

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN

FloridaCommerce

Tallahassee, Florida

September 29, 2023

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Dear Directors:

Pursuant to Chapter 216, Florida Statutes, our Long Range Program Plan (LRPP) for the Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce) is submitted in the format prescribed in the budget instructions. The information provided electronically and contained herein is a true and accurate presentation of our mission, goals, objectives, and measures for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2028-29. The internet website address that provides the link to the LRPP located on the Florida Fiscal Portal is <https://floridajobs.org/news-center/reports-and-legislative-presentations>. This submission has been approved by Secretary J. Alex Kelly and by the members of our senior leadership team.



Adam Callaway
Chief of Staff

FloridaCommerce
**LONG RANGE
PROGRAM PLAN**

Fiscal Year 2024-2025
through 2028-2029



FLORIDACOMMERCE

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1. Agency Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives

Agency Vision

Florida will have the nation's top-performing economy and be recognized as the world's best place to live, learn, play, work, and do business.

Agency Mission

In collaboration with our public and private partners, we will assist the Governor in advancing Florida's economy for every Floridian by championing the state's economic development vision and implementing innovative initiatives to help citizens, communities, businesses, and visitors thrive.

Agency Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Lead the nation in economic growth and prosperity by supporting talent and business development.

Objective 1.1. Provide market-relevant workforce development training, placement services, and individual assistance that meets the needs of Florida businesses and job seekers.

Goal 2. Lead the nation in global competitiveness by promoting Florida's innovation, pro-business climate, and opportunity.

Objective 2.1. Provide loans, grants, and other financial support for small businesses and targeted industries in both rural and metro communities.

Objective 2.2. Ensure accountability, efficiency, and quality of FloridaCommerce programs, services, and partnerships to safeguard taxpayer dollars.

Goal 3. Lead the nation in quality of life and quality places by providing safe, healthy, and resilient communities.

Objective 3.1. Expand collaboration with federal, state, regional, and local organizations to ensure successful implementation of statewide economic development goals.

Objective 3.2. Provide prioritized technical assistance, services, and financial resources to ensure the success of Floridians and our communities.

2. Agency Service Outcomes and Performance Projections Tables

Justifications: Final Projections for Each Outcome

Each of FloridaCommerce’s current programs and activities reflect its mission, in collaboration with its partners, to assist the Governor in advancing Florida’s economy for every Floridian by championing the state’s economic development vision and implementing innovative initiatives to help citizens, communities, businesses and visitors thrive. Furthermore, each activity reflects FloridaCommerce’s goals to:

- Lead the nation in economic growth and prosperity by supporting talent and business development.
- Lead the nation in global competitiveness by promoting Florida’s innovation, pro-business climate and opportunity.
- Lead the nation in quality of life and quality places by providing safe, healthy, and resilient communities.

Goal 1: Lead the nation in economic growth and prosperity by supporting talent and business development.

Objective 1.1 Provide market-relevant workforce development, training, placement services, and individual assistance that meet the needs of Florida businesses and job seekers.

Outcome 1.1.1:	Percent of individuals entering the workforce after receiving training services funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2012-13	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	84.9%	≥ 88.5%	≥ 88.5%	≥ 88.5%	≥ 88.5%	≥ 88.5%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	FloridaCommerce provides workforce services to employers and job seekers. One of the primary goals of the workforce system is to provide world-class talent to meet the needs of Florida’s businesses. WIOA training is one of the key components in the workforce system that assists jobseekers in finding employment. This outcome measures the impact WIOA training has in assisting jobseekers with gaining employment. The projections for this outcome measure serve as a stretch goal to allow the state to exceed FloridaCommerce’s negotiated performance targets for a similar federally-mandated performance measure. FloridaCommerce negotiates performance measure targets with the U.S. Department of Labor every two years.					

Outcome 1.1.2:	Percent of businesses using Florida’s workforce management information system.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2012-13	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	4.5%	≥ 5.0%	≥5.0%	≥ 5.0%	≥5.0%	≥ 5.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	FloridaCommerce works continuously with CareerSource Florida and Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) to provide data and other technical assistance to equip them with the tools they need to help increase their visibility within their local business community.					

	<p>As the visibility of Florida’s workforce system is increased and the training of world-class talent is refined, the state’s workforce system is projected to grow its overall market-share at a consistent rate.</p> <p>Overall, there should be a balance between the demands and needs of employers as it relates to services versus any fiscal implications to meeting the projection by FloridaCommerce. It is anticipated that as the level of talent within the system increases more businesses will be attracted to the system.</p>
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Goal 2: Lead the nation in global competitiveness by promoting Florida’s innovation, pro-business climate, and opportunity.

Objective 2.1 Provide loans, grants, and other financial support for small businesses and targeted industries in both rural and metropolitan communities.

Outcome 2.1.1:	Percent of available grant funding obligated during the reporting period.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2014-15	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	97.0%	≥ 88.0%	≥ 88.0%	≥ 88.0%	≥ 88.0%	≥ 88.5%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>The purpose of the grant awards is to enhance the economy and strengthen Florida’s communities. The measure shows the extent that state grants are being obligated and spent as intended to enhance local economies.</p> <p>The baseline was calculated from actual performance during FY 2014-2015. Since the percent and stability of the proposed standards are already at high levels, the margin for improvement is extremely small, and it provides the rationale for projections through FY 2028-2029.</p> <p>There is no additional financial or staffing impact for FloridaCommerce to meet the projections through FY 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 2.1.2:	Percent of incentive applications approved in less time than required by Florida Statutes.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2012-13	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	78.0%	≥ 95.0%	≥ 95.0%	≥ 95.0%	≥ 95.0%	≥ 95.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>FloridaCommerce administers the state’s economic development incentive programs. Each of these programs is administered with a goal of providing excellent and efficient customer service to eligible businesses that are seeking to locate or expand in Florida, making Florida a more competitive state while protecting taxpayers’ interests.</p> <p>FloridaCommerce works continuously to streamline its incentives application approval process to ensure that all statutory guidelines are met while applying the appropriate level of due diligence during the evaluation of each program. The Long Range Program Plan standards projection for the FY 2028-2029 reflects our efforts.</p> <p>There is no additional financial staffing or impact for FloridaCommerce to meet the projections through 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 2.1.3:	Percent of customers satisfied with their experience with FloridaCommerce's implementation and support of the economic development incentive program.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2017-18	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	100.0%	≥ 82.5%	≥ 82.5%	≥ 82.5%	≥ 82.5%	≥ 82.5%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>FloridaCommerce administers the state's economic development incentive programs. Each of these programs is administered with a goal of providing excellent and efficient customer service to eligible businesses that are seeking to locate or expand in Florida, making Florida a more competitive state while protecting taxpayers' interests.</p> <p>FloridaCommerce works continuously to streamline its incentives application approval process to ensure that all statutory guidelines are met while applying the appropriate level of due diligence during the evaluation of each program. The Long Range Program Plan standards projection for the FY 2028-2029 reflects efforts.</p> <p>There is no additional financial staffing or impact for FloridaCommerce to meet the projections through 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 2.1.4:	Percent of government loan funds obligated compared to total funds available at the beginning of the reporting period.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2018-19	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	50.0%	≥ 12.0%	≥ 14.0%	≥ 16.0%	≥ 18.0%	≥ 20.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>This measure focuses on the Division of Economic Development's core loan and loan guarantee programs. The purpose of the loan and loan guarantee programs is to increase small business access to capital and positive community development. This measure aims to capture the increasing utilization and responsible use of these loan funds by businesses and show the extent to which available loan funds are obligated and used as intended. The Division of Economic Development will receive approximately \$350,000,000 in additional loan funding over the next several fiscal years as a result of the reauthorization of the State Small Business Credit Initiative. As a result of this injection of capital, projections have been scaled back to account for the additional liquidity.</p>					

Outcome 2.1.5:	Percent of productions assisted by the Office of Film and Entertainment resulting in business and employment in Florida.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2012-13	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	69.0%					
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>Note: As discussed in Exhibit III, FloridaCommerce is requesting deletion of this measure due to the Legislature eliminating the Office of Film and Entertainment during the 2023 session in House Bill 5.</p>					

Outcome 2.1.6:	Percent of required jobs (HUD requirement of one per \$34,999 funding) created, retained, or both as a result of Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development category funding as determined at the time the grant is administratively closed out for the fiscal year.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2013-14	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	107.0%	≥ 100.0%	≥ 100.0%	≥ 100.0%	≥ 100.0%	≥ 100.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>This measure describes FloridaCommerce’s provision of job creation and retention programs through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Economic Development category funding. The program is designed to primarily serve low to moderate income populations and is vital to improving the self-sufficiency and economic viability of these households as well as the business climate and competitiveness of the community. This measure embodies FloridaCommerce’s mission, goals, and objectives as it relates to assisting the Governor in advancing Florida’s economy by enhancing the state’s economic vision and administering the Federal CDBG Program that provides funding to support vibrant, safe, and healthy communities.</p> <p>In developing this standard, the Division of Community Development reviewed and evaluated CDBG program activities for consistency with FloridaCommerce’s mission to enhance Florida’s economy through job creation. To provide the actual number of jobs created during a fiscal year, the economic development grants successfully administratively closed during the applicable fiscal year are reviewed to determine the percent of required jobs created, retained or both due to the CDBG – Economic Development category funding. HUD requires one job is developed per \$34,999 of funding provided. Projects must create or retain jobs of which at least 51 percent will be for persons from low to moderate income households. The division is confident this performance projection is a reliable indicator of jobs created due to the CDBG funding.</p> <p>For the program to continue to meet projections, local job creating opportunities must be enhanced. Additionally, federal funding levels must be maintained to ensure funding availability and staffing levels required to successfully operate the program.</p>					

Objective 2.2 Ensure accountability, efficiency, and quality of FloridaCommerce programs, services, and partnerships to safeguard taxpayer dollars.

Outcome 2.2.1:	<i>Percent of administration and support costs and positions compared to total Department costs and positions.</i>					
Fiscal Year	Costs Baseline FY 2012-13	Costs FY 2024-25	Costs FY 2025-26	Costs FY 2026-27	Costs FY 2027-28	Costs FY 2028-29
Projections	1.6%	≥ 2.5%	≥ 2.5%	≥ 2.5%	≥ 2.5%	≥ 2.5%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>This measure represents a target for administrative support levels and efforts relative to agency staff and program activities. Administrative costs are a necessary part of any program or service. It is critical to maximize the funds that ultimately provide services to the public and reduce the costs of administering the funds and programs by maintaining a target to track the degree to which that end is achieved.</p> <p>The performance projections are based upon the administrative positions remaining at the current ratio of positions and costs relative to operating divisions, as appropriated in the 2022-2023 General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p> <p>To meet the established measure in future years, the Executive Direction and Support Services programs will need to maintain staff and expenditures in proportion to agency staffing and expenditure levels.</p> <p>There is no additional financial or staffing impact for FloridaCommerce to meet the projections through FY 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 2.2.1:	Percent of administration and <i>support costs</i> and positions compared to total Department costs and positions.					
Fiscal Year	Positions Baseline FY 2012-13	Positions FY 2024-25	Positions FY 2025-26	Positions FY 2026-27	Positions FY 2027-28	Positions FY 2028-29
Projections	12.5%	≥ 16.0%	≥ 16.0%	≥ 16.0%	≥ 16.0%	≥ 16.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>This measure represents a target for administrative support levels and efforts relative to agency staff and program activities. Administrative costs are a necessary part of any program or service. It is critical to maximize the funds that ultimately provide services to the public and reduce the costs of administering the funds and programs by maintaining a target to track the degree to which that end is achieved.</p> <p>The performance projections are based upon the administrative positions remaining at the current ratio of positions and costs relative to operating divisions, as appropriated in the 2022-2023 General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p> <p>To meet the established measure in future years, the Executive Direction and Support Services programs will need to maintain staff and expenditures in proportion to agency staffing and expenditure levels.</p> <p>There is no additional financial or staffing impact for FloridaCommerce to meet the projections through FY 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 2.2.2:	Percent of District Courts of Appeal decisions affirming or dismissing an appeal of an Order issued by the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission (RAAC).					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2013-14	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	97.8%	≥ 94.0%	≥ 94.0%	≥ 94.0%	≥ 94.0%	≥ 94.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>Pursuant to section 443.151(4)(e), F.S., the RAAC is a party respondent to every appeal of a RAAC order to a District Court of Appeal. RAAC must achieve no more than a six percent overturn rate (94 percent upheld rate) of appeals brought before the Florida District Courts of Appeal. This measure reflects the successful defense of disputed RAAC Orders in court, which is directly related to optimizing the Department's and RAAC's resources and ensuring the quality of the RAAC's review of reemployment assistance appeals.</p> <p>No additional resources will be required to enable the RAAC to meet the projected standard through FY 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 2.2.3:	Percent of Reemployment Assistance appeals cases disposed within 75 days.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2012-13	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	98.1%	≥ 80.0%	≥ 80.0%	≥ 80.0%	≥ 80.0%	≥ 80.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>This measure reflects the speed at which the RAAC reviews and processes appeals cases, which is directly related to optimizing the RAAC's resources.</p> <p>There is no additional financial or staffing impact for the Commission to meet the projected standard through FY 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 2.2.4:	Percent of findings of “material weakness” or the equivalent level of severity in FloridaCommerce programs and practices reviewed or audited by Federal Auditors, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), Auditor General, Inspector General, and other independent auditors.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2012-13	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	28.3%	≤ 13.0%	≤ 13.0%	≤ 13.0%	≤ 13.0%	≤ 13.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>This measure is important because it reflects the severity of issues identified by auditor reviewing FloridaCommerce’s programs. A low percentage of findings involving “material weakness” indicates efficient, effective, and high-quality administration of FloridaCommerce programs. The measure informs the Legislature and leadership whether audit findings show significant cause for concern related to the department’s compliance with standards.</p> <p>This projection reflects a history of gradual improvement during the previous years with respect to findings of material weakness. The projection also reflects the goal of continuing that improvement.</p> <p>There is no additional financial or staffing impact for FloridaCommerce to meet the projections through 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 2.2.5:	Average number of days for execution of contracts and agreements funded in the General Appropriations Act.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2016-17	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	87 days	≤ 90 days	≤ 90 days	≤ 90 days	≤ 90 days	≤ 90 days
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>FloridaCommerce works continuously to maximize the efficiency with which it performs all contract management duties. The goal is to meet all deadlines while applying the appropriate level of due diligence to ensure compliance with requirements. This provides a direct measure by which to evaluate those efforts of ensuring prompt execution of contracts funded in the annual General Appropriations Act. The Long-Range Program Plan standards projection for FY 2028-2029 reflects these efforts.</p>					

Outcome 2.2.6:	Percent of Reemployment Assistance benefits paid accurately.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2013-14	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	91.9%	≥ 90.0%	≥ 90.0%	≥ 90.0%	≥ 90.0%	≥ 90.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>One of the Division of Workforce Services’ goals is to provide timely temporary partial wage replacement benefits to qualified individuals who have lost their job through no fault of their own. This measure reflects the accuracy of processing Reemployment Assistance benefits paid by conducting random samples of claims filed using guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), including benefits paid in terms of overpayments and underpayments. This performance measure complements the Federal Core Measure that tracks the improper benefit payments made and is used by USDOL to compare performance for all states.</p> <p>This justification for the FY 2028-2029 projection of performance standard has been established based on the system projections and on results from the additional system enhancements to combat fraud, which will detect and prevent fraudulent payments up-front.</p>					

Outcome 2.2.7:	Percent of Reemployment Assistance first payments paid timely.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2013-14	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	59.0%	≥ 87.0%	≥ 87.0%	≥ 87.0%	≥ 87.0%	≥ 87.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>One of the Division of Workforce Services' goals is to provide timely temporary partial wage replacement benefits to qualified individuals who have lost their job through no fault of their own. This measurement reflects how many citizens receive timely Reemployment Assistance temporary partial wage replacement benefits.</p> <p>This justification for the FY 2028-2029 projection of performance standard has been established based on the system projections on the modernization efforts.</p>					

Goal 3: Lead the nation in quality of life and quality places by providing safe, healthy, and resilient communities.

