



Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

## MEETING NOTICE

# NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **September 22, 2022**. Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting in-person at the **Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Suwannee Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida**, and via Communications Media Technology at **7:00 p.m.**

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

**<https://meet.goto.com/335033677>**

**DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll Free: 1.866.899.4679**

**ACCESS CODE: 335-033-677**

### MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

*Please call the Council at 352.955.2200, or 800.226.0690, or email [tucker@ncfrpc.org](mailto:tucker@ncfrpc.org) by September 20, 2022 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting **in-person** or via **communications media technology**. (You can call after hours and leave a message on voice mail too.) **THANK YOU.***

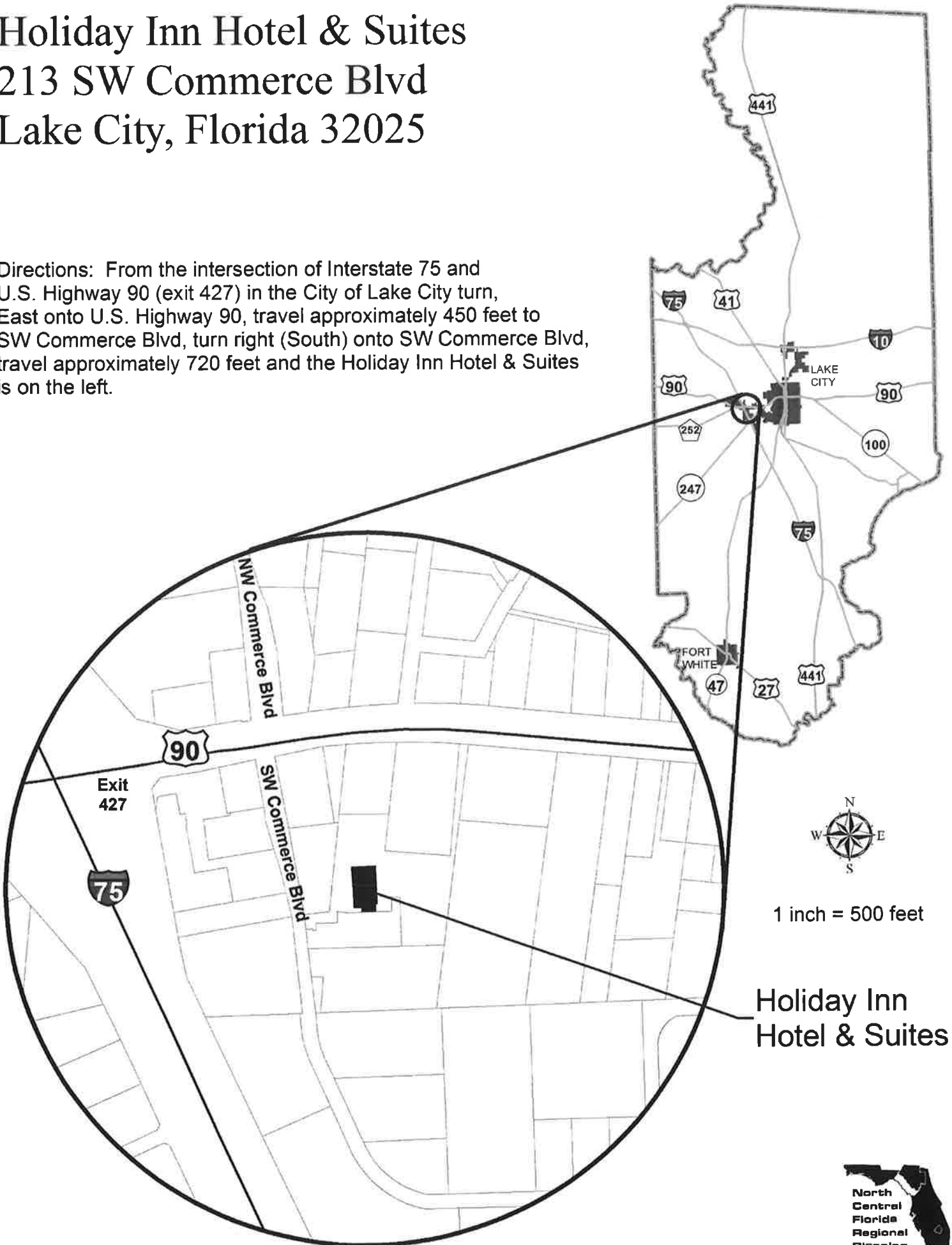
*Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on **Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets**, then click on **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet**).*

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.

# Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd  
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

## AGENDA

### NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Hybrid Public Meeting  
Holiday Inn & Suites  
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard  
Lake City, Florida and  
Via Communications Media Technology

September 22, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

	<u>Page</u>
I. INVOCATION	
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	
III. INTRODUCTIONS	
IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA	
* A. Minutes - August 25, 2022	5
* B. Monthly Financial Report - August 2022	11
V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA	
VI. PRESENTATION - NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY	
VII. CHAIR REPORT - None	

	<u>Page</u>
VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS	
A. Executive Committee -	
* 1. Proclamation Proclaiming October 2022 as Community Planning Month	17
* 2. Proclamation Proclaiming October 7, 2022 as Manufacturing Day	21
* 3. Proclamation Proclaiming October 17-23, 2022 Florida City Government Week	25
* 4. Executive Director Annual Evaluation	29
* B. Clearinghouse Committee	31
<u>Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items</u>	
1. #127 - Gilchrist County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)	
2. #129 - Town of Mayo Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)	
C. Audit Committee	
* 1. Selection of Auditor Fiscal Years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24	33
* 2. Engagement Letter for Auditor Fiscal Year 2021-22 Audit	35
D. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee	
* 1. Adoption of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027	43
IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS	
X. CITIZEN COMMENTS	
This agenda item provides an opportunity for citizens to address the Council on any matter not included on the agenda. The comment period is limited to three minutes for each individual.	
XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT	
* A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report	79
* B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard	83
* C. Florida Job Growth Grant Fund - Suwannee County	93
* D. 2022 Regional Directory	95
XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS	
This agenda item provides an opportunity for Council members to make announcements concerning community events and local government projects.	
XIII. NEXT MEETING - October 27, 2022	
* See Attachment	

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting  
Via Communications Media Technology

August 25, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Anthony Adams, Lafayette County**  
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne  
**Robert Brown, Hamilton County**  
Cynthia Chestnut, City of Gainesville  
Rick Coleman, City of Newberry  
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak  
Louie Davis, City of Waldo  
**Thomas Demps, Taylor County**  
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville  
**Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer**  
John Meeks, Levy County  
**Janice Mortimer, City of Starke**  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville  
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

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Logan Benedict, Florida Fish and  
Wildlife Conservation  
Ben Glass, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
David Tyler, Florida Department  
of Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Catron, City of Madison  
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
Linda Jones, City of High Springs  
Ward Ketring, City of Perry  
Travis Land, Suwannee County  
Dayna Miller, City of Alachua  
William Mitchell V, City of Jasper  
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
Toby Witt, Columbia County

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp  
Peggy Carr  
Beth Cicchette  
Diana Davis  
Stew Lilker  
Judy Rice  
Kim Tanzer

STAFF PRESENT

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 Judy Rice, City Clerk, City of Newberry; Sandra Buck-Camp, member of the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board; Peggy Carr, Gainesville Neighborhood Voices, Inc.; Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer. Kim Tanzer, Gainesville Neighborhood Voices, Inc. was also present at the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - July 28, 2022
- B. Monthly Financial Report - July 2022
- C. Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2022-23
- D. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services Agreements Fiscal Year 2022-23
- E. Hazardous Waste Monitoring Verification and Notification Services Agreements Fiscal Year 2022-23
- F. Interagency Agreement with East Central Florida Regional Planning Council to Participate in Regional Joint Mitigation Resiliency Project Amendment 1
- G. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

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

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

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Adams asked that the regular agenda, as amended, be approved.

**ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, to approve the regular agenda, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Beth Cicchetti, Executive Director, Florida Economic Development Council

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Beth Cicchetti, Executive Director, Florida Economic Development Council. Ms. Cicchetti gave a presentation to the Council concerning economic development initiatives in Florida. Chair Adams thanked Ms. Cicchetti for her presentation.

Commissioner Desmon-Duncan-Walker departed the meeting at this time.

VII. CHAIR REPORT - None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Assigned Fund Balance - Capital Reserve

Mr. Koons stated that during Fiscal Year 2020-21, \$3,831 depreciation of furniture, fixtures and equipment was applied to the capital assets of the Council resulting in a total of \$576,326 accumulated depreciation of fixed assets.

He also stated that the Capital Reserve Fund is maintained at an amount approximate to the accumulated depreciation of building and equipment to cover one-time capital expenditures for building improvements/repairs and equipment replacement/upgrades. Mr. Koons further noted, in order to maintain the Capital Reserve Fund at this level, the Executive Committee recommends that \$4,000 from the Council's unassigned fund balance be encumbered as part of the Capital Reserve Fund assigned fund balance to increase the amount for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs from \$573,000 to \$577,000.

**ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Riddick to approve the encumbrance of \$4,000 of the Council's unassigned fund balance as part of the assigned fund balance to increase the Capital Reserve Fund balance for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs to \$577,000. 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.

- #106 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR)
- #109 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-4ESR)
- #118 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR)
- #120 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-4ESR)
- #121 - Gilchrist County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER)
- #122 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-2ER)
- #123 - Town of Micanopy Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #124 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR)
- #125 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #126 - City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)

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 Mayor Louie Davis, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #106 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR); Item #109 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-4ESR); Item #118 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR); Item #120 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-4ESR); Item #121 - Gilchrist County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 21-1ER); Item #122 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-2ER); Item #123 - Town of Micanopy Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER); Item #124 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR); Item #125 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER) and Item #126 - City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER).

Commissioner Wheeler requested that the motion be divided and that Item #124 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR) be voted on separately from the other comprehensive plan review items. The maker of the motion, Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, and the seconder of the motion, Mayor Louie Davis, agreed to the division of the motion. Chair Adams granted the request by Commissioner Wheeler to divide the motion.

**The motion less Item #124 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR) carried unanimously.**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Saco, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item # 124 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-3ESR).

Peggy Clark, Gainesville Neighborhood Voices, Inc., spoke in opposition to the motion.  
Kim Tanzer, Gainesville Neighborhood Voices, Inc., spoke in opposition to the motion.  
Chair Adams requested a roll vote on the motion.

**Mr. Koons conducted a roll call vote on the motion resulting in the following Yeas - Commissioner Adams; Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson; Commissioner Brown; Mayor Frank Davis; Mayor Louie Davis; Commissioner Demps; Commissioner Meeks; Commissioner Mortimer; Commissioner Riddick; Commissioner Saco; Commissioner Stephenson; Commissioner Tallman; Ms. Thomas; Commissioner Waldrep; and Mayor Witt; and Nays - Commissioner Cynthia Chestnut; Commissioner Coleman; Commissioner Hope; and Commissioner Wheeler. The motion carried 15 Yeas, 4 Nays.**



IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Logan Benedict, Climate Adaptation Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, stated that the Commission will be undertaking a landscape conservation initiative with broad stakeholder engagement during the next year.

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 July 2022 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the July 2022 report.

B. 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 August 2022 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Adams stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on September 22, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

---

Anthony Adams, Chair

9/22/22  
Date





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653 -1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

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

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council's activities for August 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 11 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 11 months are 64 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

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\monthlyfinancereport for sept-2022.docx



**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**August 31, 2022**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**ASSETS**

Current Assets	
Checking / Savings	2,235,477
Accounts Receivable	546,462
Other Current Assets	29,120
Total Current Assets	<u>2,811,059</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>2,811,059</b></u>

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	12,918
Other Current Liabilities	391,292
Total Liabilities	<u>404,210</u>
Equity	<u>2,406,849</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>2,811,059</b></u>

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**August 31, 2022**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT**

	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2021-22</b>	<b>August 2022</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	2,013,500	1,595	1,585,784	79%
<b>Expenses</b>	2,013,500	103,863	1,282,683	64%

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**August 31, 2022**

**REVENUE**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2021-22</b>	<b>August 2022</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
Program Development	41,000	1,595	35,573	87%
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	0	101,978	77%
Hazards Analyses	17,600	0	0	0%
Transportation				
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning	483,800	0	196,325	41%
Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit	200,700	0	166,901	83%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	25,600	0	20,522	80%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	205,500	0	166,652	81%
Economic Development				
Economic Strategy & Technical Assistance	115,000	0	97,506	85%
Economic Strategy & Technical Assistance - Recovery	200,000	0	55,000	28%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	32,500	0	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	0	297,315	125%
Local Government Comprehensive Plan Study		0	15,000	
Community Development Block Grant Administration	80,000	0	63,449	79%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,013,500</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>1,585,784</b>	<b>79%</b>

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**August 31, 2022**

**EXPENDITURES**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2021-22</b>	<b>August 2022</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
Audit	17,000	0	17,175	101%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	160,000	5,414	55,661	35%
Contractual Services	118,000	2,235	85,986	73%
Dues, Publications, Subscriptions & Training	55,000	260	43,517	79%
Furniture & Equipment	15,000	0	0	0%
Insurance & Bonding	25,000	0	16,615	66%
Legal Services & Public Notices	11,000	877	10,830	98%
Machine Rental & Maintenance	7,000	1,158	4,867	70%
Meeting Expenses	20,000	0	0	0%
Moving Expense	2,000	0	0	0%
Office Supplies	26,000	3,173	17,176	66%
Personnel	1,286,400	85,954	921,539	72%
Postage	9,000	301	4,296	48%
Printing	2,000	0	2,109	105%
Recruiting	2,000	0	0	0%
Reproduction	22,000	1,336	12,203	55%
Telephone	12,000	952	6,889	57%
Travel	80,000	1,764	17,370	22%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	92,500	439	66,450	72%
Contingency	51,600	0	0	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,013,500</b>	<b>103,863</b>	<b>1,282,683</b>	<b>64%</b>






Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming October 2022 as Community Planning Month

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming October 2022 as Community Planning Month in the north central Florida region.**

BACKGROUND:

The month of October 2022 has been designated to celebrate National Community Planning Month. The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, endorse National Community Planning Month as an opportunity to highlight the contributions sound planning and plan implementation make to the quality of life in communities and the environment.

