santa Fe College to expand education programs in healthcare related fields and create a marketing strategy to promote enrollment in health professions programs.</p>	<p>3.c. Support the development of existing and new industrial parks throughout the region such as Connerston in Gainesville.</p>	<p>7.c. Develop and maintain a cutting-edge telecommunications infrastructure by supporting initiatives to bring high-speed internet service to the rural areas of the region.</p>	<p>10. Ensure local government agencies provide collaborative, seamless, consistent and timely customer service to regional businesses.</p>	<p>13.c. Invest in strategic regional economic development priorities.</p>	<p>15. Promote, develop, and leverage the region's natural and cultural assets in a sustainable manner.</p>
<p>1.d. Support the creation of electronic medical records education and training programs utilizing a regional community adaptive health information technology model.</p>	<p>4. Increase the number of regional businesses engaged in selling goods and services internationally and the diversification of the markets they serve.</p>	<p>7.d. Develop and maintain multimodal, interconnected trade, logistics and transportation systems to enhance freight mobility in support of a prosperous, competitive economy.</p>	<p>10.a. Work with water management districts in the region to simplify permitting process for new and expanding businesses.</p>	<p>13.d. Support the efforts of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force and other regional tourism marketing organizations to develop sustainable tourism based economic development programs and increase the entrepreneurial capacity of the hospitality industry.</p>	
<p>2. Expand access to education and training programs for talent in distressed markets (e.g., rural, urban core) throughout the region.</p>	<p>4.a. Provide educational opportunities to regional businesses interested in international trade on the advantages of exporting their goods and services.</p>	<p>7.a. Support the continued development of the Gainesville Regional Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System and promote the destination of the Lake City Municipal Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System.</p>	<p>11. Expand opportunities for access to capital for businesses throughout their life cycle.</p>	<p>13.e. Improve the branding and awareness of the region as a tourism destination by leveraging regional resources with VISIT FLORIDA, the State's official tourism marketing organization.</p>	
<p>2.a. Support the creation of online and distance learning programs for students that lack other means of attaining necessary training.</p>	<p>5. Brand and market the north central Florida region as the best location for business.</p>	<p>4. Improve coordination of economic development, land use, infrastructure, water, energy, natural resources, workforce and community development decision-making and investments at the regional level.</p>	<p>11.a. Create a database of capital sources available to regional businesses.</p>	<p>13.f. Promote and support the state parks within the region and improve branding and awareness of the parks as a tourist destination.</p>	
	<p>5.a. Support the North Florida Economic Development Partnership asset mapping and geographic information system projects in the region.</p>	<p>4.a. Improve collaboration and alignment between regional/local agencies and business leaders through a regional vision.</p>	<p>12. To enhance the resilience of the North Central Florida economy in the face of natural disasters and changes to the national and state economies through increased preparedness and preparation by businesses for environmental risks.</p>		
	<p>5.b. Support the development of the Interregional Florida/Rural Economic Development Initiative Catalyst Sites located in Columbia County and Suwannee County by pursuing funding sources for the infrastructure necessary to develop the catalyst sites to shovel ready status.</p>				
	<p>6. Promote the continued viability of military installations in close proximity to the region.</p>				
	<p>6.a. Improve collaboration between local government and military leaders to utilize best management practices that ensure successful economic partnerships.</p>				
Priority Project Areas					
Talent Supply & Education	Innovation & Economic Development	Infrastructure & Growth Leadership	Regulatory Climate & Government Services	Tourism & Entrepreneurial Economy	Quality of Life & Quality Places
<p>Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry.</p>	<p>Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern.</p>	<p>Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including Highway Interchanges along Interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure.</p>	<p>Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive.</p>	<p>Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development.</p>	<p>Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.</p>
	<p>Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.</p>		<p>Educate government and business on continuity and recovery plans in the event of natural or man-made disasters to address workforce retention and secure access to loan and other assistance programs.</p>		

1. Talent Supply & Education

GOAL 1 - Connect and align education and workforce development programs to develop the region's current and future talent supply chain and meet employer needs.

**"Connect and align
education and workforce."**

Objective 1.1 - Expand options for high school students to become industry certified while still in high school, as an alternative to college path.

Objective 1.2 - Integrate education, training and workforce development to develop a strong supply chain.