Objective 3.1 Expand collaboration with federal, state, regional and local organizations to ensure successful implementation of statewide economic development goals.

Outcome 3.1.1:	Percent of adopted comprehensive plan amendment packages with reviews completed in less time than required by Florida statute.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2015-16	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	78.0%	≥ 85.0%	≥ 85.0%	≥ 90.0%	≥ 90.0%	≥ 90.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>This measure is important to demonstrate the Bureau of Community Planning and Growth's efficiency in completing its review of adopted plan amendment packages that don't have adverse impacts on significant state resources and facilities within FloridaCommerce's scope of review, and which assist local governments in fostering vibrant, healthy communities. Focusing on FloridaCommerce's statutory responsibilities for review of adopted comprehensive plan amendment packages under the Community Planning Act is a good measure of the Division of Community Development's performance because it relates to a large percent of the existing workload.</p> <p>The proposed projections are reasonable based on average performance over preceding fiscal years. The bureau expects that performance will remain stable from this point forward.</p> <p>No additional staff members are required for FloridaCommerce to meet the projections for FY 2028-2029.</p>					

Outcome 3.1.2:	Number of instances of technical assistance provided by the Bureau of Community Planning and Growth staff to local governments and others related to the Community Planning Act, areas of critical state concern and developments of regional impact.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2015-16	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	1,422	≥ 1,400	≥ 1,400	≥ 1,400	≥ 1,400	≥ 1,400
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>FloridaCommerce provides a significant amount of technical assistance to local governments, developers, citizens, and state and regional agencies related to the Community Planning Act and the Florida Statutes governing areas of critical state concern and developments of regional impact. This is an appropriate measure of the Division of Community Development's performance because it relates to a large percent of the existing workload.</p>					

	<p>The projection is reasonable because the bureau expects the number of technical assistance activities to remain relatively stable. The projection is based on a three-year average.</p> <p>No additional staff members are required for FloridaCommerce to meet the projections for FY 2028-2029.</p>
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Outcome 3.1.3:	Number and percent of the public-private partners implementing one or more strategies in the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development.					
Fiscal Year	Baseline FY 2013-14	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29
Projections	6 / 100.0%	6 / 100.0%	6 / 100.0%	6 / 100.0%	6 / 100.0%	6 / 100.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>FloridaCommerce works with its public-private partners to adopt one or more strategies of the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development into their own organizational planning and priority setting processes. This provides a direct measure by which to evaluate those efforts.</p> <p>The Division of Economic Development works with contractual and non-contractual partners to implement activities from the Strategic Plan and receives annual reports from Visit Florida and Space Florida which discuss strategic initiatives they are undertaking in support of the Strategic Plan. When there is a direct contractual relationship with the partner, contracts are written to include deliverables for implemented activities that relate to the Strategic Plan. The Division of Workforce Services receives annual reports from Career Source Florida that have outlined strategic initiatives they are undertaking in support of the Strategic Plan. It is anticipated that this level of performance will continue. The Division of Community Development receives a quarterly report from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation demonstrating whether its performance meets the implementation target established in their Strategic Plan. The Long Range Program Plan standards projection for FY 2028-2029 reflect these efforts.</p> <p>No additional staff members are required to enable FloridaCommerce to meet the projections for FY 2028-2029.</p>					

Objective 3.2 Provide prioritized technical assistance, services, and financial resources to ensure the success of Floridians and our communities.

Outcome 3.2.1:	Percent of qualified weatherization assistance needs met and the percentage of weatherized homes meeting the national energy installation standards.					
Fiscal Year	Needs Met Baseline FY 2015-16	Needs Met FY 2024-25	Needs Met FY 2025-26	Needs Met FY 2026-27	Needs Met FY 2027-28	Needs Met FY 2028-29
Projections	32.0%	≥ 15.0%	≥ 15.0%	≥ 15.0%	≥ 15.0%	≥ 15.0%
Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>This measure is important to demonstrate the Bureau of Economic Self-Sufficiency's oversight over the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The program is designed to primarily serve the low-income population to improve the energy performance of their dwellings, using the most advanced technologies and testing procedures available in the housing industry. The program's benefit is that it helps participants increase their health, safety, and quality of life, as well as their personal income by decreasing their annual household energy expenditures. The resulting increase in retained earnings allows members of participating households the ability to make other necessary purchases they would otherwise have spent on their critical energy needs.</p> <p>The measure assesses the intended outcomes of the WAP to cost-effectively reduce the energy consumption and energy costs for qualified low-income families, thus enabling self-sufficiency and improving quality of life. The proposed projections are based on the baseline result and consistent historical program operations.</p>					

	<p>The measure outcomes are achieved using federal pass-through funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Thus, if this funding stream remains constant, the impact to FloridaCommerce’s current program operations to meet the proposed projection is negligible. Household demand and fiscal federal funding levels must be maintained or increased to ensure availability of staff and technical assistance required to successfully operate the WAP.</p> <p>FY 2028-2029 projection percentages were reduced due in part to ensuring a more reasonable projection for the program based on the technical competency of the weatherization network, which could largely impact FloridaCommerce’s ability to meet the standards for WAP.</p>
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Outcome 3.2.1:	Percent of qualified weatherization assistance needs met and <i>the percentage of weatherized homes meeting the national energy installation standards.</i>					
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Fiscal Year	Meets Standards Baseline FY 2016-17	Meets Standards FY 2024-25	Meets Standards FY 2025-26	Meets Standards FY 2026-27	Meets Standards FY 2027-28	Meets Standards FY 2028-29
Projections	100.0%	≥ 85.0%	≥ 85.0%	≥ 85.0%	≥ 85%	≥ 85%

Justification of FY 2028-29 Projection Impact and Statement Relating to Demand and Fiscal Implications	<p>The measure assesses the intended outcomes of the weatherization assistance program to cost-effectively reduce the energy consumption and energy costs for qualified low-income families, thus enabling self-sufficiency and improving quality of life. The proposed projections are based on the baseline result and consistent historical program operations. This measure is important to demonstrate the Bureau of Economic Self-Sufficiency’s oversight over the Weatherization Assistance Program.</p> <p>The program is designed to primarily serve the low-income population to improve the energy performance of their dwellings, using the most advanced technologies and testing procedures available in the housing industry. The program’s benefit is that it helps participants increase their health, safety, and quality of life, as well as their personal income by decreasing their annual household energy expenditures. The resulting increase in retained earnings allows members of participating households the ability to make other necessary purchases they would otherwise have spent on their critical energy needs.</p> <p>The measure outcomes are achieved using federal pass-through funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Thus, if this funding stream stays constant, the impact to FloridaCommerce’s current program operations to meet the proposed projection is negligible. Household demand and fiscal federal funding levels must be maintained or increased to ensure availability of staff and technical assistance required to successfully operate the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).</p> <p>FY 2028-2029 projection percentages were reduced due in part to ensuring a more reasonable projection for the program based on the technical competency of the weatherization network, which could largely impact our ability to meet the standards for WAP.</p>
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3. Linkage to Governor's Priorities

FloridaCommerce's goals and objectives align with and support Governor DeSantis' priorities to improve Florida's education system, economic development and job creation, public safety, and public integrity. The Strategic Plan identifies strategies for Florida to lead the nation in economic growth, workforce development, job growth, and quality of life. This alignment is illustrated in Table 1

Table 1. Alignment to Governor's Priorities

Governor's Priority 2: Improve Florida's Education System	
FloridaCommerce Goal 1: Lead the nation in economic growth and prosperity by supporting talent and business development.	
Strategic Plan Strategies	
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 1.1 Provide market- relevant workforce development, training, and placement services and individual assistance that meets the needs of Florida businesses and job seekers.</p>	<p>1.1 Continue to align education and workforce development programs to foster employment opportunities and develop and retain talented workers with the skills to meet current and future employer needs.</p> <p>4.4 Increase access to entrepreneurial resources including talent, funding, and research and development.</p>
Governor's Priority 3: Economic Development and Job Creation	
FloridaCommerce Goal 2: Lead the nation in global competitiveness by promoting Florida's innovation, pro-business climate, and opportunity.	
Strategic Plan Strategies	
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 2.1 Provide loans, grants and other financial support for small businesses and targeted industries in both rural and metropolitan communities.</p>	<p>2.3 Encourage export growth and market diversification.</p> <p>3.1 Enhance and protect accessibility and participation of a cross-representation of parties in an integrated planning, review, and development process (e.g., workforce training and development, natural resources and land use, housing, military, infrastructure, and transportation).</p> <p>3.4 Ensure the availability of workforce housing, the future supply and quality of water, telecommunications, and energy to meet Florida's economic and quality of life goals.</p> <p>4.2 Ensure state, regional, and local agencies provide collaborative and timely customer service to businesses and workers.</p> <p>4.3 Improve access to capital to encourage small and minority business growth.</p> <p>4.5 Encourage industry diversification to ensure a sustainable business climate.</p>
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 2.2 Ensure accountability, efficiency, and the quality of FloridaCommerce programs, services, and partnerships to safeguard taxpayer dollars.</p>	<p>5.2 Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government agencies at all levels.</p>
FloridaCommerce Goal 3: Lead the nation in quality of life and quality places by providing safe, healthy, and resilient communities.	
Strategic Plan Strategies	
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 3.2 Provide prioritized technical assistance, services, and financial resources to ensure the success of Floridians and our communities.</p>	<p>6.1 Create and sustain vibrant, safe, healthy, and resilient communities that attract workers, residents, businesses, and visitors.</p> <p>6.2 Ensure Floridians in all communities and life stages have opportunities to achieve healthier outcomes and societal contributions.</p>

**Governor's Priority 5:
Public Safety**

FloridaCommerce Goal 2: Lead the nation in global competitiveness by promoting Florida's innovation, pro-business climate, and opportunity.

	Strategic Plan Strategies
	<p>2.3 Encourage export growth and market diversification. 3.1 Enhance and protect accessibility and participation of a cross-representation of parties in an integrated planning, review, and development process (e.g., workforce, development, natural resources and land use, housing, military, infrastructure, and transportation). 3.4 Ensure the availability of workforce housing, the future supply and quality of water, telecommunications, and energy to meet Florida's economic and quality of life goals. 4.2 Ensure state, regional, and local agencies provide collaborative and timely customer service to businesses and workers. 4.3 Improve access to capital to encourage small and minority business growth. 4.5 Encourage industry diversification to ensure a sustainable business climate.</p>
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 2.1 Provide loans, grants, and other financial support for small businesses and targeted industries in both rural and metropolitan communities.</p>	
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 2.2 Ensure accountability, efficiency, and quality of FloridaCommerce programs, services, and partnerships to safeguard taxpayer dollars.</p>	<p>5.2 Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government agencies at all levels.</p>

FloridaCommerce Goal 3: Lead the nation in quality of life and quality places by providing safe, healthy, and resilient communities.

	Strategic Plan Strategies
	<p>5.3 Strengthen local, regional, and statewide partnerships to accomplish Florida's economic, quality of life and quality places goals.</p>
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 3.1 Expand collaboration with federal, state, regional and local organizations to ensure successful implementation of statewide economic development goals.</p>	
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 3.2 Provide prioritized technical assistance, services, and financial resources to ensure the success of Floridians and our communities.</p>	<p>6.1 Create and sustain vibrant, safe, healthy, and resilient communities that attract workers, residents, businesses, and visitors. 6.2 Ensure Floridians in all communities and life stages have opportunities to achieve healthier outcomes and make societal contributions.</p>

**Governor's Priority 6:
Public Integrity**

FloridaCommerce Goal 2: Lead the nation in global competitiveness by promoting Florida's innovation, pro-business climate, and opportunity.

	Strategic Plan Strategies
	<p>5.2 Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government agencies at all levels.</p>
<p>FloridaCommerce Objective 2.2 Ensure accountability, efficiency, and quality of FloridaCommerce programs, services, and partnerships to safeguard taxpayer dollars.</p>	

4. Trends and Conditions Statement

Overview

The Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce) is an executive branch agency. Section 20.60(4), F.S., directs FloridaCommerce to “assist the Governor in working with the Legislature, state agencies, business leaders, and economic development professionals to formulate and implement coherent and consistent policies and strategies designed to promote economic opportunities for all Floridians.” To accomplish this, FloridaCommerce:

- Facilitates the direct involvement of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor in economic development and workforce development projects designed to create, expand, and retain businesses in this state, to recruit business from around the world, and to facilitate other job creation initiatives.
- Recruits new businesses to promote the expansion of existing businesses by expediting permitting and location decisions, worker placement and training, and incentive awards.
- Promotes viable, sustainable communities by providing technical assistance and guidance on growth and development issues, grants, and other assistance to local communities.
- Ensures that the state’s goals and policies relating to economic development, workforce development, community planning and development, and affordable housing are fully integrated with appropriate implementation strategies.
- Manages the activities of public-private partnerships and state agencies in order to avoid duplication and promote coordinated and consistent implementation of programs.
- Coordinates with state agencies on the processing of state development approvals or permits to minimize the duplication of information provided by the applicant and the time before approval or disapproval.

FloridaCommerce's programs and services impact millions of Floridians each year. FloridaCommerce's priorities are to champion Governor DeSantis' economic development vision, diversify and grow Florida's economy, and ensure that Florida is the world's best place to live, learn, play, work, and do business.

Investing in Florida's Talent Pipeline

As part of the Governor's goal to make Florida the best state in the nation for workforce education by 2030, FloridaCommerce implements dynamic workforce training and education programs designed to connect Floridians of all walks of life to meaningful opportunities that translate to generational growth and economic sustainability. Lightcast ranked Florida #1 in talent attraction, due in part to Florida's powerful workforce innovations that harness the power of Florida's public and private sector partnerships, and innovation pathways.

Supporting Site-Ready Infrastructure

This past fiscal year, more than \$50 million has been awarded to 20 communities through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund program to promote public infrastructure and workforce training across the state, translating to more than 19,900 high-skill, high-wage jobs created in Florida's competitive industries, including manufacturing, aerospace and defense, semiconductor, and advanced packaging. Investments in modern, site-ready infrastructure coupled with Florida's robust talent pipeline draw businesses in competitive industries to Florida.

Expanding Broadband Internet Access

Florida is leading the charge in broadband Internet expansion. FloridaCommerce is responsible for administering Governor DeSantis' initial investment of \$226 million to expand reliable, high-speed Internet in underserved communities through the Broadband Opportunity Program. This initial investment amplifies Florida's workforce development initiatives by creating a projected 10,600 jobs through their construction and operations phases.

Additionally, FloridaCommerce provides millions of dollars in grant funding annually to local governments and communities to enhance resiliency and bolster their local economies and position them for success. In addition to the \$226 million awarded through Florida's Broadband Opportunity Grant Program, more than \$247 million was awarded through the Broadband Infrastructure Program, connecting more than 59 thousand unserved and underserved businesses, homes, farms and anchor institutions like hospitals and libraries to high-speed Internet.

Strengthening Florida Communities

Through the Rural Infrastructure Fund, nearly \$31 million was awarded in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to encourage job creation, capital investment, and diversification of rural economies. Additionally, the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program awarded more than \$36.5 million to enhance community and economic development and support job creation in Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

The agency has accomplished the goal of promoting increased self-sufficiency in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 by distributing a combined \$183 million across three programs. \$348 million in Reemployment Assistance was provided to more than 153,00 individuals. More than \$546 million in mortgage and utility relief was awarded through the Homeowner Assistance Fund, representing assistance to more than 28,151 vulnerable homeowners.