It is recommended that the Council join in the celebration of National Community Planning Month by proclaiming October 2022 as Community Planning Month to recognize the valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners and to extend its thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals (see attached Proclamation).

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\community planning month 22.docx





# PROCLAMATION

## PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2022 AS COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

WHEREAS, change is constant and affects all cities, towns, suburbs, counties, rural areas, regions, and other places; and

WHEREAS, community planning and plans can help manage this change in a way that provides better choices for how people work and live; and

WHEREAS, community planning provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community; and

WHEREAS, the full benefits of planning requires public officials and citizens who understand, support, and demand excellence in planning and plan implementation; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2022 is designated as National Community Planning Month throughout the United States of America and its territories; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the participation and dedication of the members of planning and zoning boards and other citizen planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the north central Florida region; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the many valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners in the north central Florida region and extend our heartfelt thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the month of October 2022 as ***Community Planning Month*** throughout the north central Florida region in conjunction with the celebration of National Community Planning Month.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 22nd day of September 2022.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brown  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Adams  
Chair





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming October 7, 2022 as Manufacturing Day

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming October 7, 2022 as Manufacturing Day in the north central Florida region.**

BACKGROUND:

The Fabrication and Manufacturers Association International, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Manufacturing Institute have designated the first Friday of October as Manufacturing Day.

This year October 7, 2022 has been designated to celebrate Manufacturing Day. Manufacturing Day is an effective way to highlight the importance of manufacturing in our region and support those manufacturing and school programs that prepare our workforce.

It is recommended that the Council join in the celebration of Manufacturing Day by proclaiming October 7, 2022 as Manufacturing Day to recognize the impact manufacturing has on the north central Florida region (see attached Proclamation).

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\manufacturing day 22.docx





# PROCLAMATION

## PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 7, 2022 AS MANUFACTURING DAY

WHEREAS, the Fabrication and Manufacturers Association International, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Manufacturing Institute have designated the first Friday of October as Manufacturing Day; and

WHEREAS, the goals of Manufacturing Day are to celebrate the impact manufacturing has on the north central Florida region, increase awareness about the benefits of a manufacturing career and attract students to future manufacturing jobs; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Manufacturing Day is an effective way to highlight the importance of manufacturing in our region and support those manufacturing and school programs that prepare our future workforce; and

WHEREAS, over 300 manufacturers provide jobs for over 12,000 citizens throughout the region and create products ranging from pulp and lumber products to orthopedic implant devices; and

WHEREAS, regional companies and education/workforce partners support manufacturing and manufacturing careers through increased collaboration and service to the regional manufacturing community; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing brings increased economic diversity to our region by providing high paying jobs at all skill levels and furthering the standard of living by focusing on technology, innovation and production.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims October 7, 2022 as *Manufacturing Day* in the north central Florida region and the Council urges all citizens to discover the value manufacturing brings to our economy and encourages students and educators to learn about the possibility of manufacturing as a career.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 22nd day of September 2022.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brown  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Adams  
Chair








Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director   
SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming October 17-23, 2022 as Florida City Government Week

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming October 17-23, 2022 as Florida City Government Week in the north central Florida region.**

The Florida League of Cities has designated the week of October 17-23, 2022 as Florida City Government Week. The League encourages cities to promote their cities through civic education activities.

Florida City Government Week is part of an ongoing effort sponsored by the League to raise public awareness about services that cities perform and to educate the public about how city government works. Cities are encouraged to involve their local schools, businesses, media and civic clubs in their Florida City Government Week activities.

It is recommended that the Council join in the recognition of city government by proclaiming the week of October 17-23, 2022 as Florida City Government Week (see attached Proclamation).

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\fl city government week 22.docx





# PROCLAMATION

## PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 17-23, 2022 AS FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, city government is the government closest to most citizens and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, this week offers important opportunity to spread the word to all citizens of Florida that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all citizens of Florida that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of October 17-23, 2022 as *Florida City Government Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 22nd day of September 2022.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brown  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Adams  
Chair





Serving Alachua  
 Bradford • Columbia  
 Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
 Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
 Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653 - 1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members  
 FROM: Anthony Adams, Chair  
 SUBJECT: Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation

The employment contract between the Executive Director and the Council specifies that the Executive Committee shall adopt performance standards to annually review and evaluate the Executive Director. It further specifies that the annual review and evaluation of the Executive Director shall be conducted by the Executive Committee. It also specifies that at its discretion, the Executive Committee is authorized to provide a merit increase to the Executive Director on an annual basis commencing October 1st of each year.

The Executive Committee has adopted performance standards to review and evaluate the Executive Director. An evaluation form incorporating these performance standards was mailed to each Executive Committee member to be completed prior to the September 22, 2022 Council meeting. The results of this evaluation have been tabulated by Council administrative staff and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on September 22, 2022. The action of the Executive Committee concerning the Executive Director annual performance evaluation and merit pay adjustment will be reported to the Council at the September 22, 2022 meeting.

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\executive director evaluation sept22.docx





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653 - 1 603 • 352 . 955 . 2200

September 15, 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., September 22, 2022. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the meeting will be a hybrid meeting conducted both in-person and 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

- #127 - Gilchrist County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)
- #129 - Town of Mayo Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)

***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.220922.docx







Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653 -1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Selection of Auditor for Fiscal Years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 Audits

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the selection of the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, of Lake City to conduct the Fiscal Year 2020-21, Fiscal Year 2021-22 and Fiscal Year 2022-23 audits of the Council, as recommended by the Audit Committee, with the understanding that this selection is for a three-year period unless the Council determines that the service being rendered is unsatisfactory.**

BACKGROUND:

At the June 23, 2022 Council meeting, the Council authorized the Audit Committee to conduct a search for an auditing firm to recommend to the Council. One member of the Committee was appointed to represent the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization since that organization has traditionally engaged the same firm to conduct its audit. The Committee was also instructed to conduct the search with the understanding that the firm selected would be engaged for a three-year period unless the Council determines that the service being rendered is unsatisfactory.

