



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Miscellaneous

J.10.

7/22/2025

Subject:

Support for grant opportunity for strategic economic planning in North Brevard.

Fiscal Impact:

None

Dept/Office:

District 1

Requested Action:

It is requested that the board of commissioners approve a letter of support for a North Brevard Community Planning Grant to support economic resilience in north Brevard.

Summary Explanation and Background:

From 2011 until earlier this year, local economic development activities and projects in the northern part of Brevard County - home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station - were largely managed and coordinated by a special dependent district known as the North Brevard Economic Development Zone. Using tax increment funding, the Zone helped local businesses expand, redeveloped existing commercial and industrial buildings, attracted new firms, and assisted entrepreneurs with business startups. Borne out of a need to overcome several structural barriers (such as a large amount of federally owned land present in the north end of the county), the Zone used targeted financial assistance to induce job creation and capital investment in the county.

Citing the need to address other financial concerns in the county, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) dissolved the Zone in May 2025, and reallocated its funding to other county departments. The dissolution of the Zone also meant an end to its economic development strategic plan for north Brevard, which was developed by the Zone and approved by the BOCC in 2012.

In the absence of a plan to continue economic development activities in the north end of the county, District 1 requests commissioner support to undertake a formal strategic planning process to determine the best path forward, post-Zone. **This grant opportunity will provide up to \$75K in funding and does not require a match.**

In addition to incorporating the key components of strategic planning, the proposed plan will examine the economic and environmental vulnerabilities of the northern end of the county, and identify steps to lessen possible adverse impacts, all with the aim of making the area more economically resilient. **Grant due date is August 1, 2025.**

Clerk to the Board Instructions:



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

July 23, 2025

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner Delaney, District 1

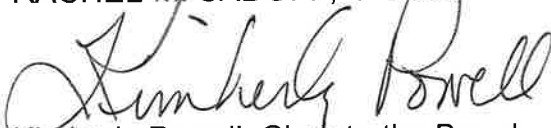
RE: Item J.10., Support for Grant Opportunity for Strategic Economic Planning in North Brevard

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on July 22, 2025, approved a letter of support for a North Brevard Community Planning Grant to support economic resilience in north Brevard. Enclosed is the letter.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK


Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/ns

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner



BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Katie Delaney
District 1

Tom Goodson
District 2

Kim Adkinson
District 3

Rob Feltner, Chairman
District 4

Thad Altman
District 5

July 22, 2025

Florida Department of Commerce
Division of Community Development
107 East Madison Street
MSC 120
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6545

Dear Sir:

Please accept this letter in support of an application from Brevard County for grant funds totaling up to \$75,000 from the Florida Department of Commerce, under its Community Planning Technical Assistance program.

From 2011 until earlier this year, local economic development activities and projects in the northern part of Brevard County – home to NASA’s Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station – were largely managed and coordinated by a special dependent district known as the North Brevard Economic Development Zone. Using tax increment funding, the Zone achieved success in helping local businesses expand, redeveloping existing commercial and industrial buildings, attracting new firms, and assisting entrepreneurs with business startups. Borne out of a need to overcome several structural barriers (such as a large amount of federally owned land present in the north end of the county), the Zone used targeted financial assistance to induce job creation and capital investment in the county.

To address other financial concerns in the county, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) dissolved the Zone in May 2025, and reallocated its funding to the county’s Fire Rescue Department. The dissolution of the Zone also meant an end to its economic development strategic plan for north Brevard, which was developed by the Zone and approved by the BOCC in 2012.

In the absence of a plan to continue economic development activities in the north end of the county, the BOCC now desires to undertake a formal strategic planning process to determine the best path forward, post-Zone. It envisions that such a plan would involve:

- Assessing current economic conditions in the north end of the county, along with analyzing economic data;
- Identifying key stakeholders and obtaining comments/feedback regarding economic development needs and realities;
- Conducting an exercise to determine the area’s strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities for development;

- Creating specific goals, along with an action plan for implementing achievable objectives in partnership with other organizations and entities working on economic development activities; and,
- Developing a set of metrics to evaluate economic development efforts and outcomes.

In addition, such a plan would examine the economic and environmental vulnerabilities of the northern end of the county, and identify steps to lessen possible adverse impacts, all with the aim of making the area more economically resilient.

If selected for this Community Planning Technical Assistance grant, Brevard County would engage the services of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast to develop the economic development strategic plan, based upon tasks outlined in a more detailed scope of work, which will be attached to the formal application for this grant.