Elevating Florida Businesses

FloridaCommerce also prioritizes support for Florida's three million small businesses through dedicated programs like the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). SSBCI connects Florida small businesses and startups to capital. As of August 2023, 60 Florida businesses have received almost \$95 million in loans and investments, leveraging over \$300 million in private capital.

Promoting Economic Self-Sufficiency

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, more than \$153 million in assistance was provided to 164,725 eligible Florida households to assist with home energy needs and costs through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Additionally, Florida's Community Services Block Grant program provided \$23,629,744.71 in assistance to 78,222 households with needed services aimed to improve their quality of life and achieve higher levels of self-sufficiency. Through Florida's Weatherization Assistance Program, 640 homes were weatherized in Fiscal Year 2022-2023, with more than \$6 million.

Fostering Community Resiliency

FloridaCommerce provides support directly to Floridians impacted by disasters to secure decent, safe, and sanitary housing and to help communities mitigate the impacts of future disasters. The Rebuild Florida Program within the Office of Long-Term Resiliency has awarded more than \$2.2 billion to communities impacted by hurricanes and natural disasters to address long-term recovery needs for housing, infrastructure, and economic development. The newly created Local Government Emergency

Bridge Loan has provided more than \$50 million in loan funds to Hurricane Ian impacted local governments so that government operations can continue. As Florida's economy continues to evolve and recruit new industry opportunities, FloridaCommerce is also working to identify opportunities to prioritize affordable housing and improve existing infrastructure in rural and urban communities alike.

As Governor DeSantis maintains Florida's position as a nationwide leader in economic development, FloridaCommerce will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to develop programs that offer meaningful opportunities to all Floridians and enhance the prosperity and economic resiliency of the Sunshine State. Through its economic development programs FloridaCommerce drives business development and assists communities around the state by providing the tools those communities need to grow and thrive. The agency administers several programs targeted specifically for our state's veterans, Floridians living in low-to-moderate-income communities, and individuals who have fallen on financial hardships.

To address FloridaCommerce's priorities and statutorily mandated responsibilities, [section 20.60\(3\)\(1-7\), F.S.](#) establishes seven Divisions and Offices within FloridaCommerce. FloridaCommerce's Divisions of Community Development, Economic Development, and Workforce Services implement the various programs to achieve the Department's goals and are supported by the Divisions of Finance & Administration and Information Technology. The Department's Offices of Communications and External Affairs, General Counsel, Inspector General, Legislative and Cabinet Affairs, and Economic Accountability and Transparency also support the overall mission of the agency and Secretary by working collaboratively with all Divisions.

Impact of House Bill 5 on FloridaCommerce

During the 2023 session, the Florida Legislature developed and passed House Bill 5 (HB5) which was approved by the Governor on May 31, 2023, and became effective on July 1, 2023. The bill eliminated Enterprise Florida, Inc., (EFI) and provided that all duties, functions, records, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other public funds relating to the programs in EFI be transferred to FloridaCommerce.

A transition team consisting of representatives from DEO, EFI, and the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) was formed and began to meet the second week of May 2023. In addition, partner agencies – such as CareerSource, Florida Defense Support Task Force, Florida Development Finance Corporation, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, Florida Sports Foundation, Space Florida, and VISIT FLORIDA lent support to the effort. As directed by the Legislature, the team was charged with leveraging the opportunity created by HB5 to streamline economic development, business expansion and retention, and stakeholder services throughout the planning process.

Supporting Florida's economic momentum, ensuring minimal disruption, and enhancing support to current and future businesses required the team to foster an efficient, deliberative, and collaborative process. Moreover, these goals necessitated that the transition team move urgently to complete numerous milestones prior to the effective date of July 1, 2023.

The transition to FloridaCommerce has allowed the Department to gain efficiency, streamline economic development efforts, and reduce the size and footprint of government for job seekers and job creators. FloridaCommerce has been dedicated to a quick, efficient, and complete integration, with minimal disruption to, and maximum retention of, each organization's personnel. Ensuring continuity of service to Florida's communities, workforce development partners, businesses and families is a paramount need. Critical to FloridaCommerce's mission is the duty to empower local and regional job creators and businesses with the tools and support necessary to organically support

business growth, retain existing business, and attract new businesses. Finally, continuing to promote and develop Florida as a location for business growth, recruitment, and retention – through proactive, ongoing engagement with businesses and with an eye towards cutting red tape with a “concierge services” mindset – is, and will remain, a critical part of the FloridaCommerce mission, as we drive Florida’s economy forward into the future.

The bill also designated VISIT FLORIDA and the Florida Sports Foundation as direct-support organizations of FloridaCommerce. Those entities will continue existing programs, activities, duties, or functions necessary for their operation. The bill also made changes in law to authorize and require the creation of an international direct-support organization (branded publicly as SelectFlorida). Lastly, the bill repealed the following programs and incentives while maintaining continuation of payments for existing related commitments:

- Entertainment Industry Tax Credit
- Motorsports Entertainment Complex
- Qualified Defense and Space Flight Tax Refund
- Professional Golf Hall of Fame
- Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund
- International Game Fish Association World Center
- Economic Gardening Programs
- Florida Small Business Technology Program
- Quick Action Closing Fund
- New Markets Development Act
- Innovation Incentive Program
- Microfinance Loan Program
- Tax Credits for Spaceflight Projects
- Scripps Florida Funding Corporation
- Office of Film and Entertainment
- Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council

The bill authorized 20 positions and appropriated \$5 million in recurring funds to FloridaCommerce, \$5 million in recurring funds to SelectFlorida and appropriated \$1 million in nonrecurring funds to FloridaCommerce to facilitate changes made by the bill.

FloridaCommerce anticipates making multiple changes to its Long Range Program Plan measures as a result of House Bill 5’s passage. These changes will be reflected in a request for revised measures in FloridaCommerce’s Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2029-30 submission.

FloridaCommerce’s Programmatic Divisions and Offices:

Division of Community Development

The Division of Community Development fosters community and economic development in the state’s rural and urban communities. It assists local governments with efforts that prioritize local needs and balance state and federal requirements and resources. The Division of Community Development is comprised of the following five program areas:

- **Bureau of Small Cities and Rural Communities:** Over the past fiscal year, the Bureau of Small Cities and Rural Communities has awarded more than \$68 million to over 75 communities. The Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF), the Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV), the Recovery Housing Program (RHP), and the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs are valuable FloridaCommerce tools for economic development, workforce, and business development in small and rural communities. The Bureau is dedicated to small and rural communities that may not have the resources necessary to increase vitality and prosperity. Through the Rural Infrastructure Fund, over \$31 million has been awarded to encourage job creation, capital

investment, and diversification of rural economies. Through the Small Cities CDBG program, over \$37 million has been awarded for infrastructure improvements and community development projects that help communities grow and prosper. The Bureau also administers the Recovery Housing Program (RHP) funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and over \$3.6 million has been allocated to FloridaCommerce. In 2022, the agency awarded \$1.5 million to provide transitional housing for Floridians and veterans recovering from substance abuse through RHP. The Bureau is also responsible for administration of the Regional Rural Development Grant (RRDG) Program that provides \$750,000 to regional rural economic development organizations to build professional capacity and provide assistance to rural communities to develop and implement long-term regional economic development strategies.

- Bureau of Community Planning and Growth: The Bureau assists local governments with developing comprehensive plans that are consistent with Florida Statutes and protecting critical state resources and facilities. The Department provides technical assistance to local governments to help with meeting statutory requirements and the community's vision. This is done primarily through the review of comprehensive plan amendments. The review efforts are complemented with Community Planning and Technical Assistance grants, and Competitive Florida grants to local governments and regional planning councils to help with planning efforts. The Bureau of Community Planning and Growth provided more than \$1,520,000 in state funding for community planning efforts through the Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) grant program, which finances planning efforts within communities assisting with workforce development, statutory requirements and resiliency along with other aspects of planning. The Bureau supports communities in developing plans to attract new business and create workforce opportunities, improve resiliency to disasters, and connect with various state and federal resources to diversify and expand their economies through the Competitive Florida Partnership Program, which provided \$276,000 in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The Bureau also facilitates the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI). This initiative brings stakeholders from small communities and agencies throughout the state of Florida to discuss opportunities and best practices on how to improve these communities. Areas of Critical State Concern (ACSC), including the Florida Keys and the Green Swamp, are closely monitored to preserve our natural resources that are vital to the state's future. In the next fiscal year, we will be working with the newly designated Brevard Barrier Island Area of Critical State Concern.
- Bureau of Economic Self-Sufficiency: The Bureau helps the state of Florida's most vulnerable residents. Through various programs, the Bureau utilizes its economic self-sufficiency toolkit to deploy federal funds to pay electric bills, weatherize homes, provide assistance with water utility services, and help support educational efforts and transportation costs for low-income families. These programs strive to help families get back on their feet during times of financial adversity. This work is done through a network of Community Action Agencies (CAA), that includes non-profit organizations and local governments. In the past fiscal year, the Bureau has helped more than 249,345 homeowners with its economic self-sufficiency toolkit.
- Office of Long-Term Resiliency: Created in 2019, the Office of Long-Term Resiliency was allocated federal disaster recovery and mitigation funding to support communities following disasters by addressing long-term recovery needs for housing, infrastructure, economic development, workforce training, and mitigation activities. Within FloridaCommerce, the Office of Long-Term Resiliency is responsible for administering all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) long-term recovery funds

awarded to the State. Since 2017, the State of Florida has been allocated nearly \$2.5 billion in federal funding to support long-term recovery for Florida communities and individuals impacted by Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, Michael, and Sally, as well as CDBG-Mitigation funding related to storms that impacted Florida in 2016, 2017, and 2018. On May 18, 2023, HUD announced that the State of Florida will receive \$910 million for Hurricane Ian.

- Office of Broadband: Established within the Division of Community Development in July 2020, the Office of Broadband was formed to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband internet and develop the Faster Florida Broadband Map to help identify underserved areas of the state, as well as the Florida Broadband Strategic Plan to provide guidance for the future of broadband in the state. The Office markets, promotes, and assists in efforts to develop broadband Internet services throughout Florida. Since inception, the Office developed the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband, which outlines goals and strategies for the Office, local governments, and industry about availability, adoption, and use of broadband Internet service. Additionally, the Office partnered in developing local technology planning teams (LTPT) in all 67 Florida counties. The LTPTs provide opportunities for communities to engage with twelve industry sector leaders and Internet Service Providers in data gathering, project planning, and partnership building in preparation for broadband infrastructure expansion projects. The Office also developed the Faster Florida Broadband Map to highlight Internet connectivity in communities, locations of anchor institutions, and additional federal funding locations to assist LTPTs in project identification. The Broadband Opportunity Program, created to expand broadband Internet service in unserved and underserved locations around Florida was also established.

Initiatives and activities of the Division of Community Development:

- The Competitive Florida Partnership has helped 59 small communities to explore local assets that set them apart and make them competitive; create unique economic development strategies that harness the potential of local assets; identify resources available to help communities accomplish goals; and implement local projects.
- Through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the Division has assisted more than 164,725 low-income families meet the costs of home heating and cooling. These efforts have provided for improved living conditions by resolving or preventing a home energy crisis.
- The Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant Program has provided almost \$11.1 million to 283 grant recipients in Florida since 2015, including FY 2022-2023. The grants have enabled planning efforts within Florida's communities on both a local and regional basis that have enhanced the quality of life for those residents and future residents of Florida. These efforts have included planning for resiliency, food resource protection, natural resource protection, and infrastructure planning that have all assisted in economic development and recovery for those areas.
- Award grants for infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, and community revitalization.
- Administer state and federal grants and provide technical assistance.
- Coordinate and facilitate multi-agency efforts for rural community development, issues, and concerns.
- Facilitate and support economic development projects in designated Rural Areas of Opportunity.
- Monitor and verify compliance of grant performance.
- Provide technical assistance and support to rural and urban local governments, economic

development representatives.

- Support community planning and development initiatives while protecting resources of state significance.
- Provide technical assistance and work closely with state-level entities and local governments.
- Contract with local agencies who provide assistance programs for low-income Floridians.
- Provide guidance and support to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew

Following Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew, HUD announced that the State of Florida would receive more than \$111 million in CDBG-DR funding to support long-term recovery efforts.

Working with communities around the state, FloridaCommerce developed a plan to guide how this funding will be distributed to address unmet needs in the areas of housing, economic development, infrastructure repair, and mitigation. As directed by HUD, St. Johns County received most of this funding as the county with the most impacts from the 2016 hurricane season. Other impacted cities and counties are eligible to participate in a competitive grant cycle to address remaining unmet needs in their community.

- Rebuild Florida HUD MID Program (\$89,632,120) [St. Johns County]
- Rebuild Florida State MID Program (\$22,153,495) [Citrus County, City of Jacksonville, City of Palatka, Pasco County, Putnam County, and Volusia County]

Hurricane Irma

Following Hurricane Irma, HUD awarded the State of Florida more than \$812 million in CDBG-DR funding to support long-term recovery efforts. Working with impacted communities around the state, FloridaCommerce developed a plan to provide guidance on how this funding will address unmet recovery needs through the following state-managed programs:

- Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program (\$536,070,416)
- Rebuild Florida Workforce Housing Construction Program (\$120,000,000)
- Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program (\$28,626,309)
- Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program (\$12,607,765)
- Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program (\$55,751,354)

Hurricane Michael

Following Hurricane Michael, HUD awarded the State of Florida more than \$735 million in CDBG-DR funding to support long-term recovery efforts in the impacted areas. Working with impacted communities around the state, FloridaCommerce developed a plan to provide guidance on how this funding will address unmet needs in the areas of housing, economic development, and infrastructure repair.

- Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program (\$251,522,115)
- Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Repair Program (\$373,732,145)
- Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program (\$58,911,124)
- Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program (\$4,722,889)
- Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program (\$9,411,777)

- Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program (\$1,000,000)

Hurricane Sally

Following Hurricane Sally, HUD awarded the State of Florida more than \$187 million in CDBG-DR funding to support long-term recovery efforts in the impacted areas. Working with impacted communities around the state, FloridaCommerce developed a plan to guide how this funding will address unmet recovery needs in the areas of housing, economic development, and infrastructure repair.

- Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program (\$110,990,384.82)
- Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program (\$8,170,114)
- Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program (\$15,992,308)
- Rebuild Florida Subrecipient Housing Repair and Replacement Program (\$14,861,500)
- Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program (\$2,499,541.64)
- Rebuild Florida Workforce Affordable Housing Construction Program (\$25,000,000)

Mitigation

In April 2018, HUD announced that more than \$633 million in first-of-its-kind Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding would be available to the state of Florida for disaster mitigation projects in areas impacted by presidentially declared disasters in 2016 and 2017. Working with state agency and community partners, FloridaCommerce developed a plan to guide how this funding will address mitigation needs through the following programs:

- Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program (\$73,474,529)
- Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program (\$20,000,000)
- Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program (\$489,208,373)

FloridaCommerce has awarded more than \$45.5 million through the Mitigation Housing Oversubscription Program. The program follows the mission of the Rebuild Florida Hurricane Irma Housing Repair and Replacement Program (HRRP), with an additional focus on providing mitigation measures to a portion of the Hurricane Irma HRRP applicants who remain unserved.

Hurricane Ian

Following Hurricane Ian, HUD awarded the State of Florida more than \$910 million in CDBG-DR funding to support long-term recovery efforts in the impacted areas. Working with impacted communities around the state, FloridaCommerce developed a plan to provide guidance on how this funding will be distributed to address unmet needs in the areas of housing, economic development, and infrastructure repair.