Objective 1.3 - Support efforts by College of Central Florida, Florida Gateway College, North Florida Community College, Santa Fe College, CareerSource Citrus Levy and Marion, CareerSource Crown, CareerSource North Florida and CareerSource North Central Florida to expand education programs in healthcare related fields and create a marketing strategy to promote enrollment in health professions programs.



University of Florida, Gainesville

Objective 1.4
- Support the creation of electronic medical records education and training programs utilizing a regional community-adaptive health information technology model.

GOAL 2 - Expand access to education and training programs for talent in distressed markets (e.g., rural, urban core) throughout the region.

Objective 2.1 - Support the creation of online and distance learning programs for students that lack other means of attaining necessary training.

2. Innovation & Economic Development

GOAL 3 - Grow, sustain and integrate efforts related to research and development, technology commercialization, and seed capital to create, nurture and expand regional innovation businesses.

“Integrate research and commercialization to nurture innovation.”

Objective 3.1 - Support development of the Innovation Square research and development park through the integration of the University of Florida’s research enterprise and commercialization programs into the project through UF Innovate The Hub in Gainesville and Progress Park in Alachua.

Objective 3.2 - Support the development of existing and new business incubators and accelerators throughout the region such as the Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center, the Santa Fe Center for Innovation and Economic Development in Gainesville and the UF Innovate Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator in Alachua.

Objective 3.3 - Support the development of existing and new industrial parks throughout the region such as Cornerstone in Gainesville.

GOAL 4 - Increase the number of regional businesses engaged in selling goods and services internationally and the diversification of the markets they serve.



Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention, Gainesville

Objective 4.1 - Provide educational opportunities to regional businesses interested in international trade on the advantages of exporting their goods and services.

GOAL 5 - Brand and market the north central Florida region as the best location for business.

Objective 5.1 - Support the North Florida Economic Development Partnership asset mapping and geographic information system projects in the region.

Objective 5.2 - Support the development of the Enterprise Florida/Rural Economic Development Initiative Catalyst Sites located in Columbia County and Suwannee County by pursuing funding sources for the infrastructure necessary to develop the catalyst sites to shovel ready status.

GOAL 6 - Promote the continued viability of military installations in close proximity to the region.

Objective 6.1 - Improve collaboration between local government and military leaders to utilize best management practices that ensure successful economic partnerships.

3. Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

GOAL 7 - Modernize the region's transportation, telecommunications, energy, water and wastewater systems to meet future demand and respond to changing business needs.

**"Modernize infrastructure
of region."**

Objective 7.1 - Support the development of diverse, reliable and cost effective energy sources and systems to meet the region's economic and environmental goals.

Objective 7.2 - Ensure the future supply and quality of water to meet the region's economic and quality of life goals by encouraging the use of the groundwater resources of the region in a sustainable manner and by strengthening local control of area surface and groundwater systems and supplies.

Objective 7.3 - Develop and maintain a cutting-edge telecommunications infrastructure by supporting initiatives to bring high-speed internet service to the rural areas of the region.

Objective 7.4 - Develop and maintain multimodal, interconnected trade, logistics and transportation systems to enhance freight mobility in support of a prosperous, competitive economy.



Depot Avenue Rail-Trail Bridge, Gainesville

Objective 7.5 - Support the continued development of the Gainesville Regional Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System and promote the designation of the Lake City Gateway Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System.

GOAL 8 - Improve coordination of economic development, land use, infrastructure, water, energy, natural resources, workforce and community development decision-making and investments at the regional level.

Objective 8.1 - Improve collaboration and alignment between regional and local agencies and business leaders through a regional vision.

4. Business Climate & Competitiveness

GOAL 9 - Streamline permitting, development and other regulatory processes at the local level to meet changing business needs and provide a predictable legal and regulatory environment in the region.

“Streamline permitting to provide predictability.”

Objective 9.1 - Reduce barriers to small business and entrepreneurial growth.

Objective 9.2 - Develop a government revenue structure that encourages business growth and development.

GOAL 10 - Ensure local government agencies provide collaborative, seamless, consistent and timely customer service to regional businesses.

Objective 10.1 - Work with water management districts in the region to simplify permitting process for new and expanding businesses.