As instructed, the Committee accepted statements of qualifications through August 16, 2022. The Audit Committee met virtually via communications media technology on August 25, 2022 and evaluated two firms that submitted expressions of interest, and ranked them, as follows:

1. Powell & Jones Certified Public Accountants
2. Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

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

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\select auditor22.docx





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Engagement Letter for Fiscal Year 2021-22 Audit

RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize the Chair to execute an engagement letter with the auditing firm of Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, of Lake City to conduct the Fiscal Year 2021-22 audit of the Council's accounts for a lump sum fee for this service of \$17,500 with the understanding that this engagement includes an audit of the Council's Employee Pension Plan for the same fiscal year.**

BACKGROUND:

The Audit Committee met virtually via communications media technology on August 25, 2022, at which time they reviewed the ability of auditing firm personnel, auditing firm experience, auditing firm capacity to furnish requested services and auditing firm cost to complete the audit for the selected auditing firm, Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. Please find attached the proposed auditor engagement letter. As you can see, the fee to be charged is \$17,500 with an annual adjustment based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers during the three-year period, not to exceed three percent each year. This fee is \$325 more than the amount that was charged to prepare the audit for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Consequently, the Audit Committee recommends that the Council authorize the Chair to execute an engagement letter with Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants, to conduct the Fiscal Year 2021-22 audit.

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\engagementletter auditor 2021-22.docx





Richard C. Powell, Jr., CPA  
Marian Jones Powell, CPA

1359 S.W. Main Blvd.  
Lake City, Florida 32025  
386 / 755-4200  
Fax: 386 / 719-5504  
admin@powellandjonescpa.com

September 14, 2022

Honorable Anthony Adams, Chair  
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
2009 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Place  
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the year ended September 30, 2022, and the two subsequent one-year periods.

### **Audit Scope and Objectives**

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and the aggregate remaining fund information, and the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis
- 2) Budgetary Comparison Statements

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements:

- 1) Grant Schedule

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP; and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

The objectives also include reporting on internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of your accounting records of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

### **Audit Procedures—Internal Control**

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

(Continued)

### **Audit Procedures—Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Other Services**

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is responsible for making all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate

(Continued)

steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, or contracts or grant agreements that we report.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

#### **Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all requested cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We will provide copies of our reports to North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Powell and Jones CPAs and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to any state or federal agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for the purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Powell and Jones CPAs personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend or decide to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the state or federal agency. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Richard Powell is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. We expect to begin our audit on approximately December 1, 2022 and to issue our reports no later than June 30, 2023.

Our fee for services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.) except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses, will be \$17,500 for 2022. Subsequent yearly fees will be increased by the increase in CPI-U, not to exceed 3 percent yearly. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

(Continued)



**Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to management and the Board of Directors of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will state (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



Powell and Jones CPAs

**RESPONSE:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Management signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Governance signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued)





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Adoption of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report - 2023-2027

RECOMMENDATION:

**Adopt Resolution No. 2022-13 adopting the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027 and authorize that it be submitted to the U. S. Economic Development Administration.**

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 for funding under its economic development program.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee met virtually via communications media technology on 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.

On July 28, 2022, the Council authorized a 30-day public comment period on the draft Strategy. The 30-day comment period ended on September 1, 2022. No comments were received concerning the draft Strategy.

Please find attached Resolution No. 2022-13 adopting the Strategy 2023-2027. The Strategy includes Executive Summary, Goals and Objectives, Plan of Action, and Priority Project Areas. The priority project areas recommended by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee are listed below.

**1. Talent Supply & Education**

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

**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**

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 assistance programs.

**5. Civic & Governance Systems**

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

**6. Quality of Life & Quality Places**

Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\ceds final report 2023-27.docx

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL ADOPTING THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023-2027; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration an economic development district; and

WHEREAS, economic development districts are required to prepare, adopt and maintain a comprehensive economic development strategy to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of their region; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive economic development strategy qualifies the region and local governments located within the region for federal assistance under Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Act programs; and

WHEREAS, economic development districts are required to update their comprehensive economic development strategies at least every five years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby adopts the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027, dated September 22, 2022, and said strategy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part hereof; and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that all resolutions or portions of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict; and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that this resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 22nd day of September 2022.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Adams, Chair





# North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2023-2027



North Central Florida  
Regional Planning Council - DRAFT

September 22, 2022





# North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2023-2027

September 22, 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



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



## 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



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY





# 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.

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, Lawtey 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.