Four entitlement counties will receive direct allocations:

- \$1.10 billion is allocated for Lee County.
- \$219 million is allocated for Orange County.
- \$200 million is allocated for Sarasota County.
- \$328 million is allocated for Volusia County.

In May 2023, HUD published the Federal Register Notice ([Federal Register/ Vol. 88, No. 96](#)). The

Hurricane Ian State Action Plan (FloridaJobs.org/Hurricane-Ian) was posted for public comment on July 12, 2023. The thirty-day comment period ended on August 12, 2023 and FloridaCommerce aims to submit the Hurricane Ian State Action Plan to HUD by September 20, 2023, well ahead of the deadline.

The Division of Community Development improved FloridaCommerce's outreach to Florida's small cities and communities through the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF), Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants, and the innovative Competitive Florida Partnership. Florida's small cities and counties are more economically viable and able to create jobs through financial assistance for specific job creation projects, redeveloped and enhanced commercial areas, well-planned communities, updated infrastructure, and affordable housing.

Additionally, FloridaCommerce is the lead agency for administering the requirements of Ch. 163, F.S., as they relate to local government comprehensive plans. FloridaCommerce's primary role consists of reviewing comprehensive plan amendments to determine whether the amendments will adversely impact important state resources and/or facilities and coordinating reviews with other state and regional agencies.

Division of Economic Development

The Division of Economic Development provides support for promoting the creation and expansion of Florida businesses, attracting out-of-state businesses to Florida, furthering economic development across the state, and facilitating the state's economic development partnerships. The primary initiatives and activities of the Division are carried out by the following five areas:

- Bureau of Business Development: The Bureau conducts due diligence, determines eligibility for awards, and oversees state economic development programs. Through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund an economic development program designed to promote public infrastructure and workforce training across the state, more than \$50 million has been awarded during the last fiscal year. In addition to the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, Bureau programs include the High Impact Performance Incentive, the Capital Investment Tax Credit, the Semi-Conductor, Defense and Space Technology Tax Exemption, the Research and Development Tax Credit, the Rural Job Tax Credit, the Urban Job Tax Credit, the Community Contribution Tax Credit and the Rural Areas of Opportunity Exempt Goods and Services Sales Tax Refund Program. The Bureau also manages relationships and agreements with partner organizations. In response to HB 5, the domestic business development functions of EFI were seamlessly integrated with the Bureau as the EFI team and Bureau staff were previously close partners on economic development projects. Functions such as business recruitment, site selections, local economic development collaboration, business retention and business expansion have continued without disruption.
- Office of Military and Defense: The formation of this new office within the Division is in recognition of the importance of Florida's military and defense community in our state, as well as its impact on economic development. This Office will provide the structure required to integrate FloridaCommerce's defense grants and EFI's military and defense programs, including the work of the Florida Defense Alliance and the Florida Defense Support Task Force. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, these organizations awarded 20 grants valued at \$6.1 million.
- Bureau of Compliance and Accountability: The Bureau oversees and reviews contracts for

verification of performance measures, in addition to the administration of tax credit, grant programs, and tax refund claims. The Bureau also provides technical assistance to businesses, processes all incentive payments, maintains all documentation related to and manages executed incentive agreements, and maintains the public database of incentive performance and payment data.

- Office of Small Business Innovation: The Office administers various capital programs that provide needed financial support for new and existing businesses, including low interest funding that can be used for a variety of purposes. Loan funds allow businesses to invest in local communities by employing residents, making capital improvements, and replenishing inventory. The Black Business Loan Program was established to provide capital access to black business enterprises that cannot obtain capital through conventional lending, but that have viable businesses, FloridaCommerce annually certifies eligible Black Business Investment Companies to receive funds and make loans, direct investments, and loan guarantees to black business enterprises throughout the state. The Office also administers the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) which mitigates financial hardships associated with the pandemic by providing funds for mortgage, utility, and housing assistance. To date, the Homeowner Assistance Fund has assisted 28,151 homeowners, awarded \$546,448,933.85 and distributed \$453,265,942.05 in payments to vulnerable Florida homeowners. In addition, FloridaCommerce has fully operationalized the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) 2.0. Through five unique programs, SSBCI 2.0 has supported 57 small businesses with \$88 million in SSBCI funding that has leveraged over \$290 million in private capital. These programs will continue to provide expanded capital access to businesses around the state, including very small businesses, minority-owned businesses and businesses in rural areas.
- Office of Partnerships: The Office is the central hub for internal and external partnership engagement, connecting local job creators, economic development organizations, and partner agencies with FloridaCommerce's programmatic teams and leadership to ensure smooth provision of services and to facilitate a business, workforce, and family friendly state. The Office is also responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the funding agreements between FloridaCommerce and our direct-support and partner organizations, such as SelectFlorida, Visit Florida, and the Florida Sports Foundation. Finally, the Office will provide concierge services to all businesses looking to make Florida a place to call home.

Initiatives and activities of the Division of Economic Development:

- Coordinate intergovernmental and statewide planning for economic development.
- Facilitate and support economic development projects.
- Monitor and verify compliance with the terms of economic development incentives.
- Monitor and ensure Florida's employers are complying with Florida's E-Verify laws.
- Collaborate with FloridaCommerce's partners, including SelectFlorida, Florida Sports Foundation, Space Florida, and VISIT FLORIDA, and manage their yearly funding agreements.
- Build and grow economic development partnerships at the local, regional, and statewide level.
- Recruitment and retention of businesses
- Manage economic development grant, loan, and tax exemption programs.
- Manage military and defense programs.

In 2022, the Division of Economic Development continued working with its partners to encourage sustained economic development throughout the state in qualified targeted industry sectors. The Division's economic development programs encourage high-quality, high-wage job creation and capital investment in Florida, while the Division's processes ensure accountability and protection of taxpayer dollars.

The Division sustained its commitment to transparency concerning the use of taxpayer dollars through the maintenance of the Economic Development Incentives Portal, a publicly accessible site through which Floridians can see each company's progress toward reaching agreed-upon performance measures. Business development award information is uploaded as performance is verified by the Division providing real-time, complete individual business data. Additionally, each year pursuant to s. 288.0065, F.S., the Division submits an Annual Incentives Report to provide transparency in state incentive programs, including performance information for various economic development incentive programs, information on the status of previously executed agreements, and detailed information on executed agreements and incentive payments made during the fiscal year.

Compliance and Accountability

The Division's processes were developed to ensure accountability and protection of taxpayer dollars. The Division continues to refine its comprehensive due diligence process which is completed at several points during the approval and contracting phases. Contract compliance is enforced through confirmation of performance requirements including job creation, annual average wages paid, and capital investment (if required by the program). RSM conducts detailed performance audits of each business that received an economic development incentive. Since 2019, the Division has recouped \$45,489,913 in taxpayer dollars due to non-compliance.

The Division's economic development programs are components of the state's economic development toolkit. Each program serves a different role in attracting business and retaining jobs, and the programs come in various forms such as tax refunds, tax credits, tax exemptions, and grants. Below is a summary of the economic development programs job and capital investment information (as applicable), since 2019. Please note that these numbers will change as claims are approved.

- **Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program:** Designed to encourage business development and job creation in specific industries while promoting Florida's economic diversification. Industries chosen for this program have strong expectations of future growth, are resistant to recession, pay wages higher than state or regional averages, and are not dependent on surrounding markets or resources for success. Since 2019, 32,502 jobs have been created as a result of the QTI program. This program was repealed effective July 1, 2023; however existing agreements remain in full force and payments are still made on them.
- **Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Tax Refund Program:** Designed to encourage redevelopment and job creation within designated Brownfield sites, where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination. To be eligible for bonus refunds, a Brownfield site must have an executed rehabilitation agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or with a local government delegated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Since 2019, 1,859 jobs have been created and \$13,276,897 in capital investment has been confirmed as a result of the BFR Program.
- **Rural Job Tax Credit Program:** Established to encourage the creation of jobs in rural areas

of Florida. The program offers corporate or sales tax credits to qualified businesses that create the required number of new jobs within a designated rural area. Since 2019, 312 jobs have been created as a result of the Rural Jobs Tax Credit Program.

- **Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credit Program:** Established to encourage job creation in one of the 13 designated urban high-crime areas. The program offers tax credits for corporate or sales tax to qualified businesses that create the required number of new jobs within an eligible area and allows businesses to receive a tax credit when hiring full-time employees within one of the 13 designated urban high-crime areas. Since 2019, 2,196 jobs have been created as a result of the Urban High-Crime Job Tax Credit Program.
- **Capital Investment Tax Credit Program:** Designed to attract and grow capital-intensive industries in Florida. This is an annual credit, provided for up to 20 years, against the corporate income tax liability or the premium tax liability generated by or arising out of a qualifying project. Since 2019, 9,069 jobs have been created and \$2,627,124,383 in capital investment has been made as a result of the CITC Program.
- **Quick Action Closing Fund Program:** A cash grant utilized as a “deal closing tool” in highly competitive negotiations where Florida’s traditional incentives were not enough to win the deal. The program has not been funded since FY 2015-2016; however, active contracts remain. Since 2019, 3,169 jobs have been created and \$764,060,557 in capital investment has been made as a result of the QACF Program. This program was repealed effective July 1, 2023, however existing agreements remain in full force.
- **High-Impact Performance Incentive Grant Program:** Reserved for major facilities operating in designated portions of high-impact sectors, including clean energy, life sciences, financial services, information technology, silicon technology, transportation equipment manufacturing, and a corporate headquarters facility. Since 2019, 362 jobs have been created and \$526,711,062 in capital investment has been made as a result of the HIPI Program.
- **State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Program:** Provides lenders with the necessary security to finance eligible small businesses. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 reauthorized the SSBCI, providing Florida-based small businesses with additional resources and capital to facilitate growth and economic development. These funds will support businesses owned or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including minority-owned, veteran-owned, women-owned, rural, or other targeted small business populations throughout Florida. Since January 2023, SSBCI has supported 57 small businesses with over \$88 million in SSBCI funding which has leveraged over \$290 million in private capital.
- **Black Business Loan Program:** Established to provide capital access to black business enterprises that cannot obtain capital through conventional lending, but that have viable businesses, FloridaCommerce annually certifies eligible Black Business Investment Companies to receive funds and make loans, direct investments, and loan guarantees to black business enterprises throughout the state. Since 2014, Florida has provided more than \$10 million in credit to more than 270 African American-owned businesses through the Black Business Loan Program.
- **Hispanic Business Initiative Fund:** Provided \$775,000 annually to support loan facilitation services, education, and technical assistance to Hispanic-owned businesses through

Prospera, formerly known as the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida. Prospera has been active in Florida for the past 30 years and has created the following impacts: \$4.9 billion in total economic output, 47,709 jobs created or sustained, \$1.6 billion in labor income, and generated over \$116 million in direct state and local tax revenue.

Division of Workforce Services

The Division of Workforce Services supports and reinforces Florida's labor force while ensuring that the state is poised to meet the private sector's demands for a competitive, skilled, and ready workforce.

FloridaCommerce is dedicated to ensuring every Floridian has the necessary skills and opportunities to find meaningful employment by supporting other state agency partners and the CareerSource Florida network that provide job seekers with services that include employment training and education to enhance and learn new skills. The Division of Workforce Services also provides support to Florida's unemployed by providing Reemployment Assistance services timely, efficiently and effectively while continuing to modernize the state's Reemployment Assistance system. FloridaCommerce has made significant progress in improving the user experience while enhancing mitigation efforts to prevent fraud and identity theft. The Division also provides support to Florida business communities by leveraging reliable labor statistics and research to help determine industry demands. The Division of Workforce Services is comprised of the following three program areas:

- Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research: The primary purpose of the Bureau is to produce, analyze, and distribute timely and reliable statistical information, including economic growth data, information on industry sectors, workforce talent, job openings, and more to assist Florida in making sound economic decisions. The Bureau of Workforce Statistics also provides data to many other state agencies and partners to support their efforts in economic research.
- Bureau of One-Stop and Program Support: The Bureau is responsible for administering workforce programs and providing technical assistance and support to CareerSource Florida and the state's 24 local workforce development boards (LWDBs). This partnership helps strengthen Florida's business climate by supporting employers and helping Floridians gain employment, remain employed, and advance in their careers. FloridaCommerce is the administrative agency designated for receipt of federal workforce development grants and other federal funds pursuant to Chapters 20 and 445, F.S. State law requires CareerSource Florida to enter into a contract with FloridaCommerce for the administration of workforce services and funds.
- Bureau of Reemployment Assistance: The Bureau is responsible for administering the state's Reemployment Assistance program that provides temporary wage replacement benefits to qualified individuals who are out of work through no fault of their own. Over the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Bureau of Reemployment Assistance put Floridians on a path to economic self-sufficiency, including the distribution of more than \$362 million in Reemployment Assistance to more than 255,168 claimants. This program is supported by five units within the Bureau. The units include Claims Processing, Operations, Adjudication, Appeals and Quality Assurance.

The Division of Workforce Services has three goals to establish long-term change within the Division:

- Continue Reemployment Assistance system modernization.

- Create an integrated customer-focused statewide workforce and services system.
- Expand current and develop new partnerships throughout the state to continue supporting the Governor's workforce initiatives.

Under the guidance of the Division's goals, the following initiatives and activities occur in the Division of Workforce Services:

- Promote employment and provide programs, services, resources, and opportunities for Florida's job seekers, including veterans, individuals with unique abilities, recipients of government assistance, previously incarcerated individuals, and other Floridians with barriers to employment.
- Assist Florida's employers in finding, developing, and retaining qualified workforce talent.
- Provide Florida's Reemployment Assistance services efficiently, timely, and effectively while modernizing the system to improve customer experience and mitigate Reemployment Assistance fraud and identity theft.
- Administer and provide guidance, oversight, and technical assistance, as well as federal performance reporting, for the state's workforce programs.
- Produce, analyze, and deliver timely and reliable labor statistics and research to improve economic decision-making.
- Assist in the strategic alignment and coordination of education and workforce initiatives to create an online opportunity portal, allowing all Floridians to access education and training options, labor market information, career planning tools, workforce training, and educational support.

Reemployment Assistance

The Reemployment Assistance Bureau continues to improve systems and processes to provide timely benefits to Floridians and support to employers and third-party administrators. Florida's economic stability continues to give Floridians confidence in finding gainful employment with 2.4 million new businesses created since 2019 and 1.1 million more Floridians in the workforce than prior to the pandemic; however, there is still a backlog of work to complete from the surge in claims dating to April of 2020. FloridaCommerce plans to resolve the remaining workload through staff, system modernization and technical enablement to provide functionality needed to satisfy service level requirements. FloridaCommerce has reduced the adjudication backlog from 2,272,789 issues to 1,103,382 resolving 2,898,553 issues during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. In addition, Appeals held a total of 82,819 cases and cleared the backlog of 26,445 cases during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Based on this accomplishment Appeals has been able to start closing cases in an average of 18 days since March 2023.

In response to the surge in claims in 2020, the Florida Legislature appropriated funding during the 2021 legislative session for FloridaCommerce to provide Floridians with a more efficient and accessible Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System (System) that is customer-friendly, secure, scalable, and sustainable, and also positions the Department for success in future continuous modernization efforts. FloridaCommerce has accomplished the following over a two-year modernization schedule ending June 30, 2023.

Enhanced customer experience and support that included:

- An enhanced Reemployment Assistance Help Center,
- The implementation of a web-based support Visual Interactive Voice Response (Virtual IVR),
- A System and Software Integration (SSI) that ensured all of the modernization projects

would work together to enhance the user's experience.