Power District Catalyst Building, Gainesville

GOAL 11 - Expand opportunities for access to capital for businesses throughout their life cycle.

Objective 11.1 - Create a database of capital sources available to regional businesses.

Goal 12: To enhance the resilience of the North Central Florida economy in the face of natural disasters and changes to the

national and state economies through increased awareness and preparation by businesses for environmental risks.

Objective 12.1 Educate government and businesses on continuity and recovery plans in the event of natural or man-made disasters to address workforce retention and ensure access to loan and other assistance programs.

5. Civic & Governance Systems

GOAL 13 - Support and sustain regional partnerships to accomplish the region's economic and quality of life goals.

"Support and sustain regional partnerships."

Objective 13.1 - Utilize the North Florida Economic Development Partnership's Economic Development Academy as a vehicle to provide a functional understanding of economic development concepts to local elected officials.

Objective 13.2 - Work with the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities to add economic development information to their curriculums for newly elected officials.

Objective 13.3 - Invest in strategic regional economic development priorities.



Lafayette County Courthouse, Mayo

6. Quality of Life & Quality Places

GOAL 14 - Ensure future growth and development decisions maintain a balance between sustaining the region's environment and enhancing the region's economy and quality of life.

"Create and sustain vibrant, healthy communities."

Objective 14.1 - Create and sustain vibrant, healthy communities that attract workers, businesses, residents and visitors to the region.

Objective 14.2 - Promote and incentivize local government in the development of vibrant city centers.

GOAL 15 - Promote, develop, and leverage the region's natural and cultural assets in a sustainable manner.



Downtown Arts Festival, Gainesville

Objective 15.1 - Support the efforts of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force and other regional tourism marketing organizations to develop sustainable tourism-based economic development programs and increase the entrepreneurial capacity of the hospitality industry.

Objective 15.2 - Improve the branding and awareness of the region as a tourism destination by leveraging regional resources with VISIT FLORIDA, the State's official tourism marketing organization.

Objective 15.3 - Promote and support the state parks within the region and improve branding and awareness of the parks as a tourist destination.

C. Plan of Action

The North Central Florida Economic Development District will coordinate the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy projects and activities with local and state economic development agencies where appropriate. The plan of action will implement the goals and objectives of the Strategy in alignment with the Florida Strategic Five-Year Plan for Economic Development as follows:

1. Conduct regular meetings of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee to monitor the status of regional projects and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy implementation. District staff will actively participate in economic development activities in the region and provide technical assistance when needed.

**“Support Rural Areas of
Critical Economic Concern
Catalyst Sites.”**

2. Support the North Florida Economic Development Partnership and the development of the North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity Catalyst Sites in Columbia and Suwannee Counties by serving on the Partnership’s Board of Directors and providing technical assistance when necessary.

3. Promote sustainable economic development through regional tourism promotion, while encouraging the preservation of resources that bring visitors to the area. The North Central Florida Economic Development District will provide professional staffing services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to implement their regional marketing strategies.

**“Support regional
tourism promotion.”**



Downtown Redevelopment, Gainesville

4. Identify economic development projects that may qualify for federal and state funding opportunities and provide grant writing and administrative services where needed.

5. Provide technical assistance in the form of economic impacts analysis, research, and best practices to local economic development organizations and government agencies.

6. Facilitate coordination between regional economic development strategies and the state’s five-year economic development plan.

D. Strategic Projects, Programs and Activities - Vital Project Areas of the North Central Florida Economic Development District

1. Talent Supply & Education

- a. Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry.

**"Vital Project Areas
focus on strengthening
the regional economy."**

2. Innovation & Economic Development

- a. Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity.
- b. Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.

3. Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

- a. Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including highway interchanges along interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure.

4. Business Climate & Competitiveness

- a. Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive.
- b. Educate government and businesses on continuity and recovery plans in the event of natural or man-made disasters to address workforce retention and ensure access to loan and other assistance programs.

5. Civic & Governance Systems

- a. Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development.

6. Quality of Life & Quality Places

- a. Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.