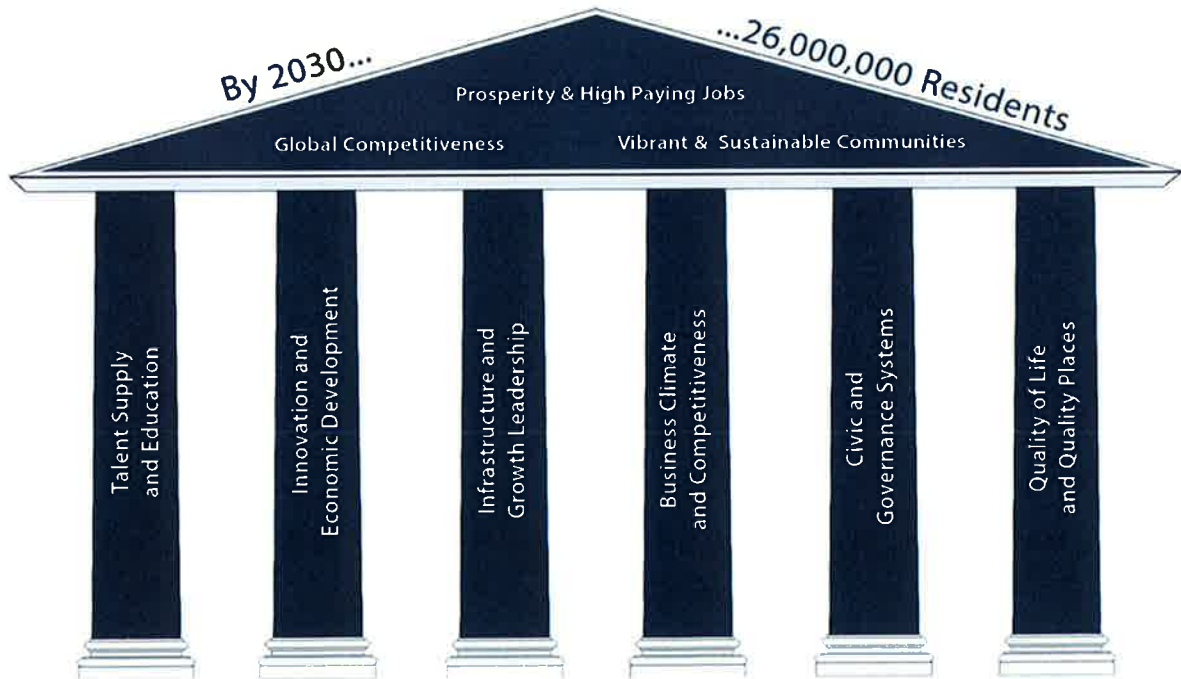
## B. Goals and Objectives

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					
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.					
Goals					
Enhance the region's competitiveness as a location for business, investment, talent, innovation and tourism. Expand north central Florida's intermodal transportation and communication systems to enhance the region's economic growth and prosperity. Preserve the region as a unique tourism destination, while preserving and enhancing the region's natural environment and quality of life.					
Objectives					
Improve employment opportunities and resiliency in North Central Florida. Foster opportunities for prosperity. Grow local businesses. Expand global commerce. Increase north central Florida's attractiveness to employers, workers, residents and visitors.					
Cross-Cutting Strategies					
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	Global Commerce & Competitiveness	Risk & Resilience Systems	Quality of Life & Quality Places
1.1. Conduct adult education and workforce development programs to develop the region's current and future talent supply chain and meet employer needs.  1.1.a. Expand options for high school students to become industry certified while still in high school, as an alternative to college path.  1.1.b. Integrate education, training and workforce development to develop a strong supply chain.  1.1.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.  1.1.d. Support the creation of electronic medical records education and training programs utilizing a regional community adaptive health information technology model.  1.2. Expand access to education and training programs for talent in distressed markets (e.g., rural, urban core) throughout the region.  2.a. Support the creation of online and distance learning programs for students that lack other means of attaining necessary training.	1.2. Grow, sustain and integrate efforts related to research and development, technology commercialization, and seed capital to create, nurture and expand regional innovation businesses.  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.  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.  3.c. Support the development of existing and new substantial parks throughout the region such as Cornerstone in Gainesville.  4. Increase the number of regional businesses engaged in selling goods and services internationally and the diversification of the markets they serve.  4.a. Provide educational opportunities to regional businesses interested in international trade on the advantages of exporting their goods and services.  5. Brand and market the north central Florida region as the best location for business.  5.a. Support the North Florida Economic Development Partnership asset mapping and geographic information system projects in the region.  5.b. Support the development of the Enterprise Florida/Rural Economic Development Initiative Catalyst Sites located in Columbia County and Seminole County by pursuing funding sources for the infrastructure necessary to develop the catalyst sites to almost ready status.  6. Promote the continued viability of military installations in close proximity to the region.  6.a. Improve collaboration between local government and military leaders to utilize best management practices that ensure successful economic partnerships.	2. Modernize the region's transportation, telecommunications, energy, water and wastewater systems to meet future demand and respond to changing business needs.  7.a. Support the development of diverse, reliable and cost effective energy sources and systems to meet the region's economic and environmental goals.  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.  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.  7.d. Develop and maintain multimodal, interconnected trade, logistic and transportation systems to enhance freight mobility in support of a prosperous, competitive economy.  7.e. 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 Municipal Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System.  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.  8.a. Improve collaboration and alignment between regional/local agencies and business leaders through a regional vision.	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.  9.a. Reduce barriers to small business and entrepreneurial growth.  9.b. Develop a government revenue structure that encourages business growth and development.  10. Ensure local government agencies provide collaborative, seamless, consistent and timely customer service to regional businesses.  10.a. Work with water management districts in the region to simplify permitting process for new and expanding businesses.  11. Expand opportunities for access to capital for businesses throughout their life cycle.  11.a. Create a database of capital sources available to regional businesses.  12. To enhance the resilience of the North Central Florida economy in the face of natural disasters and changes in the national and state economies through increased awareness and preparation by business for environmental risks.	13. Support and sustain regional partnerships to accomplish the region's economic and quality of life goals.  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.  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.  13.c. Invest in strategic regional economic development priorities.  13.d. Promote and support the state parks within the region and improve branding and awareness of the parks as a tourist destination.	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.  14.a. Create and sustain vibrant, healthy communities that attract workers, businesses, residents and visitors to the region.  14.b. Promote and increase local government in the development of vibrant city centers.  15. Promote, develop, and leverage the region's natural and cultural assets in a sustainable manner.  15.a. 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.  15.b. 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.  15.c. Promote and support the state parks within the region and improve branding and awareness of the parks as a tourist destination.
Priority Project Areas					
Talent Supply & Education	Innovation & Economic Development	Infrastructure & Growth Leadership	Global Commerce & Competitiveness	Risk & Resilience Systems	Quality of Life & Quality Places
Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry.	Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Ace of Critical Economic Concern.  Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.	Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including highway interchanges along interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure.	Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive.  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.	Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development.	Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.

## 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**

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.

### 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

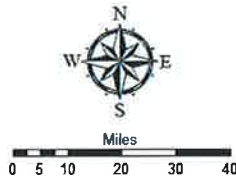
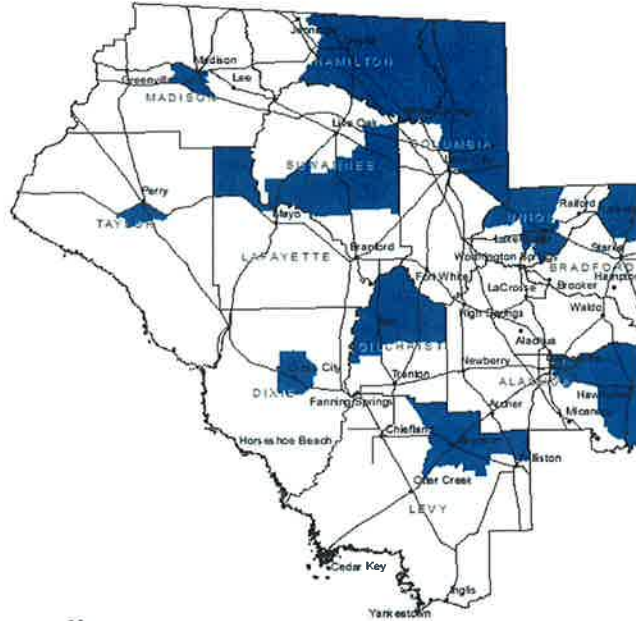




Linkages to Data, Goals and Objectives, and Priority Projects

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.





THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

---

## 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



Use the QR Reader App  
on your smart phone to  
visit our website!

## North Central Florida Region Regional Planning Council

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603



[www.ncfrpc.org](http://www.ncfrpc.org)



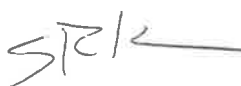
Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 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 August 2022 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association.

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

#### Attachments

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\fracamonthlyreport sept 22.docx







Apalachee • Central Florida  
East Central Florida • Emerald Coast  
North Central Florida • Northeast Florida • South Florida  
Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

---

## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: August 2022

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the Summer 2022 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward*.
- Updated the email lists for and maintained the email listserv for approximately 2,750 individuals who receive *FRCA Forward*.
- Maintained and updated the FRCA website: [www.flregionalcouncils.org](http://www.flregionalcouncils.org).
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated with, or attended the following meetings and webinars:
  - Department of Economic Opportunity Broadband Strategic Plan Webinar
  - Florida Chamber Foundation Coordination Meeting
  - Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Coordination Meeting
  - Florida Division of Emergency Management - Statewide Shelter Plan Working Group
  - Florida Collaborative Coordinator Forum
  - Rural Economic Development Initiative Meeting
- Attended the Florida League of Cities and moderated a panel with the Economic Development Administration and RPC staff.

### ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Hosted the August FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) and prepared for the September EDAC Meeting and FRCA Partners Meeting.
- Continued to coordinate logistics for the 2022-23 meeting and conference schedule.
- Distributed grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 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 September 2022 Scorecard.

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\flchamberscorecard sept 2022.docx



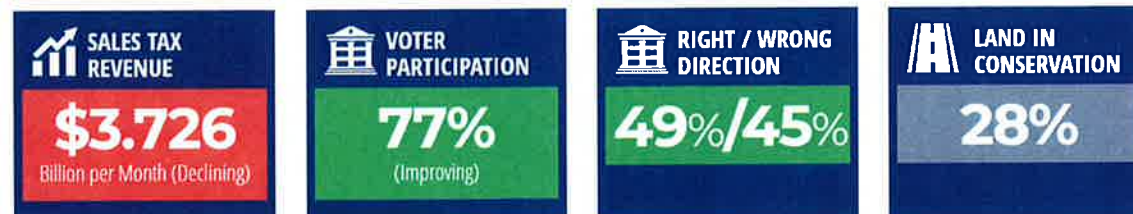
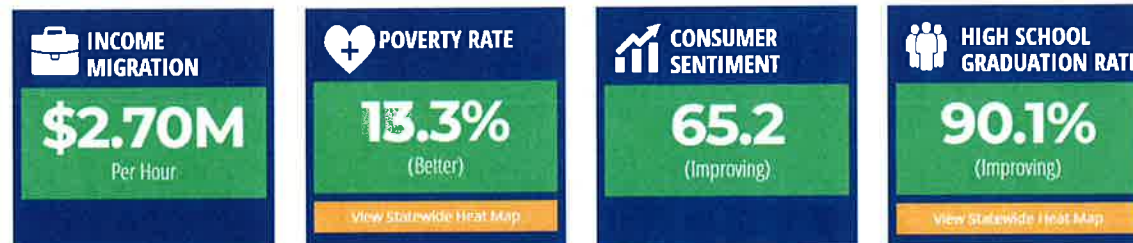
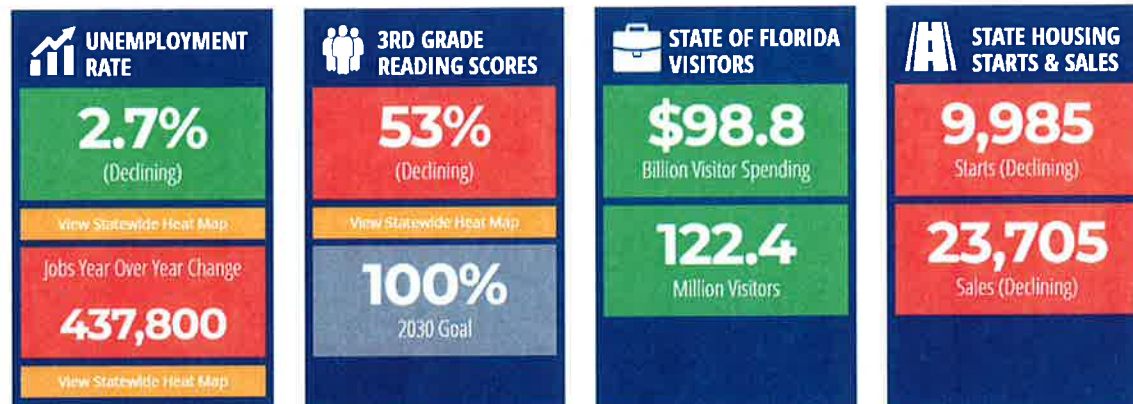
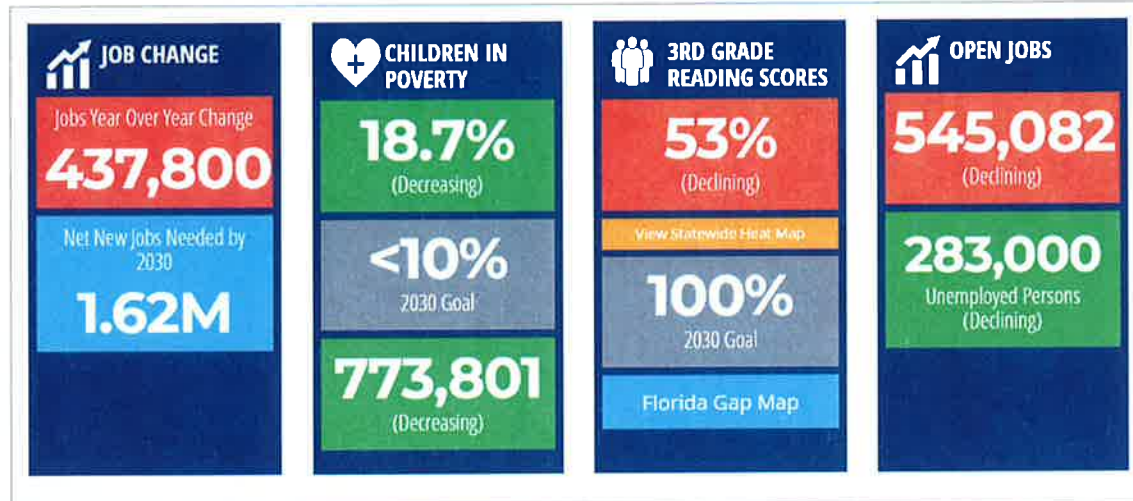
## State of Florida Metrics

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

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 09/12/2022

**22,388,332**







## State of Florida Metrics (with 14 filters)

### Talent Supply & Education

State of Florida FutureCast

Click any metric to get more information!



State of Florida Metrics (What's New?)

State of Florida FutureCent

Innovation & Economic Development

Click any metric to get more information!