Increased efficiency, functionality and agility by:

- Increasing system availability for all users during periods of high demand by transitioning the System from physical servers to a cloud-based environment;
- Creating a Data Warehouse to store and report Reemployment Assistance data improving the accuracy of federally mandated reports;
- Creating a layer that serves as the messenger for all data exchanges between the System's components to help reduce demand on the System and maintain System performance for claimants;
- Finalizing the System Development Life Cycle and Development Operations, improving and setting the standard for maintaining System documentation and plans the deployment of System enhancements that align and prioritize Reemployment Assistance Program requirements with the System's functionality to ensure the System can continue to support modernization and positively impact claimant activities within the System;
- Completing Business Process Optimization to ensure a more efficient claims process for Floridians, employers and FloridaCommerce staff;
- Completing the first iteration of a Rules Catalog to develop a continuous plan to determine the future needs of the Rules Engine which identifies all state and federal rules that govern the administration of the Reemployment Assistance program, the number of times each rule has changed, the date(s) each rule has changed and the relative complexity of each rule;
- Deploying a cloud-based version of the existing application performance management tool to enable rapid scalability to accommodate claimants and identify requirements to maintain peak System performance and prevent System downtime;
- Advancing data sharing and the standardization among information technology systems which created a data catalog and data dictionary for FloridaCommerce; and
- Issuing a Request for Information as the first step for implementing an Archive and Purge process to reduce FloridaCommerce's data storage costs and maintain the efficiency and stability of the System.

Expanded fraud prevention by:

- Upgrading the .NET and Object Relational Mapping (ORM) platforms to the latest, most secure version, allowing the System to receive security fixes, updates and technical support that align with industry standards and completing Identity Management and Access Control policies; and
- Implementing enhanced front-end security measures to authenticate System users, ensuring individual users are provided the appropriate amount of access for their needs;
- Completing and implementing Identity Management and Access Control policies to enhance front-end security measures to authenticate System users, ensuring individual users are provided the appropriate amount of access for their needs.

As part of the Reemployment Assistance modernization efforts, program oversight and transparency established the Strategic Planning Office to equip FloridaCommerce with standards, governance and project management services for the Program, and to oversee the project scope, schedule and budget to promote accountability and alignment with FloridaCommerce priorities. FloridaCommerce has moved into continuous modernization with three projects carrying over and four additional projects beginning in 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Additionally, the Florida Legislature enacted Senate Bill 50 during the 2021 legislative session which eliminated all charges to contributory employers for benefits paid from April 1, 2020, through

December 31, 2020, and recalculated rates for tax years beginning January 1, 2021. This resulted in lowering the rates on most contributory employers and keeping the minimum tax rate of \$7.00 per employee. Over 379,000 employers remained at the minimum tax rate in 2023. This change also reduced the tax rate for 144,000 employers that had an experience rating and were not paying the minimum tax rate. The lower tax rates will allow employers to reinvest these savings into improving their business and recruiting employees.

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Division of Workforce Services responded to three declared disasters within six months, Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Nicole, and Broward flooding. Reemployment Assistance received 36,198 Disaster Unemployment Claims and paid over \$22 million in benefits to impacted Floridians while they pursued employment after the cleanups. For Hurricane Ian and Broward flooding, the Division of Workforce Services deployed personnel to FEMA Disaster Centers to assist citizens in person.

Workforce Services

The Division of Workforce Services, in partnership with CareerSource Florida and the Florida Department of Education (Vocational Rehabilitation, Blind Services, and Career and Adult Education), works to deliver a comprehensive and responsive workforce delivery system. The Division remains focused on implementing strategies and [HB 1507](#) Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act to enhance data quality, maintain program integrity, and leverage technology to effectively deliver high quality workforce services to Florida's job seekers and employers.

The REACH Act creates a system-wide approach to workforce development and education in Florida. This includes a unified system where referrals can be made electronically statewide through connected case management systems, making it much more efficient for case managers, as well as offering a 360-degree vantage point of a participant to better understand the success of the referrals.

In December 2021, the Division of Workforce Services completed a feasibility study to determine the best solution for accomplishing the goals of the REACH Act regarding system integration. FloridaCommerce analyzed the results of the feasibility study which resulted in the creation of the FL WINS program. With a \$250 million budget appropriated over the 2021 and 2022 Legislative sessions, the FL WINS program works in conjunction with other state agency partners and the REACH office to create a consumer-first workforce development system that seeks to provide Floridians improved access to workforce programs and services through interoperable systems and shared integrated data. Since the program's inception, the FL WINS program has initiated several projects that will provide a solid foundation for entering the implementation phase of the Program.

Additionally, the Division of Workforce Services collaborated with CareerSource Florida, the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Florida Department of Education (DOE) to establish Hope Navigators in each LWDB. Spearheaded by First Lady Casey DeSantis, Hope Navigators are available to guide Floridians on an individualized path to prosperity, economic self-sufficiency and hope by focusing on community collaboration between the private sector, faith-based community, nonprofits and government entities to break down silos, in an effort to maximize resources and identify opportunities. Services provided by Hope Navigators include:

- Identifying goals and barriers
- Referrals to local, community-based partners
- One-on-one support to develop a plan to achieve economic self-sufficiency

The Division of Workforce Services continues to issue guidance to the state's LWDBs to ensure

compliance with the REACH Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and continues to explore new technology solutions in several program areas, including but not limited to, integrating workforce systems, continuing to modernize the Reemployment Assistance benefits system, and streamline processes for the data integrity tool, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program, the Foreign Labor Certification, the Department's Customer Information Center, and state and federal Program Monitoring. The goal is to equip FloridaCommerce staff with performance measures and other management tools to enhance service delivery to our customers.

Workforce Statistics and Economic Research

The Division of Workforce Services, serving as Florida's Labor Market Statistics Center, continues to establish methods to share data and information that enhances the state's workforce efforts and is responsive to customer's needs. The Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research (WSER) frequently updates its online data delivery system, Florida Insight, which allows users to access key economic and labor market information and analyze labor market trends using data visualization tools.

Through the enactment of Senate Bill 240 (2023), WSER has taken on additional roles to provide support to many new and existing partners. To support the REACH Act, WSER provides relevant economic data, labor market research, validates Standard Occupational Codes (SOC), evaluates credentials against the demand and wages aspects of the Framework of Quality, maintains the credentials catalog and Master Credentials List data, and tracks credentials that meet the full Framework of Quality for admission onto the Master Credentials List for the REACH Office, the Credentials Review Committee, Department of Education and CareerSource Florida. Additionally, WSER works directly with Florida DOE to review SOC codes for the Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Industry Certification List also outlined in Senate Bill 240 (2023). Several relevant economic data products and analyses are shared to support the functions required by the Labor Market Estimating Conference.

Beginning in the 2022-23 fiscal year, WSER assumed reporting duties for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), including reports and deliverables that are required at the state and federal level. According to SB 240, FloridaCommerce is responsible for assigning a letter grade for each local workforce development board in conjunction with the REACH Office, under s. 445.004, F.S. FloridaCommerce is working with the REACH Office and DOE, to develop a tool for both workforce and educational services.

WSER has expanded their services to include conducting advanced economic impact analyses; conducting industry surveys and other data collection efforts to assess economic conditions across the state; writing targeted industry reports and other publications; consulting for site selection and development; evaluating the outcomes and effectiveness of economic development projects; expanding the agency's economic databases to incorporate critical data related to international trade and business investment; and other activities to inform the state's economic development strategy.

WSER also works with FloridaCommerce's Reemployment Assistance staff transforming the way work is allocated to the team and to maintain the Reemployment Assistance Claim Workflow Dashboard. This dashboard provides daily updates on the progress of the Reemployment Assistance program. The number of claims submitted, verified, processed, and paid across each of the state and federal programs are highlighted in an easy to navigate dashboard. This dashboard provides transparency into the Reemployment Assistance process and serves as a mechanism to help explain the claims process to the media, legislature, and other stakeholders.

Office of Economic Accountability and Transparency

The Office of Economic Accountability and Transparency was created by House Bill 1463 which passed during the 2021 Legislative session. The Office oversees FloridaCommerce's critical objectives and ensures that they are clearly communicated to the public. The Office is charged with organizing Department resources, expertise, data, and research to focus on and solve complex economic challenges facing the state and providing leadership for the Department's priority issues that require integration of policy, management, and critical objectives from internal and external stakeholders.

The Office is also tasked with promoting and facilitating key Department initiatives to address priority economic issues and exploring data and identifying opportunities for innovative approaches to address economic issues as well as strategic planning for the Department.

Recapturing Funds - Treasury Offset Program

The Treasury Offset Program is a government-wide debt matching and payment offset system developed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. It works by matching a database of delinquent debts owed to various government agencies against payments made by the government. When a delinquent debtor record is matched to a payment being issued, the payment is intercepted and offset by all or part of the debt.

In addition to these programs and assets, FloridaCommerce has many other resources upon which to build, integrate, and support its programs and services, furthering Florida's economic development vision. While FloridaCommerce's goals, objectives and measures have been revised to better reflect its commitment to its statutory charge, the programs and resources viewed as necessary to achieve FloridaCommerce's priority of integrating disparate or overlapping services remain the same.

FloridaCommerce Agency Partnerships

FloridaCommerce works jointly with an innovative collaboration of public-private partnerships in the effort to accelerate Florida's economic development goals. Through these partnerships, the state's limited resources are better leveraged to remove existing barriers to job creation, find creative planning solutions, and improve Florida's capacity to attract, retain, and expand business.

- **CareerSource Florida, Inc.** serves as the state's principal workforce policy organization. As a statewide policy and investment board of business and government leaders, CareerSource Florida is charged with guiding workforce development for Florida. CareerSource Florida was established through s. 445.004, F.S. in 2000 under the Florida Workforce Innovation Act. Created as a not-for-profit corporation, CareerSource Florida provides policy direction for workforce programs administered by FloridaCommerce, Florida's 24 local workforce development boards (LWDB), and nearly 100 career centers throughout the state. Together, the CareerSource Florida network connects employers with qualified, skilled talent and Floridians with employment and career development opportunities to achieve economic prosperity.
- **Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC)** is a public corporation of the State of Florida and serves as the state's housing finance agency. FHFC was established through s. 420.504, F.S., in 1980, as a financial institution. Through its programs, FHFC addresses the lack of safe, affordable housing by administering state and federal resources to help provide affordable homeownership and rental housing options for residents in Florida. Today, FHFC continues these mission-critical efforts to help make Florida communities

great places to live, work, and do business.

- **VISIT FLORIDA** serves as the state's official tourism marketing corporation and the official source for travel planning to visitors across the globe. To fulfill its mission to establish Florida as the number one travel destination in the world, VISIT FLORIDA maximizes the impact of the Florida tourism industry's efforts to promote the state to potential visitors in the U.S. and across the world.
- **Space Florida** is an Independent Special District of the State of Florida and was established through s. 331.302, F.S., in 2006. Space Florida is responsible for accelerating the growth of space-related industry within Florida's economic goals through targeted space business retention, expansion, and diversification efforts. Space Florida also provides leadership in innovative educational, research, development, workforce development programs, and space-related infrastructure development projects.
- **Select Florida** is a newly created direct support organization charged with international business development and trade created under s. 288.012, F.S. SelectFlorida has been organized as a Florida non-profit corporation and Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the Secretary of State. Throughout the fall, ongoing projects will be finalized to fully operationalize SelectFlorida.
- **The Florida Department of Education (DOE)** serves as the single repository of education data from school districts, state and community colleges, universities, and independent postsecondary institutions, administers a statewide reading initiative for Florida's public schools, and serves approximately 2.8 million students. The department works with 4,400 public schools, 28 colleges, 202,500 instructional staff, 46,000 college professors and administrators, and 340,000 full-time staff throughout the state to enhance the economic self-sufficiency of Floridians through programs and services geared toward college, workforce education, apprenticeships, job-specific skills, and career development.
- **Florida's Reimagining Education and Career Help Act (REACH) Office** serves to address the evolving needs of Florida's economy by increasing the level of collaboration and cooperation among state businesses and education communities while improving training and providing for equity and access to a more integrated workforce and education system for Florida. In close coordination with DEO and DOE, the Reach Office works to champion the state's workforce development efforts to realize the Governor's vision to make Florida the number one state in the nation for workforce education by the year 2030.
- **The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)** works in partnership with local communities and DEO to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency. DCF furthers the state's economic self-sufficiency efforts through its Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency, which works to determining eligibility for food, cash and medical assistance for individuals and families in Florida.
- **Veterans Florida** is a non-profit created by the State of Florida to help military veterans transition to civilian life and to promote Florida's status as the nation's most veteran-friendly state. Veterans Florida provides powerful tools for veterans to take advantage of the benefits of living and working in the Sunshine State. In partnership with DEO, Veterans Florida connect veterans with employers who are eager to hire veterans for jobs that put

their particular military skills to use through its Career Services Program and Workforce Training Grant.

- **Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDFC)** was by the Florida Development Finance Corporation Act of 1993 to serve as the state-wide, special development financing authority for economic development purposes. FDFC assists new and existing businesses and organizations (for-profit and not-for-profit) with access to capital through financings that promote business activity, job creation, and an improved standard of living for the citizens of Florida. The FDFC also issues industrial revenue bonds in counties throughout Florida through interlocal agreements.
- **The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** provides a safe transportation system for Floridians and ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of the state's environment and communities. The department is committed to building a transportation system that not only fits the current needs of Florida's residents and visitors but also enhances mobility throughout the state to accommodate its consistent and rapid economic growth.
- **The Florida Board of Governors** was established in 2003 through the passage of a constitutional amendment. It is a 17-member governing board that serves as the governing body for the State University System of Florida. This board appoints the chancellor of the State University System of Florida, defines the distinctive mission of each member university, coordinates the planning and operation of the system, and through the State University System 2025 Strategic Plan, helps align the State University System's goals with Florida's highest economic, workforce, and research needs. The Board's continued close attention to the accuracy and credibility of its Strategic Plan will focus the State University System to help Florida find solutions to the educational, economic, and societal challenges of the coming decades.
- **Florida Sports Foundation** is a newly created direct support organization and it is the official sports promotion and development organization for the State of Florida. It assists Florida communities with securing, hosting, and retaining sporting events and sports-related businesses that generate significant economic impact and sports tourism for the state through grant programs, legislative initiatives, and industry partner services, recognition, and development. It also promotes and develops professional, amateur, recreational sports, and physical fitness opportunities that produce a thriving Florida sports industry and environment.
- **Florida Defense Support Task Force** makes recommendations to preserve and protect military installations; to support Florida's position in research and development related to or arising out of military missions and contracting; and to improve the state's military-friendly environment for service members, military dependents, military retirees, and businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to Florida.

Selection of FloridaCommerce Priorities

FloridaCommerce's priorities are Governor-driven, within the framework of laws passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor. Each year as part of the LRPP process, FloridaCommerce conducts a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, which also contributes to its priority selection.

FloridaCommerce continues to collaborate with stakeholders to develop programs that offer meaningful opportunities to all Floridians and enhance the prosperity and economic resiliency of the Sunshine State. FloridaCommerce champions the Governor’s economic development vision through robust communication with its statewide and local economic development partners, active outreach to Florida’s business community, and engagement with other state agencies, such as the Florida Department of Education (DOE) and the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT). Through its economic development programs FloridaCommerce drives business development and assists communities around the state by providing the tools those communities need to grow and thrive. The agency administers several programs targeted specifically for our state’s veterans, Floridians living in low-to-moderate-income communities, and individuals who have fallen on financial hardships.

As a result of HB5’s passage, FloridaCommerce anticipates adding and/modifying priorities to accommodate additional missions from EFI that are transferred to FloridaCommerce.

The Current Economic Climate Affecting FloridaCommerce Priorities and Programs

The responsibilities placed on FloridaCommerce, and its consequent budget and program needs, are directly related to the overall economic climate and health of the state. To assess the state’s overall economic climate and health, FloridaCommerce monitors data in several key areas that are used to determine progress for three strategic priorities, which also align with FloridaCommerce’s goals: Economic Growth and Prosperity, Global Competitiveness, and Quality of Life and Places.