E. Opportunity Zones

Inventory and Map of Opportunity Zones

Opportunity Zones, created under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, are a federal economic development tool focused on improving the outcomes of communities across the country, especially in areas that have suffered from disinvestment over many years. Opportunity Zones are designated low-income census tracts where tax incentives are available to groups or individuals who invest in an Opportunity Fund (i.e., an investment vehicle for injecting money

in an Opportunity Zone) and hold their capital gains in Opportunity Zone-related assets or property. By investing in Opportunity Zones, investors stand to gain a temporary deferral on their capital gains taxes if they hold their investments for at least five years and a permanent exclusion from a tax on capital gains from the Opportunity Zones investments if the investments are held for ten years.

“Opportunity Zones are low-income census tracts where tax incentives are available to investors.”

There are 23 Opportunity Zones in the North Central Florida Economic Development District. The Opportunity Zones include eight Opportunity Zones in Alachua County; two Opportunity Zones each in Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Levy County and Suwannee County; and one Opportunity Zone each in Bradford County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Lafayette County, Madison County, Taylor County and Union County (see Illustration E-1).



Midtown Redevelopment, Gainesville

Key Partners and Collaborations

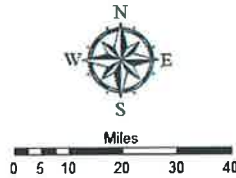
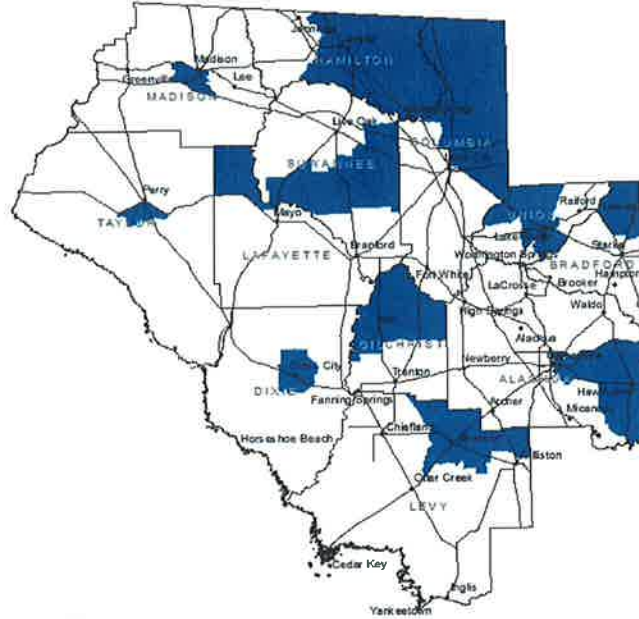
The key regional partners collaborating to enhance investment in Opportunity Zones include economic development organizations and institutions of higher learning. In particular, the economic development organizations include the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc., a 14-county not-for-profit corporation focused on advancing job creation opportunities throughout the 11 rural counties of the region and three adjacent rural counties; and the 12-county economic development

organizations in the region recognized by Enterprise Florida, Inc. The institutions of higher learning include the University of Florida, College of Central Florida, Gateway College, North Florida College and Santa Fe College.

Linkages to Data, Goals and Objectives, and Priority Projects

North Central Florida Opportunity Zones

The north central Florida Opportunity Zones cover 1,844 square miles. According to the United States Census, American Community Survey 2014-2018, the north central Florida Opportunity Zones have a population of 124,268 persons and a labor force of 45,348 workers. Investment in the Opportunity Zones will advance the Innovation and Economic Development Goals and Objectives of the Strategy. In addition, such investments will also advance the Vital Project Areas of the Strategy to support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity and support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.



F. Economic Recovery

Economic recovery is the process of adaptation and adjustment in response to a disruption or shock to the economy, for a swift return to economic equilibrium. Economic recovery planning focuses on economic development planning or implementation projects that build economic resilience to and long-term recovery from economic shocks. For a prosperous regional economy to thrive, businesses must be prepared for and adapt to any disruptions to operations that may occur. Regional economic recovery means attracting new businesses and industries to the region to promote a sustainable economy while supporting the expansion of existing businesses and creation of new businesses, developing a skilled workforce, and integrating data into the decision-making process.

“For a prosperous regional economy to thrive, businesses must be prepared for and adapt to any disruptions to operations that may occur.”