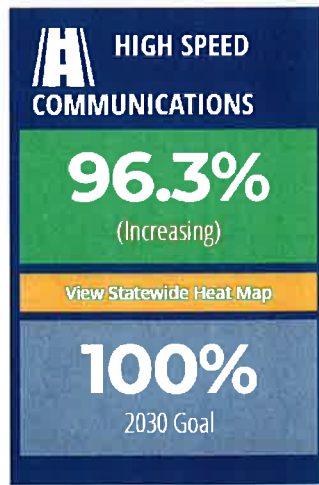
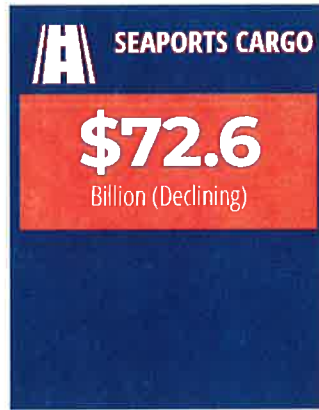
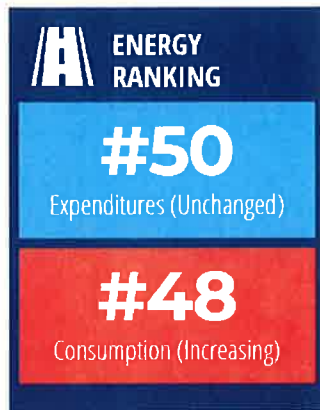
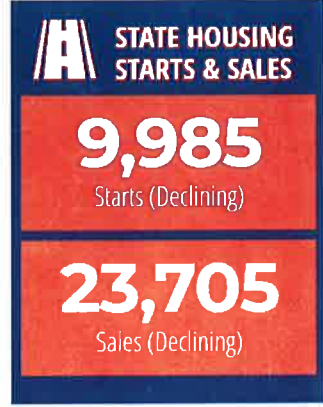
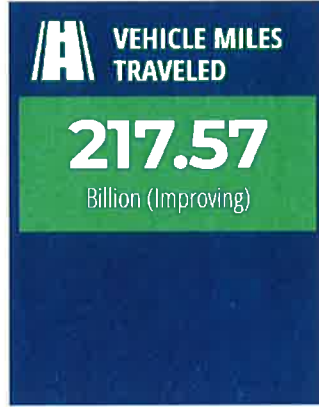
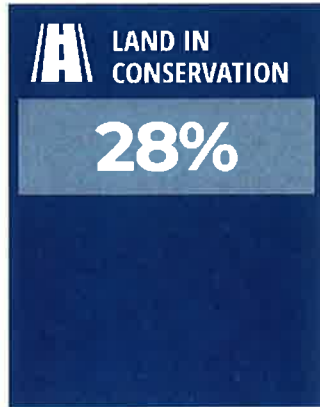


## State of Florida Metrics (What is This?)

### Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

State of Florida FutureCast

Click any metric to get more information!



## State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

### Business Climate & Competitiveness

Click any metric to get more information!