Table 2: Economic Growth and Prosperity

Economic Growth and Prosperity Key Indicators			
Net Business Creation	Total Private Sector Jobs	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate

More than 2.5 million new business formations and over 1 million Floridians joined the workforce over the last four years – more than any other state in the nation.

Florida led many states, in business creation, having supported the creation of 54,741 new businesses in June 2023, a positive 2.4% change from May 2023.

Florida gained (+319,500 jobs) since 2022.

Florida’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.7% as of July 2023, unchanged from a year ago, and .8% below the U.S. unemployment rate of 3.5%. July marked 33 consecutive months as the lowest unemployment among the nation’s 10 largest states.

Table 3: Global Competitiveness

Global Competitiveness Key Indicator				
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Total Merchandise (Two-Way) Trade	Florida-Origin Exports	Employment in Foreign-Owned Firms	Per Capita Personal Income

As of 2023, Florida touted the nation’s fourth largest economy as measured by Real GDP, and industries supporting global trade, professional and business services, finance, healthcare services, technology, tourism, and agriculture helped to expand Florida’s economy. Total merchandise trade

(exports plus imports of goods passing to, from, and through the state) reached an all-time record of \$190 billion in 2022, an increase of 16%. The value of Florida-origin exports (goods grown, mined, or manufactured in the state) reached a record \$68 billion in 2022, ranking the state 6th in the U.S. Florida ranked 5th in the U.S. for employment among majority foreign-owned firms in 2020 (latest data available) supporting over 353,000 Florida jobs, while the state’s personal income ranked 4th in the nation in 2022.

Table 4: Quality of Life and Places

Quality of Life and Place Key Indicators			
Total Visitors	International Visitors	Net Domestic Migration	Population

In 2022, Florida welcomed more than 137 million visitors, including seven million international visitors. According to the most recently available Office of Economic and Demographic Research analysis, all of Florida’s population growth between 2020 and 2022 was due to net migration. In comparison, between 2010 and 2020, 89.5% of the state’s growth was due to net migration. From April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that only 22.0% of Florida’s net migration was international, while the remainder (78.0%) was domestic.

Florida remains the third most populous state in the nation after California and Texas. From 2020 to 2022, Florida experienced the second highest population growth in the nation adding nearly 707,000 new residents. The state’s many assets include a large and diverse consumer and labor market; a tradition of innovation and invention; extensive infrastructure and natural resources; and worldwide appeal to workers, retirees, and visitors.

The Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development

The Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development (Strategic Plan) is a document required by s.20.60(5)(a)4., F.S. The Strategic Plan plays a significant role in defining FloridaCommerce’s priorities. The Strategic Plan addresses the following areas:

- Strategies for the promotion of business formation, expansion, recruitment, and retention through aggressive marketing, international development, and export assistance.
- The development of realistic policies and programs to further the economic diversity of the state, its regions, and their associated industrial clusters.
- Specific provisions for the stimulation of economic development and job creation in rural areas and midsize cities and counties of the state, including strategies for rural marketing and the development of infrastructure in rural areas.
- Provisions for the promotion of the successful long-term economic development of the state with increased emphasis in market research and information.
- Plans for the generation of foreign investment in the state including programs that establish viable overseas markets, assist in meeting the financing requirements of export-ready firms, broaden opportunities for international joint venture relationships, use the resources of academic and other institutions, coordinate trade assistance and facilitation services, and facilitate availability of and access to education and training programs that assure requisite skills and competencies necessary to compete successfully in the global marketplace.
- The identification of business sectors that are of current or future importance to the state’s economy and to the state’s global business image, and development of specific strategies to promote the development of such sectors.

- Strategies for talent development necessary in the state to encourage economic development growth, taking into account factors such as the state’s talent supply chain, education and training opportunities, and available workforce.

The first Strategic Plan was released in 2013. Building on the success of the first five years, FloridaCommerce (then the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity) and key stakeholders updated and released a new five-year Strategic Plan in 2018. FloridaCommerce is currently working to develop a revised Strategic Plan for release.

How FloridaCommerce will Address its Priorities Over the Next Five Years

FloridaCommerce anticipates adjusting its objectives and outcome measures as a result of additional responsibilities from HB5. To address these new requirements, FloridaCommerce will continue to work with its existing partners, stakeholders, and the newly created SelectFlorida to fulfill its responsibilities. FloridaCommerce will also utilize SWOT analyses to help inform how it addresses future priorities.

Potential Policy Changes Affecting FloridaCommerce’s Budget Request

FloridaCommerce engages in continuous collaboration and communication with its communities, local job creators, and workforce and economic development partners to create and addresses opportunities within Florida’s economy through strategic deployment of its programs. In keeping with statutory requirements and strategic priorities, FloridaCommerce continues to integrate and streamline its work across the program areas of business, community, and workforce development as well as the area of long-term resiliency to accomplish Florida’s economic development vision.

Task Forces, Councils, Committees, Boards and Studies in Progress

FloridaCommerce’s Divisions work with a wide array of local, state, and federal task forces, councils, committees, and boards. The majority of these reflect federal initiatives implemented in the Division of Workforce Services.

Leadership and staff members represent FloridaCommerce by serving on or providing support to 89 advisory task forces, councils, committees, and boards. Table 5 provides a summary of the participation by area of the department as well as by the category of task force, council, committee, or board.

Table 5. Participation in Advisory Task Forces, Councils, Committees and Boards

Type of Task Forces, Councils, Committees and Boards	Community Development	Economic Development	Workforce Services	Finance and Administration	Totals
Led by other agencies that require FloridaCommerce participation	5	5	9	5	24
Created by federal or state statute that require FloridaCommerce leadership	5	7	2	0	14
Others supported through FloridaCommerce participation	14	2	32	3	51
Total All Types	24	14	43	8	Total: 89

Below are listings by division and brief descriptions of the advisory task forces, councils, committees, and boards with FloridaCommerce representation.

Division of Community Development: Task Forces, Councils, Committees, and Boards

Staff members in the Division of Community Development represent FloridaCommerce by serving on or providing support to 24 advisory task forces, councils, committees, and boards.

Led by other agencies that require FloridaCommerce participation

- **Center for Urban Transportation Research Advisory Board:** The Center is established in s. 334.065, F.S. The board is an internationally recognized transportation research institution for policymakers, transportation professionals and the public. Its purpose is to provide expertise in the form of research, policy analysis, comprehensive training, and education on transportation-related issues.
- **Regional Planning Councils:** The Regional Planning Councils, established in s. 186.504, F.S., assist local governments to resolve their common problems, engage in area wide comprehensive and functional planning, administer certain federal and state grants-in-aid, and provide a regional focus regarding multiple programs undertaken on a regional basis.
- **Weatherization Assistance and Program Policy Advisory Council:** The Council is established as a requirement of the U.S. Department of Energy. The Council meets annually to contribute to and approve the FloridaCommerce-developed state plan for the Florida Weatherization Assistance Program, which is submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy upon approval.
- **Wekiva River Basin Commission:** The commission is established in s. 369.324, F.S., and created as part of the Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act of 2004. The purpose of the commission is to monitor and ensure implementation of the recommendations by the Wekiva River Basin Coordinating Committee for the Wekiva Study Area.
- **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan:** Pursuant to s. 375.021, Florida Statutes, Bureau of Community Planning and Growth staff participate in the 2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Workgroup. More information can be found at: <https://floridadep.gov/parks/florida-scorp-outdoor-recreation-florida>.

Created by federal or state statute that require FloridaCommerce leadership

- **First Housing Development Corporation, Board of Directors:** The corporation is established in s. 420.101(1)(d), F.S., to promote and develop housing and advance the prosperity and economic welfare of the state. The Secretary or the Secretary's designee is a statutorily named nonvoting member of the board.
- **Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), Board of Directors:** The Corporation is established in s. 420.504(3), F.S., with the statutory mission to increase affordable housing opportunities and ensure programs are well matched to the needs of those who are served. FloridaCommerce is a statutorily named member to the board.
- **Florida Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI):** FloridaCommerce serves as the lead implementing agency for REDI. The initiative is responsible for coordinating and focusing the efforts and resources of state and regional agencies on the challenges which affect the economic viability of Florida's economically distressed rural communities. REDI works with local governments, community-based organizations, federal agencies, and private organizations that have an interest in the economic

growth and development of Florida's rural communities.

Others supported through FloridaCommerce participation

- **Florida Association for Community Action, Inc.:** The self-supporting Association is responsible for assisting the local Community Action Agencies in Florida with providing training, technical assistance and disseminating informational materials received from the federal government. The Florida Weatherization Network is seated on this board.
- **Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council:** The Council is a managerial initiative of the Florida Department of Transportation. The purpose of the Council is to promote the livability, health, and economic benefits of bicycle and pedestrian activity.
- **Florida Department of Transportation Airport Sustainability Guidebook Technical Advisory Committee:** The Florida Department of Transportation is developing an Airport Sustainability Planning Guidebook which will serve as a Florida-specific resource to help airports develop their own sustainability programs, implement sustainability initiatives and track sustainability performance. FloridaCommerce provides a land use planning perspective on the technical advisory committee.
- **Florida Department of Transportation Scenic Highway Advisory Committee:** The Advisory Committee assists the Florida Department of Transportation to designate public roads as scenic highways. Per s. 335.093, F.S., public roads designated as scenic highways are intended to preserve, maintain, and protect a part of Florida's cultural, historical, and scenic routes for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian travel. FloridaCommerce provides a land use and community planning perspective in the review of new applications for designation as scenic highways.
- **Florida Department of Transportation Environmental Technical Advisory Team:** The team is a sub-committee assisting the Florida Department of Transportation's development of the Florida Transportation Plan. Team members use the Environmental Screening Tool to review Efficient Transportation Decision Making project information, identify potential project effects and submit comments to the department. FloridaCommerce provides comments on projects related to land use, their consistency with relevant local government(s) comprehensive plans and on general economic impact.
- **Florida Department of Transportation Plan Resilience Subcommittee:** The purpose of the subcommittee is to provide input to the Steering Committee on updates to the Florida Transportation Plan related to resiliency planning.
- **Florida Grant Consortium Advisory Panel:** The mission of the Florida Grant Consortium is to provide a forum that promotes accountability of state funds by increasing awareness of statutory requirements and encouraging best practices in grants and grant management.
- **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary – Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee:** The Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee monitors wastewater projects and canal restoration activities. FloridaCommerce participates in this effort because the Florida Keys are designated as an Area of Critical State Concern.
- **Florida Main Street Advisory Committee:** The committee annually reviews and provides recommendations for applications for new local programs for participation in the Florida Main Street Program governed by Rule 1A-36, F.A.C.
- **Florida Rural Water Associations Florida Funders:** Representatives from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, FloridaCommerce, the water management districts, and other groups meet on a quarterly basis to discuss funding availability and funding levels for individual

communities.

- **Indian River Lagoon Council Management Board:** The Board is established to operate the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program that seeks to protect and restore the lagoon. The board advises the council on its technical assistance efforts with respect to restoration efforts. It also advises the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program on all aspects of Indian River Lagoon restoration.
- **Safe Mobility for Life Coalition:** The Coalition is a joint initiative of the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida State University Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy. The Coalition addresses specific needs of Florida's aging road users by providing insight and expertise related to the specialized transportation needs of Florida seniors.
- **Silviculture Best Management Practices Technical Advisory Committee:** The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services works collaboratively with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop voluntary best management practices for state-designated imperiled wildlife species as an alternative to incidental take permitting. The technical committee works to develop and periodically update the Florida Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual.
- **Springs License Tag Grant Committee:** Florida is home to 700 freshwater springs. Many of these springs are degraded by pollution, invasive non-native water plants and other threats. Grant funds from the non-profit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc and partners are available to assist with restoration and maintenance of the springs. The funds are available from the purchase of Springs License Tags. The organizations research and test solutions to the degradation problems, leading to restoration of our most significant springs. The focus of the grants are research projects that lead to a better understanding of Florida's springs and how to restore and maintain their long-term ecological health, including development of effective strategies for addressing, one or more principal threats facing Florida's springs. Preference is given to research and adaptive management projects with the potential to benefit multiple springs. The Department assists with recommending recipients of these grants.
- **Florida Weatherization Network:** The Network works with utility providers in Florida and staff members from the Florida Public Service Commission, FloridaCommerce and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Energy on an ongoing basis. The Network coordinates feedback from members, which assists the development of procedures and guidelines for activities required to be implemented by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Division of Economic Development: Task Forces, Councils, Committees, and Boards

Staff members in the Division of Economic Development represent FloridaCommerce by serving on or providing support to 14 advisory task forces, councils, committees, and boards.

Led by other agencies that require FloridaCommerce participation

- **Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council:** The Council is established in s. 311.09, F.S. It is a nonprofit corporation serving as the professional association for Florida's 15 public seaports and their management. The Council provides leadership, advocacy, and information on seaport-related issues before the legislative and executive branches of state and federal government.
- **Space Florida:** Established in s. 331.302, F.S., Space Florida fosters the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading aerospace industry in Florida. Space Florida promotes aerospace business development by facilitating business financing,

spaceport operations, research and development, workforce development, and innovative education programs.

- **VISIT FLORIDA, Board of Directors:** VISIT FLORIDA serves as a catalyst to maximize the impact of the Florida tourism industry's efforts to promote the state to potential visitors in the U.S. and across the world. VISIT FLORIDA was established in 1996 by s. 288.1226, F.S. FloridaCommerce appoints the 31-member board of directors.
- **Agricultural Economic Development Project Review Committee:** The Committee is established in s. 570.81, F.S. The committee reviews application for assistance that helps to promote and coordinate efficient and beneficial agricultural economic development within agriculturally depressed areas of the state; make recommendations to the commissioner regarding all aspects of each eligible application, including the acceptance or rejection of each application; prioritizes the applications recommended for assistance; and forwards all written comments and recommendations to the commissioner, which shall be included in the annual report of the department.
- **Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development:** The advisory council is established in s. 287.0947, F.S. The purpose of this body is to advise and assist the Secretary of Management Services in carrying out the secretary's duties with respect to minority businesses and economic and business development.

Created by federal or state statute that require FloridaCommerce leadership

- **Economic Development Liaisons:** The Economic Development Liaisons are established in s. 288.021, F.S. Liaisons serve as a primary point of contact for their agency with FloridaCommerce on issues and projects important to the economic development of Florida, including reporting on and implementing of the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development within their respective organizations.
- **Florida Development Finance Corporation, Board of Directors:** The Corporation, formed by the Florida Development Finance Corporation Act of 1993, is designated as a state-wide, special development financing authority for economic development purposes. During the 2020 Legislative session, Senate Bill 666 amended s. 288.9604, F.S. and requires the FloridaCommerce Secretary, or his designee, to serve as chair of the board of directors of the corporation.
- **Florida Defense Support Task Force:** The Task Force was established through s. 288.987(5), F.S., to make recommendations to preserve and protect military installations; to support Florida's position in research and development related to or arising out of military missions and contracting; and to improve the state's military-friendly environment for service members, military dependents, military retirees, and businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to Florida.
- **Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council, Seaport Environmental Management Committee:** Established in s. 311.105(1)(b), F.S., the Committee provides a forum for discussion of environmental issues relating to maintenance dredging and dredged material management; environmental mitigation; air and water quality permitting; and the maintenance of navigation channels, port harbors, turning basins, harbor berths, and associated facilities.
- **Florida Export Finance Corporation:** Established in s.288.773, F.S., the Corporation's mission is to expand employment and income opportunities for residents of this state through increased exports of goods and services, by providing businesses domiciled in this state information and technical assistance on export opportunities, exporting techniques, and financial assistance through guarantees and direct loan originations for sale in support of export transactions.