Recovery Challenges

Recovery challenges in the region include:



Innovation District, Gainesville

Workforce limitations such as lower wages and lack of training and child-care facilities;

Inadequate supply of affordable housing;

Limited access to routine medical care;

Inadequate broadband connectivity;

Governmental agencies with unconnected support systems; and

Lack of industry diversity.

Recovery Strategies

- **Restore Tourism Industry** - Communicate the importance of the tourism industry, and the role of the industry's success to lawmakers and communities; advocate for the swift return of business to the region in order to maximize potential economic impact. Work to attract tourists. Support and collaborate with communities and entities to offer new programs and products catering to travelers.



Blue Springs, Gilchrist County

- **Enhance Health Care System** - There are vulnerabilities within the health care system that disruptions to the economy highlight. Ensure that the regional population has access to health care, health care insurance, and has the community support to make healthy choices.
- **Keep Residents in their Homes** - Support emergency rental assistance and the organizations that distribute funding. Explore creative options to reduce mortgage payments for those unable to make payments during an emergency, while also supporting landlords. Support housing disaster assistance.



Regional Transit System, Gainesville

- **Enhance Childcare Services** - A fully functional childcare system is essential to maintain a resilient workforce. Work to maintain childcare infrastructure.

- **Revitalize Transportation Services** - Support transportation providers in re-building service and routes. Ensure transportation providers operate safely.



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North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Team

Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

- * Lauten Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner
- ** Kevin D. Parrish, Information Technology and Property Management Director
- ** Tara Tucker, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director

- * Primary Responsibility
- ** Secondary Responsibility



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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida’s regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives.

The Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying-out the following objectives.

- Ensure regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the State of Florida, its local governments, and the citizens they serve;
- Ensure regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate those multijurisdictional issues that need resolution;
- Encourage and promote opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments;
- Monitor substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promote mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils;
- Represent regional planning councils in national organizations, such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute; and
- Foster relationships and partnerships and coordinate with state, regional, and national associations and organizations; non-profit entities; public-private partnerships; the Governor’s Office; state agencies; and others, on issues of mutual interest and concern, and with whom the Association shares mutual goals and programs.

Please find attached the June 2022 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: June 2022

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the May 2022 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward*. Updated the FRCA website and Facebook page.
- Updated the email lists for and maintain the email listserv for approximately 2,350 individuals who receive *FRCA Forward*.
- Maintained and updated the FRCA website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated in or attended the following meetings and webinars:
 - Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Meeting
 - Florida Collaborative Coordinator Forum
 - Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference
 - Florida Division of Emergency Management State Emergency Shelter Plan Meeting
- Coordinated with the Florida League of Cities and the Economic Development Administration on a panel at the upcoming annual conference.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Hosted the June FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) and prepared for the July EDAC Meeting.
- Coordinated and staffed the Summer Policy Board Meeting held at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council on June 10, 2022.
- Continued to coordinate logistics for the 2022 meeting and conference schedule.
- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.



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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars.

- Talent and Supply Education;
- Innovation and Economic Development;
- Infrastructure and Growth Leadership;
- Business Climate and Competitiveness;
- Civic and Governance Systems; and
- Quality of Life and Quality Places.

Please find attached the July 2022 Scorecard.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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State of Florida Metrics

Click any metric to get more information! (what is this?)

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 07/12/2022

22,312,293

JOB CHANGE Jobs Year Over Year Change <h2>468,100</h2> Net New Jobs Needed by 2030 <h2>1.62M</h2>	CHILDREN IN POVERTY <h2>18.7%</h2> (Decreasing) <h2><10%</h2> 2030 Goal <h2>773,801</h2> (Decreasing)	3RD GRADE READING SCORES <h2>53%</h2> (Declining) View Statewide Heat Map <h2>100%</h2> 2030 Goal Florida Gap Map	OPEN JOBS <h2>499,371</h2> (Declining) <h2>313,000</h2> Unemployed Persons (Declining)
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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <h2>3.0%</h2> (Unchanged) View Statewide Heat Map Jobs Year Over Year Change <h2>468,100</h2> View Statewide Heat Map	3RD GRADE READING SCORES <h2>53%</h2> (Declining) View Statewide Heat Map <h2>100%</h2> 2030 Goal	STATE OF FLORIDA VISITORS <h2>\$98.8</h2> Billion Visitor Spending <h2>122.4</h2> Million Visitors	STATE HOUSING STARTS & SALES <h2>12,635</h2> Starts (Declining) <h2>28,861</h2> Sales (Improving)
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INCOME MIGRATION <h2>\$2.70M</h2> Per Hour	POVERTY RATE <h2>13.3%</h2> (Better) View Statewide Heat Map	CONSUMER SENTIMENT <h2>62.9</h2> (Improving)	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE <h2>90.1%</h2> (Improving) View Statewide Heat Map
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SALES TAX REVENUE <h2>\$4.263</h2> Billion per Month (Improving)	VOTER PARTICIPATION <h2>77%</h2> (Improving)	RIGHT / WRONG DIRECTION <h2>49%/43%</h2>	LAND IN CONSERVATION <h2>28%</h2>
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State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Talent Supply & Education