Thank you for considering this request. Should you have any questions, please contact Kristin Lortie, Brevard County Commission District 1 Office, at 321-607-6901, or electronically, at D1.Commissioner@Brevardfl.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Feltner', is written over the word 'Respectfully,'.

Rob Feltner, Chairman
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 22, 2025

Florida Department of Commerce
Division of Community Development
107 East Madison Street
MSC 120
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6545

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- Developing a set of metrics to evaluate economic development efforts and outcomes.

In addition, such a plan would examine the economic and environmental vulnerabilities of the northern end of the county, and identify steps to lessen possible adverse impacts, all with the aim of making the area more economically resilient.

If selected for this Community Planning Technical Assistance grant, Brevard County would engage the services of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council to develop the economic development strategic plan, based upon tasks outlined in a more detailed scope of work, which will be attached to the formal application for this grant.

Thank you for considering this request. Should you have any questions, please contact Kristin Lortie, Brevard County Commission District 1 Office, at 321-607-6901, or electronically, at D1.Commissioner@Brevardfl.gov.

Sincerely

Rob Feltner

Chairman,
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants

Home » Community Planning Development and Services » Community Planning » Community Planning Table of Contents » Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants »

Community Planning

Community Planning Table of Contents

Areas of Critical State Concern Program

Accessing Comprehensive Plans and Plan Amendments (Florida Papers)

ORC Reports and Notices of Intent

Property Rights Element Evaluation and Appraisal

Review of the Comprehensive Plan

General Information About Developments of Regional Impact and Florida Quality Developments

Developments of Regional Impact Repository

List of Local Governments Qualifying as Dense Urban Land Areas

Revitalization of Expired Homeowners Association Declarations and Covenants

Community Planning Staff Directory (Alphabetical)

Community Planning Review Team Assignments

Community Services

Community Development Block Grants

Community Partnerships

Broadband

Rural Community Programs

Special Districts

Homeowner Assistance

Office of Rural Initiatives

Community Planning and Development Public Notices

Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants, State Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Purpose

FloridaCommerce is now accepting grant requests for the Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grant Program for State Fiscal Year 2026. CPTA grants provide local governments located in Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAOs) and/or rural communities, counties, municipalities planning councils the opportunity to create innovative plans and development strategies to promote a diverse economy, and meet statutory requirements, while also protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

Technical assistance and training will be available to rural local governments awardees to help assist them in best practices relating to comprehensive economic development and land development, as well as strategies to address management and administrative capacity challenges unique to governments. Preference shall also be given to local governments located in a RAO. Understanding that many Florida communities have been impacted by hurricanes, CPTA grants may also be used to assist with disaster recovery, resiliency and economic development planning.

Grant Request Submission Timeframe

Please submit a grant request for funding to FloridaCommerce on or before **Friday, August 1, 2025, at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time**. Submission of a grant request does not guarantee funding will be provided. FloridaCommerce will consider grant requests received by the above deadline before the deadline has passed.

Eligibility

Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants may be available to:

- ▶ Local Governments located in Rural Areas of Opportunity and/or Rural Communities.
- ▶ Counties and municipalities
- ▶ Regional planning councils that propose projects on behalf of or for the benefit of counties, municipalities or the region **and** that have not been previously funded from the counties or municipalities affected by the proposed grant project

Grant Period

The CPTA Grant Program coincides with SFY 2025-2026. The grant period is July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026, and FloridaCommerce cannot accept multi-year projects.

Project Completion

CPTA grantees are expected to complete their project by May 30, 2026.

Grant Type: Cost Reimbursement

CPTA grants are cost reimbursement grants.

Typical Award Range

CPTA grant awards may be up to \$75,000, but award amounts may vary.

Project Types

Projects should relate to community planning and economic development strategies that implement the requirements in the Community Planning Act. FloridaCommerce also encourages rural communities to apply for projects related to planning for disaster recovery and community resiliency, flood risk management, and that meet the requirements in Chapter 163.3178(2)(f), Florida Statutes. Applicants are encouraged to seek funding for innovative approaches to planning, development and infrastructure in their community.

Request for Funding

Funding requests should include the following:

Funding Request

- ▶ A funding request letter to FloridaCommerce that identifies:
 - ▶ The contact person with their title, email address, phone number and mailing address.
 - ▶ The specific grant project and its significance to the community or region.
 - ▶ The product that will be produced under the grant.
 - ▶ The total amount of funding requested.
 - ▶ Any additional information about the proposed project that the county, municipality or regional planning council chooses to submit for FloridaCommerce's consideration.