- **Florida Small Business Development Center Network Advisory Board:** Established in s.288.001(4)(b), F.S., the Advisory Board advises, counsels, and confers with the statewide director on matters pertaining to the operation of the network and develops support services (information, research, consulting, educating, or assisting businesses) that are delivered through regional small business development centers.
- **SelectFlorida Board of Directors:** Established in s. 288.012, F.S., the Board assists SelectFlorida to provide assistance and promotional support for international offices, trade and promotion, development and planning related to foreign investment, international partnerships, and other international business and trade development in conjunction with FloridaCommerce.

Others supported through FloridaCommerce participation

- **Florida Sports Foundation:** The Florida Sports Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, is the official sports promotion and development organization for the State of Florida. It is charged with the promotion and development of professional, amateur, recreational sports, and physical fitness opportunities that produce a thriving Florida sports industry and environment.
- **Florida Transportation Plan/Strategic Intermodal System Plan Implementation Committee:** The Florida Transportation Plan/Strategic Intermodal System Plan Steering Committee is established in ss. 339.155 and 339.64, F.S. It is created to establish the state's transportation vision and strategies to meet the needs of a growing population, make Florida's economy more competitive, improve Florida's quality of life and environment, address emerging transportation issues, and define objectives for Florida's high-priority transportation network through the Strategic Intermodal System Plan.

Division of Economic Development staff also attends a variety of events and board meetings across the state to better understand the strategic directions of each region and to better serve the citizens of Florida.

Division of Workforce Services: Task Forces, Councils, Committees, and Boards

Staff members in the Division of Workforce Services represent FloridaCommerce by serving on or providing support to 43 advisory task forces, councils, committees, and boards.

Led by other agencies that require FloridaCommerce participation:

- **CareerSource Florida, Inc.,** is a nonprofit corporation created in s. 445.004, F.S. Under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, each state must create a state workforce board responsible for directing and advising on the state's workforce policy and direction. CareerSource Florida, Inc., is the administrative entity directed to act and operate as staff to the state's workforce board, and to implement the state board's policies to Florida's 24 Local Workforce Development Boards.
- **Adult Reentry and Employment Strategic Planning Steering Committee:** The Florida Department of Corrections in partnership with FloridaCommerce received grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a Strategic Plan to reduce recidivism. The goal is to increase public safety by reducing recidivism and improving the employability of offenders returning to Leon, Gadsden, Duval, and Baker counties. Statutory Authority: The Second Chance Act; Public Law 110-199; 34 USC 10681
- **Assistive Technology Advisory Council/Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and**

Technology: The Alliance is established in s. 413.407, F.S. It is administered through the Florida Department of Education. The Alliance serves Floridians with disabilities by providing free access to information; referral services; educational programs; and publications in accessible formats on topics such as disability rights, laws, and policies.

- **Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged:** The Commission is established in ss. 427.012 and 427.013, F.S. The Commission achieves its purpose by coordinating efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for Floridians in need of transportation services.
- **Florida Council on Homelessness:** The Council is established in s. 420.622, F.S., for the purpose of developing homelessness prevention and reduction, policy recommendations, and advising the Department of Children and Families' Office on Homelessness on interagency coordination to reduce homelessness throughout the state. The Office coordinates the services of the various state agencies and programs to serve individuals or families who are homeless or are facing homelessness.
- **Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys:** The Council is established in s. 16.615, F.S. The Council focuses and leads research and efforts to alleviate and correct the underlying conditions that adversely impact black men and boys throughout Florida.
- **Florida is for Veterans, Inc.:** Veterans Florida is established in s. 295.21, F.S. Created in 2014, it promotes Florida as a veteran-friendly state that seeks to provide veterans with employment opportunities and promotes the hiring of veterans by the business community, including retired and recently separated veterans.
- **Independent Living Services Advisory Council:** The Council is established in s. 409.1451(7), F.S. It was created for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations concerning the implementation and operation of independent living transition services for youth aging out of foster care.
- **Interstate Migrant Labor Commission:** The Commission is an interstate compact whose purpose is to establish and maintain close cooperation and understanding of migrant labor programs among executive, legislative, and local government bodies and lay leadership on a nationwide basis at the state and local levels. In selecting the Florida membership of the Interstate Migrant Labor Commission, the Governor may designate the Secretary of FloridaCommerce as his representative per s. 450.251, F.S.

Created by federal or state statute that require FloridaCommerce leadership:

- **Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council:** The Council is established in s. 446.53, F.S. It was created as a nonprofit corporation, which operates as a direct support organization of FloridaCommerce.
- **Florida Talent Development Council:** The Council is established in s. 1004.015, F.S. In 2019, the Higher Education Coordinating Council was reconstituted as the Florida Talent Development Council for the purpose of developing a coordinated, data-driven, statewide approach to meeting Florida's needs for a 21st century workforce, which utilizes Florida's talent supply system. Administrative support for the Council is provided by FloridaCommerce.

Others supported through FloridaCommerce participation:

- **Analyst Resource Center Information Presentation and Policy Subgroup:** The Subgroup is a federal initiative, and participation was suggested by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The purpose of the Subgroup is to enhance the administration's delivery of labor market information to workforce

customers in the employment, education, and economic development sectors.

- **Big Bend Coalition against Human Trafficking:** The Coalition aids the victims of human trafficking. The Coalition's purpose is to raise awareness about human trafficking, establish multi-agency collaborations to investigate and prosecute human traffickers, and propose and advocate for policies intended to end human trafficking.
- **Complete Florida Plus Program/Florida Virtual Campus, Executive Advisory Council:** The Council is established by s. 1006.735, F.S. The Florida Virtual Campus provides statewide distance learning, student support, and library services to all Florida public colleges and universities, as well as advising resources used by Florida K-12 students, parents, and educators.
- **Council for Community and Economic Research:** The Council operates under the umbrella of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. It is a membership organization that promotes excellence in community and economic research by working to improve data availability, enhance data quality and foster learning about regional economic analytic methods.
- **Cross-Agency Agricultural Forum:** The Forum established by 29 CFR 42.20(5)(d), is a network of agencies throughout the USDOL region with a mission to address the safety and health of agricultural workers. The group focuses on outreach and education, hazard awareness, and training for all agricultural workers.
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve:** The Reserve is a U.S. Department of Defense office/organization that was established in 1972. It provides counseling and mediation of issues relating to compliance with the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. It promotes understanding, cooperation, and military commitment conflict resolution between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers.
- **Employment and Transportation Task Force:** The Task Force is led by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and established in s. 393.002, F.S. FloridaCommerce's participation on the task force helps it achieve its mission to address the problem that accessible, affordable, or reliable transportation to and from the workplace is one of the top barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities and low-income job seekers.
- **Employment First Collaborative Team:** The team was established by Executive Order 13-284. It was then codified in the 2016 Legislative Session in s. 413.80, F.S., which went into effect July 1, 2016. It identifies the challenges facing people with disabilities who want to work and provides ideas on how to create more opportunities for this population.
- **Florida Developmental Disabilities Council:** The Council promotes innovative programs and practices to prevent developmental disabilities and improve the quality of life and workforce success for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. FloridaCommerce is a member of the Council.
- **Florida Enterprise Geographic Information Systems Data Coordination and Awareness Subgroup:** The Subgroup is a collaborative vehicle employed by the Florida geographic information system community to advance enterprise strategies and coordination through a unified voice. Participation in the Subgroup helps state and local partners to share data.
- **Florida Healthcare Workforce State Advisory Resource Group:** The Group serves as a resource for labor market intelligence and other information that assists the State Workforce Health Advisory Leadership Council in its work under a contract between the Florida Center for Nursing and CareerSource Florida.
- **Florida Interagency Farmworker Focus Group:** The Group uses its quarterly meetings to collaboratively determine, develop, and implement ways to coordinate and deliver

services to Florida's farmworkers, and develop ways to protect farmworkers by assisting them in reporting violations or abuses through the Florida Farmworker Helpline.

- **Florida Interagency Human Trafficking Workgroup:** The Workgroup is established in Ch. 2009-95, Laws of Florida, with the goal of combating human trafficking in Florida by supporting ongoing implementation of the Florida Strategic Plan on Human Trafficking.
- **Florida Veterans' Foundation:** The Foundation partners with state and local governments, veterans' service organizations, and educational institutions to improve veterans' physical, financial, mental, emotional, and social well-being. The Foundation is established in s. 292.055, F.S., as a direct support organization to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, which provides services to veterans and their families.
- **Labor Market Information Institute:** The Institute supports and promotes the production and use of high-quality workforce information through training and professional development, research, and technical assistance.
 - **Board of Directors:** The Labor Market Information Institute Board of Directors provides guidance to help build capacity for state labor market information (LMI) agencies. The Institute Board consists of six LMI directors from dues-paying member states, and three other workforce system representatives. At least two of the nine board members are selected from among Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)'s Board Members in order to ensure cross communication due to C2ER's fiduciary responsibility for the Institute.
- **National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA):** NASWA serves as the primary forum for states to collectively engage with the U.S. Department of Labor. It is an organization of state administrators of unemployment insurance laws, employment services, training programs, employment statistics, and labor market information. The division participates in the following NASWA boards and committees:
 - **Board of Directors:** The Board provides state workforce agency administrators and other workforce agency professionals the opportunity to discuss current national economic conditions and the legislative outlook on workforce system issues facing Congress with national experts in the field.
 - **Employment and Training Standing Committee:** The Committee provides a forum for state workforce administrators to share information and solutions on emerging issues related to the major workforce development programs.
 - **Interstate Benefits Subcommittee:** The Subcommittee provides opportunities for collaboration on new technology initiatives that allow states to work together more efficiently on inter-state benefits.
 - **Workforce and Labor Market Information Standing Committee:** The Committee provides a forum for developing recommendations for state workforce agencies, their federal partners and other workforce providers on building data-driven programs and services.
 - **Steering Committee, Unemployment Insurance (UI) Integrity Center of Excellence:** The Steering Committee provides guidelines for the UI Integrity Center of Excellence, a laboratory of innovation for developing strategies to maintain the integrity of UI systems and avoid fraud or improper payments.
 - **Unemployment Insurance (UI) Standing Committee:** The Committee provides state input on UI policies, performance requirements, administrative financing, and ways to strengthen the state-federal UI system.
 - **Veterans' Affairs Committee:** The Committee promotes the economic security of veterans through programs and activities designed to minimize unemployment and underemployment among veterans with service-connected disabilities and other targeted veterans' groups and maximize the employment and training

opportunities to all veterans.

- **National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Professionals (NAUIAP):** The Association serves to foster, advocate, and advance the broad principles of unemployment insurance within the scope of the Social Security Act, the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, and Florida Statutes, codes, rules, and regulations which pertain to the operation of the unemployment insurance program throughout the U.S.
- **Projections Managing Partnership Board:** The Board is a federal/state initiative implemented as a cooperative venture between the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the states. The Board serves as a central organizing body to enable the complex technical and administrative task of producing projections for each state and territory.
- **Wage Record Interchange System Advisory Council:** The Council is established by the U.S. Department of Labor. The Council facilitates the exchange of wage data among participating states. Data sharing among council members permits state workforce program performance agencies to obtain wage data of individuals who have participated in workforce investment programs in one state, but who have then subsequently secured employment in another.
- **Workforce Information Technology Group:** The Group is part of the Florida Workforce Development Association. The purpose of the Group is to provide for a free exchange of ideas, technologies, and innovation between members to benefit the local workforce development boards in Florida.
- **State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Advisory Group:** This advisory group is responsible for overseeing and participating in the conception of Florida's State Health Assessment. The advisory group is also responsible for recommending potential priorities for the SHIP, reporting findings from the assessment to the Steering Committee and providing insights into how the data can be put to action based on their subject matter expertise.
- **Florida Credentials Review Committee:** The Committee establishes a definition for credentials of value, creates a framework of quality and identifies non-degree and degree credentials of value for inclusion on a Master Credentials List to ensure instructional programs prepare Floridians for in-demand occupations.
- **Current Employment Statistics Policy Council:** The Policy Council promotes the effective management and technical direction of the CES Program and falls under the guidance of the BLS/LMI Oversight Committee (BLOC). This CES Policy Council membership includes both federal and state partners.
- **Florida Student Success Center Advisory Board:** This advisory board champions the work of the Florida Student Success Center with respective institutions, associations, and constituencies to inform stakeholders of the goals and activities of the Florida Student Success Center and provide opportunities for broader stakeholder input. The advisory board plays a key role in providing input and feedback on the focus, strategic plan, and implementation efforts of the Florida Student Success Center.
- **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) State System Redesign Team:** The QCEW is a federal initiative which ensures that state and federal interests are appropriately represented in producing employment and wage information. The State System Redesign Team participates in the development of the new QCEW state system by testing, advising, and providing input and feedback to ensure the system meets state users' needs.
- **Projections Management Partnership:** The Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) operates an integrated, nationwide program of state and local projections. The PMP helps projections customers make informed decisions based on the most reliable and relevant occupational and industry outlook information. Funding for the PMP is provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, with

technical support from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other entities across the country.

Division of Finance and Administration: Task Forces, Councils, Committees and Boards

Staff members in the Division of Finance and Administration represent FloridaCommerce by serving on or providing support to eight advisory task forces, councils, committees, and boards.

Led by other agencies that require FloridaCommerce participation:

- **Domestic Security Coordinating Group:** The Group is made up of representatives and subject matter experts from seven Regional Domestic Security Task Forces (RDSTF), designated urban areas, state agency partners and key organization liaisons who come together to address domestic security issues surfaced by the RDSTFs, network of Fusion Centers and the Domestic Security Oversight Council.
- **Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Emergency Support Function (ESF) 18:** The purpose of ESF 18 is to coordinate local, state, and federal agency actions that will provide immediate and short-term assistance for the needs of business, industry, and economic stabilization. Individual ESF 18s support the State Emergency Response Team's efforts after an emergency via identification and solicitation of resources to meet known stabilization and recovery needs. FloridaCommerce is identified as the implementing primary agency for ESF 18 under the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to direct the state's response to emergency disasters. The plan is established in s. 252.35 (2) (a), F.S. and administered by the Division of Emergency Management.
- **Interagency Advisory Council on Loss Prevention:** The Council is established in s. 284.50, F.S. It exists to discuss safety problems within state government, to attempt to find solutions for these problems, and when possible, assist in the implementation of solutions.
- **State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials:** The Commission was created by Executive Order 94-138 and is referenced in chapter 252, F.S. The purpose of the commission is to implement the federal Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act provisions in Florida and mitigate the effect of a release or spill of hazardous materials.
- **Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council:** The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council is established in s. 14.20195, F.S. for the purpose of advising the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention regarding the development of the Florida Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention with the guiding principle being that suicide is a preventable problem.

Others supported through FloridaCommerce participation:

- **Florida Association of State Agency Administrative Services Directors:** Representatives from each state agency, whose common responsibilities include Human Resource (Personnel), Purchasing and Procurement and Finance and Accounting, meet to discuss topics that effect all state agencies and to share best practices.
- **National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Finance and Administration Committee:** The Committee is a federally mandated committee under NASWA. The purpose of the Committee is achieved through enhancing the relationship between the state and federal government.
- **National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Unemployment Insurance Integry Advisory Council:** The Council is a federally mandated council under NASWA.

The Council is a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Labor and the New York State Department of Labor to support the Unemployment Insurance Integrity Center of Excellence.

5. Performance Measures and Standards Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II

Note: Exhibit II is ordered by budget entity.