Click any metric to get more information!



State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)
Innovation & Economic Development

State of Florida FutureCast

Click any metric to get more information!



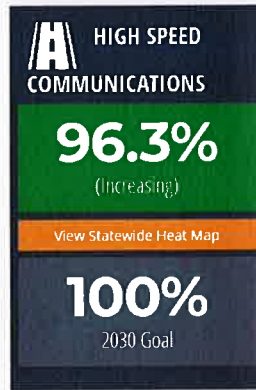
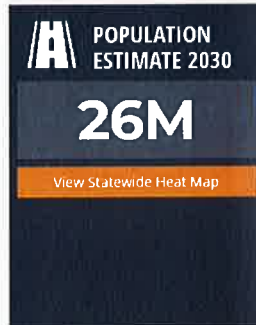
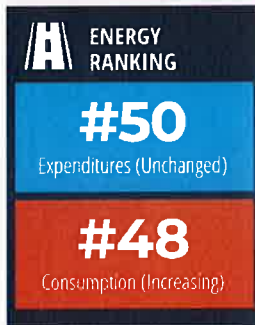


State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Click any metric to get more information!



THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data... ▼

- TALENT SUPPLY & EDUCATION
- INNOVATION & ECON. DEVELOP.
- INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP
- BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS
- CIVICS & GOVERNANCE
- QUALITY OF LIFE

State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Business Climate & Competitiveness

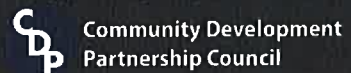
Click any metric to get more information!



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State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Civic & Governance Systems

