



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: April 6, 2023

Mission Statement:

To work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share...for the benefit of our future generations.

1. Management / Operations

- a. Feedback from County RPC members
- b. March 14, 2023 Recovery and Resiliency Workshop by EDA
 - 47 Project Summaries submitted
 - \$500M in EDA Supplemental
 - Recomplete Pilot \$1B with \$200M appropriated
 - Tech Hubs \$10 B with \$500M appropriated
 - EDA FY23 Public Works and Economic Adjustment \$363M

2. Resource Development and Capacity Building

- Update on Resiliency Strategy for Local Food Systems
- Update on Southwest Florida Fresh/Chose Local Chose Fresh
 - Kick off and Tours
- Promise Zone Grants (as of January 2022) See Attached Document
 - Awarded: \$5,106,160.25
 - Pending: \$1,136,167
 - Denied: \$25,940,098.50
 - Underdevelopment: Clewiston WWTP grant through EDA Supplemental
- FRCA Updates
 - December Report
 - January Report

3. Second Quarter: January 2022 to March 2022

- Next RPC Meeting June 15, 2023

Grants in Promise Zone

March 22, 2023

1. **Awarded** (8/17/17): \$30,000- DEO 2018 Agriculture Sustainability for small to mid-sized growers in Promise Zone. Awarded to the SWFRPC
2. **Awarded** (2019) \$24,000 to Lee County Housing Development Corp. for Comprehensive Housing Counseling to residents including Immokalee residents from HUD.
3. **Awarded** (5/7/2018): \$30,000 DEO for food safety plans for small to mid-sized growers. Awarded to the SWFRPC
4. **Awarded** (8/08/18): \$206,545 - EDA Disaster Supplemental - for Development of new markets for small to mid-sized growers, branding and marketing campaign. Awarded to the SWFRPC
5. **Awarded** (4/25/18): \$600,000 - EPA Brownfield assessment grant in Promise Zone. Awarded to the SWFRPC
6. **Awarded** \$24,921 - HUD Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant to the Home Ownership Resource Center of Lee County
7. **Awarded** \$1.4 Million to the National association of Latino Community Asset Builders from HUD Rural Capacity Building Community Development and Affordable Housing Program. Nonprofits and local governments can apply for technical assistance and loan funding for community and economic development projects as well as assistance with affordable housing development projects
8. **Awarded** \$100,000 over 2 years for a Food Policy Council Coordinator from NAcO
9. **Awarded** (submitted 2/3/2020; awarded 7/2/2020) \$125,000 - Legal Aid Society The **Education & Outreach Initiative (EOI) Project – General Component** will explain to the general public and local housing providers what “equal opportunity in housing” means and what housing providers need to do to comply with the Fair Housing Act. All services will be provided and available to residents of the FHIP service area which includes Hendry, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties. Grant period June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022.
10. **Awarded**: (7/21/2020) \$400,000 EDA CARES ACT Invited for Regional Disaster Economic Recovery Coordinator to evaluate the Impacts of COVID 19 on the region and develop a recovery and resilience plan for the region.

11. **Awarded:** (4/7/2020) \$175,000 requested but \$160,432 was awarded Clewiston Water from Master Plan from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Boating Improvement Program.
12. **Awarded:** \$350,000 An application was submitted in partnership with the University of Florida IFAS to the Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG-Mitigation Planning program requesting \$390,000 to develop a Resiliency Strategy for Local Food Systems in Southwest Florida. (Deadline 7/30/2020)
13. **Awarded:** \$3000 grant from CHNEP for Rebekah Harp to do the design work for their calendar
14. **Awarded:** SWFRPC, IFAS, Blue Zones, TREC submitted a \$752,426.25 USDA – Regional Food System Partnerships Program grant to implement the trademarked SWFL Fresh Choose Local Choose Fresh regional brand to showcase SWFL food producers and their products through multiple marketing platforms. The brand will support the development of new markets for farmers, increase public knowledge of healthy, local food sources, and connect food producers to consumers. The Collier County Blue Zones provided a 16.9% match of \$108,926.25.
15. **Awarded:** \$500,000 EPA Grants for Brownfield Assessment in Glades County from July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2026
16. **Awarded:** (10/20/2021) EDA grant for \$321,836 for Disaster Recovery Coordinator to help Small to mid-sized growers and small and minority owned businesses access disaster recovery funds following Hurricane Ian
17. **Awarded:** (2/14/23) FDEP grant for \$78, 000 for a Vulnerability Assessment for Marco Island
18. **Pending:** (3/11/23) FDEO Rural Infrastructure Program for \$300,000 for a stand-by generator at the WWTP.
19. **Pending:** (10/14/2021) The Affordable Homeownership Foundation, Inc. submitted a grant for housing counseling to HUD
20. **Pending** (10/14/2021) Lee County Housing Development Corp. submitted a grant to HUD for Comprehensive Housing Counseling to residents including Immokalee residents.
21. **Pending:** DRI-RR, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to providing rural communities with the skills and knowledge needed to revitalize submitted a grand to USDA Rural Business