Scope of Work

- ▶ A proposed scope of work that describes:
 - ▶ The deliverables, which are descriptions of the tasks to be performed under the deliverable, including a clear, meaningful and feasible implementation component.
 - ▶ The deliverable due dates (the dates the deliverables will be received by FloridaCommerce).
 - ▶ The project documentation that will be produced and provided to FloridaCommerce to demonstrate that the work described in the deliverable has been completed.
 - ▶ The cost or payment amount for each deliverable.

Scope of Work Examples

- ▶ The following links are from Fiscal Years 2022-2025 Community Planning Technical Assistance grant agreements using the Florida Accountability Contract Tracking System. Executed agreements can be viewed under the Documents tab. The scopes of work in these grant agreements may be helpful in preparing a scope of work for this grant cycle (in particular, see scope of work paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 in each agreement):
 - ▶ [City of Okeechobee](#) – To draft a Market Feasibility Study and Lodging Market Analysis and Industry Trend Report. In an effort to assess the current market and be able to promote Okeechobee as a destination for business.
 - ▶ [Suwannee County BOCC](#) – To prepare a Suwannee County Catalyst Industrial Park Master Plan Study (CIP Master Plan Study) for infrastructure improvements (potable water, wastewater, natural gas, rail and road) to serve current and future businesses within the Catalyst Industrial Park (CIP). The CIP is a 500-acre industrial park located along US Highway 90 approximately one-half mile from the interchange of Interstate-10 and US Highway 90 in Suwannee County.
 - ▶ [Highlands County BOCC](#) – To prepare a county wide Facility Study for Tourism and Recreation ("Study"). The project shall inventory existing facilities and address the long-term demand for county-wide parks and recreational facilities that can serve the future demand from local and nonlocal users. Partners and organizations to be engaged in the project include: the Highlands County Tourist Development Council, the Highlands County Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Avon Park, the Town of Lake Placid, the City of Sebring, the Avon Park Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce, the Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency, the Spring Lake Improvement District, the Sun N' Lake Improvement District and the Highlands Hammock State Park.
 - ▶ [Hendry County BOCC](#) – To prepare a draft update to the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element. The County will prepare a Future Land Use Element Assessment Report, Community Engagement Plan, draft Hendry County Comprehensive Plan amendments and conduct public engagement meetings and public workshops to update the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element.
 - ▶ [Town of Horseshoe Beach](#) – To prepare a Strategic Plan to Rebuild the Town of Horseshoe Beach (Strategic Plan).
 - ▶ Others are available upon request.

Budget

- ▶ A budget that outlines anticipated expenditures by category.
- ▶ Examples include:
 - ▶ Contracted services for consultants or subcontractors.
 - ▶ Salaries and fringe benefits for work performed in-house.
 - ▶ Equipment needed directly for the requested project.
- ▶ If indirect costs are sought, they should be identified along with a formula for calculating indirect costs. A federally approved indirect cost rate, in effect at the time the request is submitted, may be included in the request for FloridaCommerce's consideration.

How to Submit the Grant Request Electronically to FloridaCommerce

- ▶ Requests may be submitted electronically through email to CPTAgrants@Commerce.fl.gov.
- ▶ FloridaCommerce prefers electronic submissions, however, mailed requests for funding are accepted and can be sent through U.S. Mail to:
 - ▶ Bureau of Community Planning and Growth
Division of Community Development
FloridaCommerce
107 East Madison Street, MSC 160
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4120
- ▶ **NOTE:** For a county or municipality, FloridaCommerce asks that the funding request letter, whether submitted by U.S. Mail or electronically, be signed by the chief elected official, the county manager or city manager.

5.10. Chairman Feltner
Revised
Letter



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 22, 2025

Florida Department of Commerce
Division of Community Development
107 East Madison Street
MSC 120
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6545

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Sincerely

Rob Feltner

Chairman,
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Board Meeting Date

7-22-25

Item Number: J-10

Motion By: KD

Second By: RF

Nay By: _____

Commissioner	DISTRICT	AYE	NAY
Commissioner Delaney	1	✓	
Vice Chair Goodson	2	✓	
Commissioner Adkinson	3	✓	
Commissioner Altman	5	✓	
Chairman Feltner	4	✓	