

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INVESTS TO HELP GROW MEDICAL  
MANUFACTURING IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AND TAMPA BAY  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) FUNDED PROJECT**

FORT MYERS, FL – (July 23, 2015) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s (SWFRPC) Economic Development District (EDD) is pleased to publicize the release of a survey of medical manufacturers... visit the website at <http://www.i75corridor.org/>

**I-75 Medical Manufacturing Corridor**

The U.S. Economic Development Administration, the State of Florida and several Southwest Florida and Tampa Bay area local governments offer workforce training support and assistance in funding workforce development and public infrastructure improvements. These initiatives help Florida’s most important business sectors, such as medical device manufacturing, to grow and create jobs.

In support of these efforts, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council are conducting a survey of medical manufacturers to gather data on the medical manufacturing sector in Florida, to identify the challenges facing the sector in finding adequately trained staff, and to identify infrastructure needs.

**Economic Development District (EDD)**

In 1992, the SWFRPC was designated an EDD by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The SWFRPC staffs the Southwest Florida Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, which includes representatives from the region and was established to address the area’s economic problems and challenges from a regional perspective. The EDD is comprised of the six counties that make up the SWFRPC (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota, and all municipalities therein).

**Regional Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

The CEDS provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of economic development organizations, local governments, and private industries for the purpose of creating jobs, fostering a stable and diversified economy, and improving living conditions. Additionally, the CEDS identifies individual programs and projects that will further the economic development goals of the Southwest Florida Region. Programs and projects identified within the CEDS are eligible for financial assistance through the Economic Development Administration.