Development Grant Program in cooperation with Florida Main Street to offer services to four Florida communities, one of which is LaBelle, in order to provide each community with a Development Readiness Initiative (DRI) training and a Revitalization Roadmap at no cost to them.

22. Pending: (3/2021) \$11,000 The DRI training is a day-long on-site training created to help communities understand how COVID-19 has impacted their community and identify the available resources that each community can leverage. Through this training, the community will be able to identify a strategy for the creation of a locally-based economy that will support the quality of life necessary to retain families and professionals. Our end goal is to provide each community with the training and tools necessary to become proactive with private development, encouraging the right types of development and attracting necessary services. Additionally, the training will help identify what is necessary to master the Duration, Intensity, Rate, and Timing (DIRT) of development, utilizing private development to fulfill necessary and desired community amenities or services. Furthermore, the Revitalization Roadmap is a hybrid downtown and strategic plan, offering a set of implementable recommendations that will catalyze downtown revitalization. The final product is graphically rich and broken down into similar groups like the National Main Street Center's four-step approach to revitalization. The overall roadmap process will encourage the unification of residents' voices and rally support for improvements by all residents.
23. Pending (6/4/2020) \$125,000 request by Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc for Hendry County from the Fair Housing Initiatives Program Education and Outreach initiative through HUD. ("The Fair Housing Project at Legal Aid is applying for an Education & Outreach Grant from HUD for the fiscal year 2022-23 in the amount of \$125,000.")
24. Pending: 9/25/2020 to the National association of Latino Community Asset Builders from HUD Rural Capacity Building Community Development and Affordable Housing Program. Nonprofits and local governments can apply for technical assistance and loan funding for community and economic development projects as well as assistance with affordable housing development projects.
25. Denied (6/17/19) \$1,000,000: Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant program for Collier County Schools. The project title is Professional Careers in the New Economy (PCNE). PCNE will focus on two of CCPS's highest-need schools: Immokalee Middle and Immokalee High schools. The goal of the project is to better prepare students for success in the workforce.
26. Denied (6/25/2019) Housing Authority of the City of Ft. Myers. The grant will provide funds for housing counseling advise to tenants and homeowners with respect to property maintenance, financial management and literacy.

27. Denied (6/4/2019) Goodwill Industries for The SWFL MicroEnterprise Institute will (if funding is secured through the SBA Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs grant) counsel and provide training for approximately 150 – 180 participants in ten – twelve courses delivered to residents of Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades and Collier counties.
28. Denied (5/30/2019) Seminole Tribe of Florida - If awarded this grant through the HUD IHGB program, the Native Learning Center will be providing technical assistance and training to all Native American Housing Authorities including the Mikasuki and any other resident Tribes within your region.
29. Denied: (9/13/2021) \$13,874,000 Prepared and submitted an application for the City of Clewiston for the DEO CDBG- MIT- GIP Round II to make upgrades to the City's wastewater treatment facility and expand the WWTP capacity. Facility upgrades will include the installation of a new 300kw generator, the installation of bypass pumps, and the planning and installation of a new pump station. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will provide administrative services that will include reporting, grant management, closeout, contract and deliverable monitoring, and distribution of funds.
30. Denied: Submitted:(9/14/2021) \$2,067,935 Prepared and submitted and an application to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Rebuild Florida CDBG-Mit- GIP Round II for the City of Clewiston to replace transmission line insulators and overhead ground wires to increase the City's energy resiliency in the event of a major storm. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will provide administrative services that will include reporting, grant management, closeout, contract and deliverable monitoring, and distribution of funds.
31. Denied (6/26/2019) HUD Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant to the Affordable Homeownership Foundation Inc.
32. Denied (6/26.2020) \$176,000; FL Dept of Ag & Consumer Services Southwest Florida Fresh-Specialty Crop grant program for funding to market the "SWFL Fresh" brand.
33. Denied (3/2/2020) \$1,455,815 Building Resilient Kid: SAMHSA for Media campaign to address underaged alcohol, marijuana and substance/opioid use.
34. Denied: (6/5/20) \$45,921.46 DEO Community Planning Technical assistance Grant for a septic to sewer conversion study
35. Denied (4/24/2020) \$425,000 request by Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc for Hendry County from the Fair Housing Initiatives Program Education and Outreach initiative (\$125,000) and Private Enforcement Initiative - Multi-Year Funding Component(\$300,000) to teach and disseminate information on Fair Housing