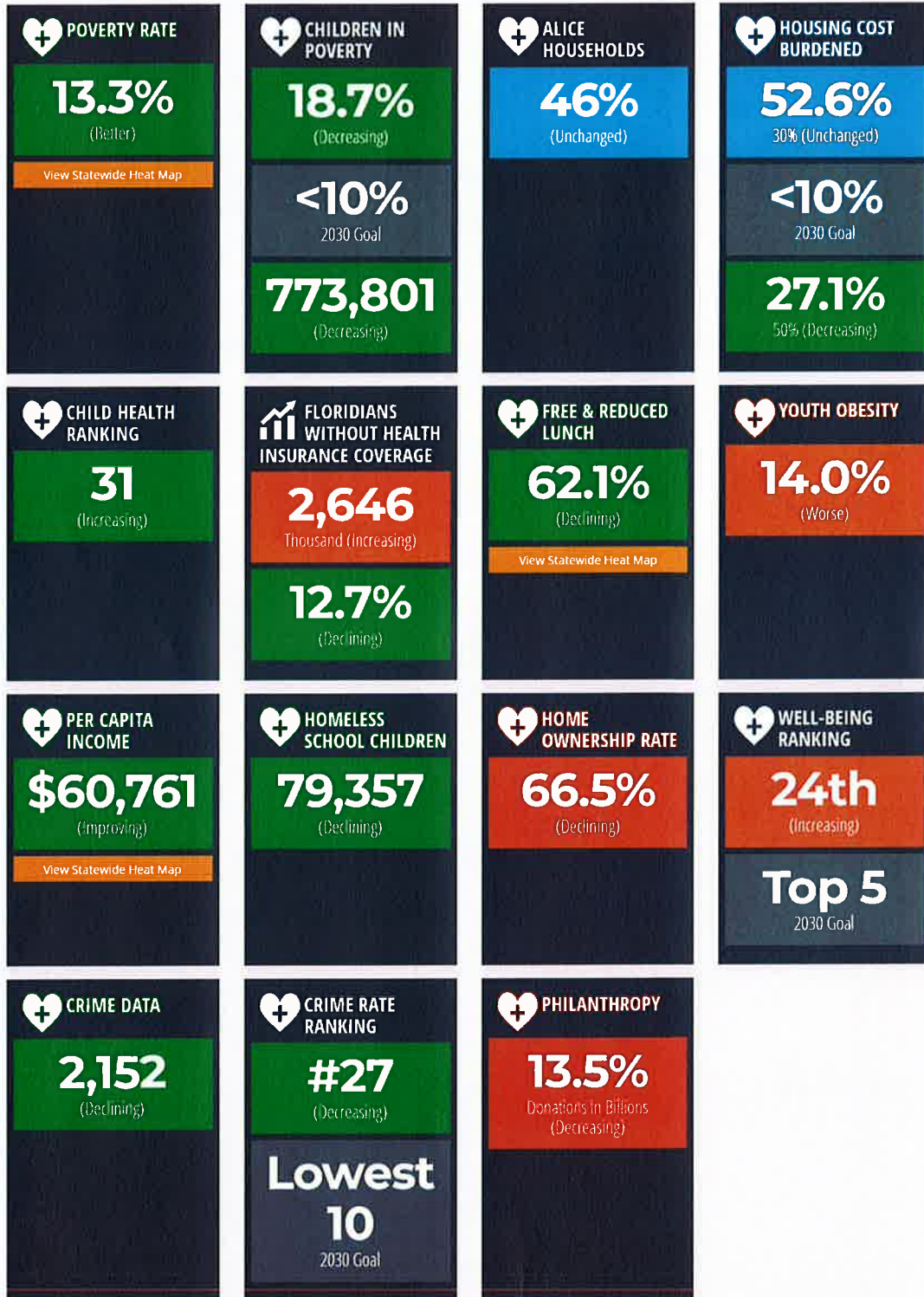
Click any metric to get more information!



State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)
Quality of Life and Quality Places

State of Florida FutureCast

Click any metric to get more information!





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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2021-22 James H. Montgomery Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

An essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings. A Council Member Attendance Recognition Program was established by the Council at the May 22, 2008 Council meeting to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending Council meetings.

The Council named the Member Attendance Recognition Program the James H. Montgomery Certificate of Outstanding Attendance in honor of Mr. Montgomery at the February 26, 2020 Council meeting. James H. Montgomery served on the Council from 1976 to 2004 as a member representing the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida. From 2010 to 2019, he served on the Council as a gubernatorial appointee. He provided 38 years of distinguished leadership and service to the Council.

James H. Montgomery served three times as Chair of the Council from 1983-84, 1994-95 and 2001-03. He also held other leadership roles during his service on the Council, including Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, Chair of the Finance Committee, Chair of the Program Committee and Chair of the Nominating Committee.

A James H. Montgomery Certificate of Outstanding Attendance will be awarded to the following members at the July 28, 2022 Council meeting in recognition of their attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2021-22.

County

- Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
- Robert Brown, Hamilton County
- Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
- Thomas Demps, Taylor County
- John Meeks, Levy County
- Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County

City

- Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
- Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

Please join me in recognizing the service and commitment of these Council members as exhibited by their perfect attendance record.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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July 21, 2022

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Directors Cup

In furtherance of the Council Member Attendance Recognition Program and to encourage attendance at Council meetings, the Executive Directors Cup is awarded each year to recognize the perfect attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year.

For Program Year 2021-22, the Executive Directors Cup will be awarded at the July 28, 2022 Council meeting to county members Commissioner Anthony Adams, Lafayette County; Commissioner Robert Brown, Hamilton County; Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County; Commissioner Thomas Demps, Taylor County; Commissioner John Meeks, Levy County; and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County. The Executive Directors Cup is prominently displayed at the Council office.

Congratulations to Commissioner Adams, Lafayette County; Commissioner Brown, Hamilton County; Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County; Commissioner Demps, Taylor County; Commissioner Meeks, Levy County; and Commissioner Wheeler, Alachua County for winning the Program Year 2021-22 Executive Directors Cup for the county members.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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