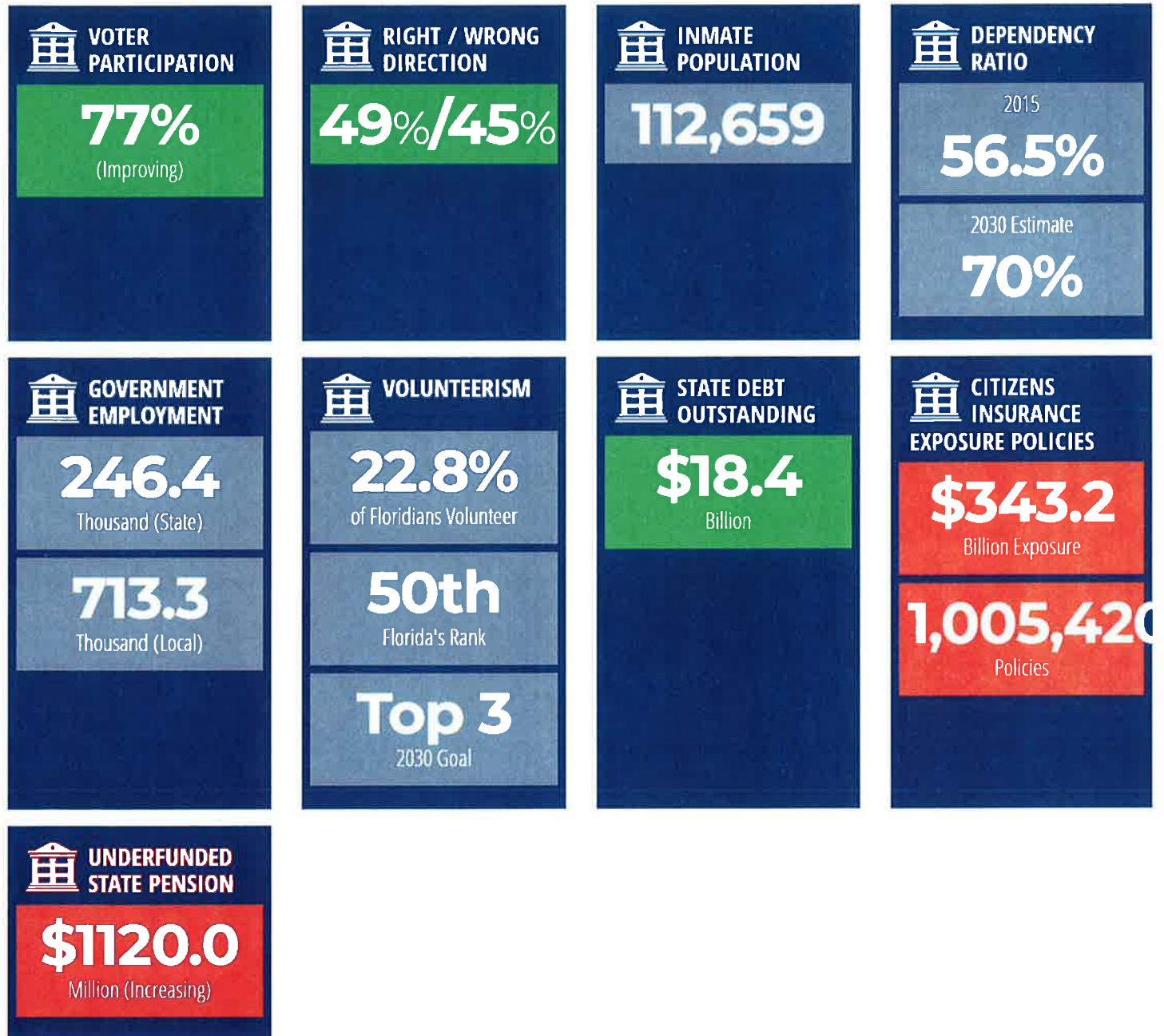


## State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

### Civic & Governance Systems

State of Florida FutureCast

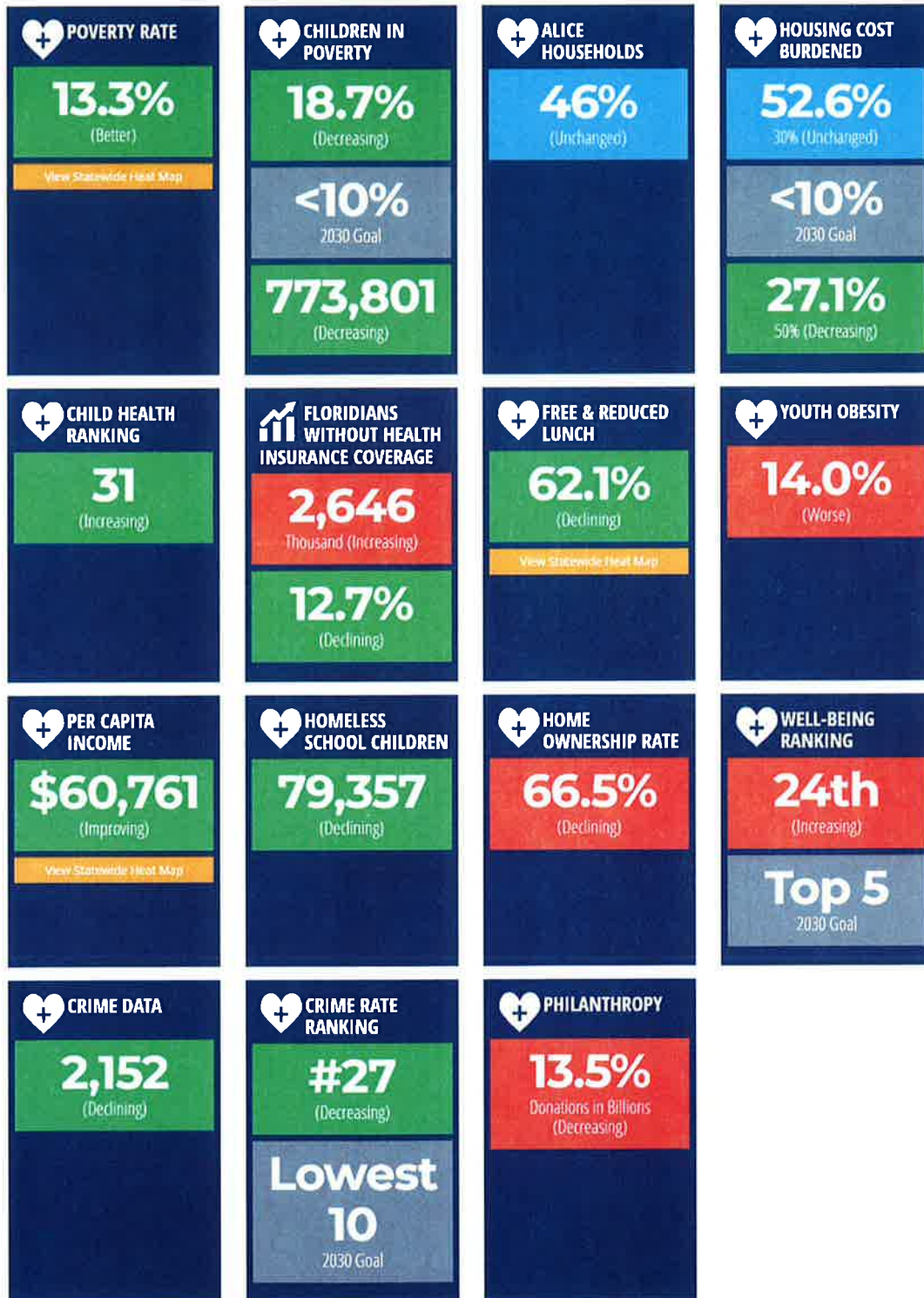
Click any metric to get more information!



State of Florida Metrics (What to Use?)  
Quality of Life and Quality Places

State of Florida FutureCast

Click any metric to get more information!





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653 -1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

Pursuant to Section 288.101, Florida Statutes, the Florida Job Growth Fund is an economic development program designed to build on Florida's success and economic prosperity. In its first year, Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), the Florida Job Growth Fund provided \$85 million. The Fiscal Year 2020-21 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) state budget provides \$50 million for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida's diverse industries.

Public infrastructure projects can include transportation and utilities needed to support economic development. Workforce training projects will provide Floridians with transferable, sustainable workforce skills applicable to many employers.

Project proposals can come from local governments, community colleges, technical centers, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Enterprise Florida, Inc. and Florida Department of Transportation. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Enterprise Florida, Inc. will make project recommendations to the Governor who can approve projects for funding based on local and regional needs.

**Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility**

- Promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry;
- Are not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity; and
- Are for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the public.

**Workforce Training Grant Eligibility**

- Support programs and associated equipment at state colleges and state technical centers;
- Provide participants with transferable and sustainable workforce skills applicable to more than a single employer;
- Are offered to the public;
- Are based on criteria established by the state colleges and state technical centers; and
- Prohibit the exclusion of applicants who are unemployed or underemployed.

## Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

Page 2

On February 6, 2018, \$35 million in grant awards were announced for nine Florida Job Growth Fund projects across the state. The awards included the following three projects in the north central Florida region.

- **Columbia County** - \$3,135,600 for the construction of the North Florida Mega Industrial Park Rail Project to construct a rail spur to allow access to an industrial park of more than 2,600 acres.
- **Suwannee County** - \$3,125,000 to provide water supply and fire protection to the Interstate 75 and County Road 136 interchange.
- **City of Alachua** - \$6,755,000 to construct the San Felasco Parkway and nearby utilities, connecting a large bioscience cluster, including the University of Florida Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute, to a shovel-ready site of 280 acres.

On March 6, 2018, an additional \$22.9 million in grant awards were announced for 11 Florida Job Growth Fund projects across the state. The awards included the following project in the north central Florida region.

- **Big Bend Technical College (Taylor County)** - \$100,000 to open a Diesel Mechanic Technician Program and a Diesel System Technical 1 Program that will train students for positions working with diesel transportation vehicles and diesel engines, along with purchasing equipment needed for the hands-on laboratory.

In December 2021, the Big Bend Technical College located in Perry, received the following Florida Job Growth Fund grant award.

- **Big Bend Technical College (Taylor County)** - \$90,000 for a Virtual Reality and High Tech Manikin Training Laboratory - The funds will be used to purchase state-of-the-art programmable manikins and virtual reality equipment and software to replicate real-world scenarios to supplement clinical experiences, which with the pandemic is more crucial than ever to train nurses and patient care technicians.

On April 5, 2022, Hamilton County received the following Florida Job Growth Fund grant award.

- **Hamilton County** - \$5,400,000 to provide an access road, and water and sanitary sewer facilities for a logistics center and travel center with the potential for futures manufacturing opportunities on a 57-acre site at the Interstate 75 and State Road 6 interchange.

On August 30, 2022, Suwannee County received the following Florida Job Growth Fund grant award.

- **Suwannee County** - \$1,900,000 to expand water distribution infrastructure and treatment facilities at the Rural Area of Opportunity Catalyst Site for future manufacturing and distribution opportunities on the 500-acre site at Interstate 10 and U.S. Highway 90 interchange.

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

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\florida job growth 9-22.docx



Serving Alachua  
 Bradford • Columbia  
 Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
 Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
 Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653 - 1603 • 352.955.2200

September 15, 2022

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2022 Regional Directory

Pursuant to Council authorization, staff prepared a regional directory of local governments in the region and state and federal agencies. The 2022 Regional Directory was recently mailed to local, regional, state and federal officials, and planning and related agencies. Council staff would like to thank everyone who assisted in compiling this information.

A downloadable version of the 2022 Regional Directory in pdf format is also available on the Council website at [www.ncfrpc.org](http://www.ncfrpc.org).

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

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\regional directory 2022.docx