36. Denied: 4/1/2021 CDC Addiction and Recovery Grant for Media Campaign to prevent kids from first time use. In partnership with Drug Free Lee and Drug Free Collier: \$50,000
37. Denied: \$45,000 submitted to DEO for Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant (CPTA) for a strategic Plan for upgrades to Ortona Indian Mound Park in Glades County.
38. Denied: Submitted:(6/30/2020) \$143,306 Prepared and submitted and an application to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Rebuild Florida CDBG-Mitigation Critical Facility Hardening Program for the City of Clewiston to replace transmission line insulators and overhead ground wires to increase the City's energy resiliency in the event of a major storm. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will provide administrative services that will include reporting, grant management, closeout, contract and deliverable monitoring, and distribution of funds.
39. Denied: CDBG-MIT GIP Program The SWFRPC prepared an application for the City of Clewiston to apply to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Program to storm harden portions of its transmission and distribution lines, therefore increasing energy resiliency in the community. The City will be requesting \$682,000 in funding from the program.
40. Denied: Submitted (6/30/2020) \$3,141,031, Prepared and submitted an application for the City of Clewiston for the DEO CDBG-DR Infrastructure Repair Program Cycle 2 to make upgrades to the City's wastewater treatment facility. Facility upgrades will include the installation of a new 300kw generator, the installation of bypass pumps, and the planning and installation of a new pump station. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will provide administrative services that will include reporting, grant management, closeout, contract and deliverable monitoring, and distribution of funds.
41. Denied: 2/2021 FL Dept. Of Agriculture- Specialty Crop, SWFL Fresh Choose Local Choose Fresh Marketing Project requesting \$207,000.
42. Denied: 01/2022 \$460,000 EDA ARPA BBBRC for Phase I: Developing an Inland Port system in Rural Southern Florida.

Awarded: \$5,106,160.25

Pending: \$1,136,167

Denied: \$25,940,098.50

Underdevelopment: NA



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

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: December 2022

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Distributed the Holiday 2022 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward* - <http://www.flregionalcouncils.org/resources/news/>.
- 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.
- 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:
 - Florida Collaborative Coordinator's Meeting with Regional Resiliency Coalitions
 - Statewide Emergency Shelter Working Group Meeting

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Continued preparations for the Winter 2023 Policy Board Meeting including agenda preparation, logistics and coordination meetings. Prepared for the January Executive Directors Advisory Committee meeting in Tallahassee.
- Assisted with the finalization of the FRCA 2022 Annual Report.
- 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.



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: January 2023

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Collected articles, edited and distributed the January 2023 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, *FRCA Forward*.
- Updated the email lists for and maintain the email listserv for approximately 2,350 individuals who receive *FRCA Forward*.
- Updated the FRCA website with the 2021-22 FRCA Annual Report and *FRCA Forward* - website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
 - Statewide Emergency Shelter Working Group hosted by the Division of Emergency Management,
 - Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting hosted by Enterprise Florida,
 - Rural Economic Development Initiative Meeting hosted by Department of Economic Opportunity,
 - Resiliency Collaborative Forum hosted by The Nature Conservancy,
 - Affordable Housing Legislative Webinar hosted by the Florida Housing Coalition, and;
 - Economic Development Administration Coordination Call with RPC economic development planning staff.
- Compiled the October – December quarterly report on economic activities in each regional planning council area.
- Arranged for sponsorship of the Policy and Planning Workshop hosted by the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association scheduled for February 23-24, 2023, virtually.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Participated in the January FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) and the Winter Policy Board meetings held in Tallahassee.
- Prepared for and hosted the January Partners Meeting.
- Prepared for the February EDAC Meeting.
- Continued to coordinate logistics for the 2023 meeting and conference schedule.
- Developed the FRCA Bill Report, grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.