



## **Southwest Florida Economic Development District Funded Projects – Economic Development Federal Awards**

### **2014– Advanced Manufacturing in West Central Florida - \$58,257**

Southwest Florida RPC and TBRPC received matching grant assistance from the Economic Development Administration to analyze advanced manufacturing in the southwestern Florida counties. The Advanced Manufacturing Analysis will create an ecosystem to support regional development by accelerating manufacturing transformation toward emerging export products and demand. The pilot prototype will be transferable to the other EDD's in the future. The analysis will be completed in August 2015.

Analyzing the manufacturing collectivity in the region will allow the project to lay the foundation for the creation of a manufacturing process capabilities index. This supply chain dataset would be a registry of existing manufacturing capabilities used to measure the project quality. In manufacturing, process capability indices are widely used to measure whether the project quality meets the customers' requirements. The setting and communication becomes much simpler and easier by using process capability indices to express process capability between manufacturers and customers. The indices are intended to provide a concise summary of importance that is readily usable. This becomes a common language and enables cost savings. This concept will relate directly to the analysis establish the foundation for a manufacture's capabilities index.

The Advanced Manufacturing Analysis will help counties and the respective economic development organizations by identifying key players and strategic actions required to grow and expand the manufacturing base. The study will determine which employment would be best suited for each county using the REMI PI+ econometric model and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). A regional website will be developed for utilization of these sites and marketing to economic development organizations and their respective prospects.

### **2012 – Renewable Energy and Research Diamond - Lee County - \$551, 000**

The Council worked closely with Lee County to prepare a successful application for assistance from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The County received \$551,000 to support the preliminary design, modeling, and permitting of wastewater and infrastructure improvements to serve the region's Renewable Energy and Research Diamond. The project is expected to create 1,500 new jobs and attract more than \$10 million in private investment.

The EDA grant funds the planning phase for a new wastewater treatment system that will replace existing septic tank systems. This will allow for expansion of the "Renewable Energy and Research



Diamond," a designated high-tech industrial area targeted by Lee County for economic diversification and job creation. The Renewable Energy and Research Diamond is anchored by Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and the Southwest Florida International Airport, and includes several private-sector industrial, commercial, and research-oriented facilities. FGCU has already committed to the construction of two research and business incubation facilities on the site.

### **2011 – Florida Energy Resiliency Report - \$1,112,989**

In December 2013, the Florida's eleven [Regional Planning Councils](#) released the Florida Energy Resiliency Report for the State of Florida. In preparing the Energy Resiliency Report, the team surveyed public attitudes to energy costs and tolerance for alternative choices; considered the circumstances of energy issues that are specific to Florida; and performed sophisticated economic analysis by modeling scenarios of different energy policy scenarios or potential future supply disruption events. The report also identifies and assesses strategies that Florida might use to guide its energy future and create and retain jobs. Florida utilities, universities, government agencies, local officials, and businesses were engaged during the report's development.

For more information: <http://www.florida-energy.org/>

### **2007 - Florida Regional Incubator Network Study for Southwest Florida - \$30,000**

The Council was awarded \$30,000 to develop a plan for a regional incubator network from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The study was sponsored by the Southwest Florida economic development organizations, regional firms, foundations, and private individuals. The study was administered by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and completed by the Regional Economic Research Institute at Florida Gulf Coast University.

This study is a key foundation in developing a better economic development plan for the region that includes not only local incubators but a regional incubator network that can share and pool resources in a way that is effective and efficient. The regional incubator network is a regional initiative that came out of the CEDS planning process is incorporated in the region's CEDS plan

### **FY 04/05 - City of Fort Myers Southwest Florida Enterprise Center - \$1.5 Million**

The Council assisted the City of Fort Myers with its application to the EDA for financial assistance to develop and expand this business incubator. The Southwest Florida Enterprise Center will provide each tenant with expertise in business startup, planning, budgeting, operations, and marketing. Construction on the new Center is scheduled to begin in 2006, creating 63 jobs. Once finished in 2007, the ongoing operation of the new businesses in the Enterprise Center is expected to directly generate about



\$12,181,000 per year and 116 jobs. The indirect and induced impacts of the new facility are expected to add another \$4,400,000 and 56 jobs to the community. A second phase of the project is planned for 2008 and will include an administrative and training center, conference rooms, and more than 7,000 square feet of leasable office space.

#### **FY 04/05 - Charlotte County UPS Infrastructure Project - \$487,000**

The Council provided technical support for Charlotte County's application to the EDA for funding to construct and install water lines, gravity sewer lines and storm water retention facilities infrastructure improvements to serve United Parcel Service, Inc. and keep 92 citizens employed there. The EDA is providing \$487,000 of the estimated \$608,750 public dollars the project will require (the private sector is investing approximately \$1,000,000 in this project).

***Note: This project was funded with Hurricane-related awards in conjunction with OTTED.***

#### **FY 04/05 - Sanibel Island - \$216,400**

The Council provided technical support for the City of Sanibel's application to the EDA for funding to assist with roadway/drainage improvements on the main arterial road to improve vehicular circulation to support tourism industry.

***Note: This project was funded with Hurricane-related awards in conjunction with OTTED.***

#### **FY 04/05 - Clewiston Water Treatment Plant - \$2.0 Million**

The Council worked closely with Clewiston to prepare a successful application for assistance from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The City received \$2 million to support the construction of a reverse osmosis treatment plant which will have the capacity to produce 3 million gallons of water per day once it becomes operational. The plant is being built in an economically distressed area where unemployment is high and per capita incomes are low. The plant will not only benefit the community by providing a much-needed new source of potable water, it will also result in the retention of 2,510 jobs which could have been lost if the area continued to have an inadequate water supply.

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