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

Department: Department of Commerce	Department No.: 40
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Programs: Executive Direction and Support Services	Code: 40100000
Service/Budget Entities: Executive Leadership Finance and Administration Information Systems and Support Services	Code: 40100100 Code: 40100200 Code: 40100300

Approved Performance Measures FY 2023-24 (Words)	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Approved Standards for FY 2023-24 (Numbers)	Requested FY 2024-25 Standard (Numbers)
2.2.1 The percentage of administration and support costs and positions compared to total department costs and positions.	≤ 2.5% costs	1.8% costs	≤ 2.5% costs	≤ 2.5% costs
	≤ 16.0% positions	15.6 positions	≤ 16.0% positions	≤ 16.0% positions

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

Department: Department of Commerce	Department No.: 40
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Programs: Executive Direction and Support Services	Code: 40100000
Service/Budget Entities: Finance and Administration	Code: 40100200

Approved Performance Measures FY 2023-24 (Words)	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Approved Standards for FY 2023-24 (Numbers)	Requested FY 2024-25 Standard (Numbers)
2.2.5 The average number of days for execution of contracts and agreements funded in the General Appropriations Act.	≤ 75 days	105 days	≤ 75 days	≤ 75 days

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

Department: Department of Commerce	Department No.: 40
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Program: Workforce Services	Code: 40200000
Service/Budget Entity: Workforce Development	Code: 40200100

Approved Performance Measures FY 2023-24 (Words)	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Approved Standards for FY 2023-24 (Numbers)	Requested FY 2024-25 Standard (Numbers)
1.1.1 The percentage of individuals who enter the workforce after receiving training services funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.	≥ 86.5%	66.3%	≥ 86.5%	≥ 86.5%
1.1.2 The percentage of businesses using Florida’s workforce management information system.	≥ 8.1%	3.0%	≥ 8.1%	≥ 8.1%
2.2.4 The percentage of findings of “material weakness” or the equivalent level of severity in FloridaCommerce programs and practices reviewed or audited by Federal Auditors, OPPAGA, the Auditor General, the Inspector General, and other independent auditors. <i>[Spans 40200100, 40300200, and 40400100.]</i>	≤ 13.0%	9.0%	≤ 13.0%	≤ 13.0%
3.1.3 The number and percentage of the public-private partners implementing one or more strategies in the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development. <i>[Spans 40200100, 40300200, and 40400100.]</i>	≥ 6 / 100.0%	6 / 100.0%	≥ 6 / 100.0%	≥ 6 / 100.0%

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

Department: Department of Commerce	Department No.: 40
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Program: Workforce Services	Code: 40200000
Service/Budget Entity: Reemployment Assistance.	Code: 40200200

Approved Performance Measures FY 2023-24 (Words)	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Approved Standards for FY 2023-24 (Numbers)	Requested FY 2024-25 Standard (Numbers)
2.2.6 The percentage of Reemployment Assistance benefits paid accurately.	≥ 90.0%	61.31%	≥ 90.0%	≥ 90.0%
2.2.7 The percentage of Reemployment Assistance first payments paid timely.	≥ 87.0%	72.0%	≥ 87.0%	≥ 87.0%

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

Department: Department of Commerce	Department No.: 40
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Program: Workforce Services	Code: 40200000
Service/Budget Entity: Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission	Code: 40200700

Approved Performance Measures FY 2023-24 (Words)	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Approved Standards for FY 2023-24 (Numbers)	Requested FY 2024-25 Standard (Numbers)
2.2.2 The percentage of District Courts of Appeal decisions affirming or dismissing an appeal of an Order issued by the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission.	≥ 94.0%	100.0%	≥ 94.0%	≥ 94.0%
2.2.3 The percentage of Reemployment Assistance appeals cases disposed within 75 days.	≥ 80.0%	95.7%	≥ 80.0%	≥ 80.0%

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

Department: Department of Commerce	Department No.: 40
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Program: Community Development	Code: 40300000
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Service/Budget Entity: Housing and Community Development	Code: 40300200
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Approved Performance Measures FY 2023-24 (Words)	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Approved Standards for FY 2023-24 (Numbers)	Requested FY 2024-25 Standard (Numbers)
2.1.1 The percentage of available grant funding obligated during the reporting period.	≥ 97.5%	40.0%	≥ 97.5%	≥ 97.5%
2.1.4 The percentage of government loan funds obligated compared to total funds available at the beginning of the reporting period.	≥ 53.0%	59.9%	≥ 53.0%	≥ 53.0%
2.1.6 The percentage of required jobs (HUD requirement of one per \$34,999 funding) that were created, retained, or both because of Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development category funding as determined at the time the grant is administratively closed out for the fiscal year.	≥ 100.0%	0%	≥ 100.0%	≥ 100.0%
3.2.1 The percentage of qualified weatherization assistance needs met, and the percentage of weatherized homes meeting the national energy installation standards.	≥ 30.0% Needs met ≥ 81.0 Meets standards	4.1%Needs met 100.0% Meets standards	≥ 30.0% Needs met ≥ 81.0% Meets standards	≥ 30.0% Needs met ≥ 81.0% Meets standards

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

Department: Department of Commerce	Department No.: 40

Program: Community Development	Code: 40300000
Service/Budget Entity: Housing and Community Development	Code: 40300200

(Continued)

Approved Performance Measures FY 2023-24 (Words)	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Approved Standards for FY 2023-24 (Numbers)	Requested FY 2024-25 Standard (Numbers)
2.2.4 The percentage of findings of “material weakness” or the equivalent level of severity in FloridaCommerce programs and practices reviewed or audited by Federal Auditors, OPPAGA, the Auditor General, the Inspector General, and other independent auditors. <i>[Spans 40200100, 40300200, and 40400100.]</i>	≤ 13.0%	9.0%	≤ 13.0%	≤ 13.0%
3.1.1 The percentage of adopted comprehensive plan amendment packages with reviews completed in less time than required by Florida Statutes.	≥ 82%	97.95%	≥ 82%	≥ 82%
3.1.2 The number of instances of technical assistance provided by Bureau of Community Planning and Growth staff to local governments and others related to the Community Planning Act, areas of critical state concern, and developments of regional impact.	≥ 1,400	691	≥ 1,400	≥ 1,400
3.1.3 The number and percentage of the public-private partners implementing one or more strategies in the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development. <i>[Spans 40200100, 40300200, and 40400100.]</i>	≥ 6/100.0%	≥ 6/100.0%	≥ 6/100.0%	≥ 6/100.0%

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

Department: Department of Commerce	Department No.: 40
Program: Division of Economic Development	Code: 40400000
Service/Budget Entity: Division of Economic Development	Code: 40400100

Approved Performance Measures FY 2023-24 (Words)	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23 (Numbers)	Approved Standards for FY 2023-24 (Numbers)	Requested FY 2024-25 Standard (Numbers)
2.1.2 The percentage of incentives applications approved in less time than required by Florida Statutes.	≥ 95.0%	96.0%	≥ 95.0%	≥ 95.0%
2.1.3 The percentage of customers satisfied with their experience with FloridaCommerce’s implementation and support of the economic development incentive program.	≥ 81.0%	0.0%	≥ 81.0%	≥ 81.0%
2.1.5 The percentage of productions assisted by the Office of Film and Entertainment resulting in business and employment in Florida.	≥ 66.0%	84%	≥ 66.0%	≥ 66.0%
2.2.4 The percentage of findings of “material weakness” or the equivalent level of severity in FloridaCommerce programs and practices reviewed or audited by Federal Auditors, OPPAGA, the Auditor General, the Inspector General, and other independent auditors. <i>[Spans 40200100, 40300200, and 40400100.]</i>	≤ 13.0%	9.0%	≤ 13.0%	≤ 13.0%
3.1.3 The number and percentage of the public-private partners implementing one or more strategies in the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development. <i>[Spans 40200100, 40300200, and 40400100.]</i>	≥ 6/100.0%	≥ 6/100.0%	≥ 6/100.0%	≥ 6/100.0%

**6. Assessment of Performance for Approved
Performance Measures Long Range Program Plan Exhibit III**

Note: The Exhibit III is ordered by budget entity.

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit III: Assessment of Performance for Approved Performance Measures

Department:	Department of Commerce
Programs:	Workforce Services
Service/Budget Entities	Workforce Development/40200100
Measure:	1.1.2 The percentage of businesses using Florida's workforce management information system.

Action:

- Performance Assessment of Outcome Measure Revision of Measure
 Performance Assessment of Output Measure Deletion of Measure
 Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
≥ 8.2%	3.0%	5.2%	63.4%

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) <i>Please see the explanation below.</i> |

Explanation: The division was within 1.8% of target for the percentage of businesses using Florida's workforce management information system. This measure includes employers who have registered, received a service, or posted a job order within the year. The number of Wagner-Peyser staff, whose primary role is to provide employer services, has been impacted statewide as federal funding for Wagner-Peyser has been reduced. These staff are essential to helping Florida meet this measure as it is structured. As staff and funding are reduced this measure, as written, will be difficult to meet or exceed.

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) <i>Please see the explanation below.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | |

Explanation: Employ Florida, the state's online labor exchange system, is designed to be primarily self-service for employers and job seekers. There are employers who registered in previous years who continue to source talent from Employ Florida without posting job orders or receiving services by searching for candidates, or by having their job openings sourced in by Geographic Solutions through the National Labor Exchange. Employ Florida do not currently track these employers, but the department is looking at methods to include these businesses in reporting for a more accurate total number of employers who use Employ Florida. The Department saw a reduction in the utilization of the job matching management information system during the pandemic, which was due to many employers in the hospitality industry and other key industries either permanently closed or reduced operations,

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) <i>Please see the recommendation below.</i> |

Recommendations: The Department continues to work with the CareerSource Florida Network to encourage employers to utilize the Employ Florida system as a tool to satisfy their workforce talent needs.

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit III: Assessment of Performance for Approved Performance Measures

Department:	Department of Commerce		
Programs:	Workforce Services		
Service/Budget Entities	Reemployment Assistance/40200200		
Measure:	2.2.7 The percentage of Reemployment Assistance first payments paid timely.		
Action:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Outcome</u> Measure <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Measure <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Measure <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards			
Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
≥ 87.00%	72.0%	15.0%	-17.2%

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level of Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) <i>Please see the explanation below.</i> |
|---|---|

Explanation: During the calendar year 2019, the division was within 4.3% (83.7%) of targeted first payments paid timely. Due to the pandemic crisis, Florida received an unprecedented demand for Reemployment Assistance. Prior to the pandemic, the Reemployment Assistance program received on average 5,000 initial claims per week. From March 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020, the Department received over 2.28 million initial claims. In FY 2020-2021, the Department received 2.07 million in initial claims. The unemployment rate in Florida increased exponentially from 3.2% to approximately 20% in a very short period of time. This resulted in a large backlog in processing these claims and unsuccessful attempts to reach both claimants and employers, furthering the delays in processing first payments in a timely manner.

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change
<input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) <i>Please see the explanation below.</i> |
|--|---|

Explanation: Please see response above.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) <i>Please see the recommendation below.</i> |
|---|---|

Recommendations: The Department will continue to improve staff knowledge to improve quality and timeliness when processing claims. In addition, the Department will continue modernize Reconnect with plain language to improve clam submission and to automate processes.

7. Performance Measure Validity and Reliability Long Range Program Plan Exhibit IV

N/A

8. Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures Long Range Program Plan Exhibit V

Note: The Exhibit V is ordered by budget entity.

Long Range Program Plan Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures

Measure Number	Approved Performance Measures for FY 2023-24		Associated Activities Title
40100100 - Executive Leadership 40100200 - Finance and Administration 40100300 - Information Systems and Support Services			
2.2.1	The percentage of administration and support costs and positions compared to total department costs and positions.		
40100200 - Finance and Administration			
2.2.5	The average number of days for execution of contracts and agreements funded in the General Appropriations Act.		
40200100 - Workforce Services/Workforce Development			
1.1.1	The percentage of individuals who enter the workforce after receiving training services funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.		Provide workforce services to employers and job seekers. Support economic development planning with CareerSource Florida, Inc.
1.1.2	The percentage of businesses using Florida's workforce management information system.		
2.2.4	The percentage of findings of "material weakness" or the equivalent level of severity in FloridaCommerce programs and practices reviewed or audited by Federal Auditors, OPPAGA, the Auditor General, the Inspector General, and other independent auditors.		
3.1.3	The number and percentage of the public-private partners implementing one or more strategies in the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development.		
40200200- Workforce Services/Reemployment Assistance Program			
2.2.6	The percentage of Reemployment Assistance benefits paid accurately.		Process and review Reemployment Assistance claims.
2.2.7	The percentage of Reemployment Assistance first payments paid timely.		
40200700- Workforce Services/Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission			
2.2.2	The percentage of District Courts of Appeal decisions affirming or dismissing an appeal of an Order issued by the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission.		Review disputed reemployment assistance appeals referee decisions and defend disputed Commission Orders in court.
2.2.3	The percentage of Reemployment Assistance appeals cases disposed within 75 days.		

**Long Range Program Plan Exhibit V: Associated Activities
Contributing to Performance Measures**

Measure Number	Approved Performance Measures for FY 2023-24	Associated Activities Title
40300200 - Community Development/ Housing and Community Development		
<p>2.1.1</p> <p>2.1.6</p> <p>3.2.1</p>	<p>The percentage of available grant funding obligated during the reporting period.</p> <p>The percentage of required jobs (HUD requirement of one per \$34,999 funding) that were created, retained, or both as a result of Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development category funding as determined at the time the grant is administratively closed out for the fiscal year.</p> <p>The percentage of qualified weatherization assistance needs met, and the percentage of weatherized home meeting the national energy installation standards.</p>	<p>Provide community assistance and community revitalization initiatives.</p>
<p>2.2.4</p> <p>3.1.1</p> <p>3.1.2</p> <p>3.1.3</p>	<p>The percentage of findings of "material weakness" or the equivalent level of severity in General, and other independent auditors. programs and practices reviewed or audited by Federal Auditors, OPPAGA, the Auditor General, the Inspector General, and other independent auditors.</p> <p>The percentage of adopted comprehensive plan amendment packages with reviews completed in less time than required by Florida Statute.</p> <p>The number of instances of technical assistance provided by Bureau of Community Planning and Growth staff to local governments and others related to the Community Planning Act, areas of critical state concern and developments of regional impact.</p> <p>The number and percentage of the public-private partners implementing one or more strategies in the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development.</p>	<p>Provide technical planning assistance to local governments; funding and assistance for businesses; and small business and rural initiatives. Support economic development planning with Florida Housing Finance Corporation.</p>

**Long Range Program Plan Exhibit V: Associated Activities
Contributing to Performance Measures**

Measure Number	Approved Performance Measures for FY 2023-24		Associated Activities Title
40400100 - Division of Economic Development			
2.1.2	The percentage of incentives applications approved in less time than required by Florida Statutes.		Administer economic development incentive, programs business development, and support programs.
2.1.3	The percentage of customers satisfied with their experience with FloridaCommerce's implementation and support of the economic development incentive program.		
2.1.5	The percentage of productions assisted by the Office of Film and Entertainment resulting in business and employment in Florida. Note: Due to the Office of Film and Entertainment being eliminated by the legislature, FloridaCommerce recommends deleting this measure.		Administer the sales tax exemption program and provide services to develop Florida's film and entertainment industry.
2.2.4	The percentage of findings of "material weakness" or the equivalent level of severity in FloridaCommerce programs and practices reviewed or audited by Federal Auditors, OPPAGA, the Auditor General, the Inspector General, and other independent auditors.		Provide economic development program planning, evaluation and partnership coordination with SelectFlorida, Florida Ports Council, Space Florida, VISIT FLORIDA, and other partner entities.
3.1.3	The number and percentage of the public-private partners implementing one or more strategies in the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development.		
2.1.4	The percentage of government loan funds obligated compared to total funds available at the beginning of the reporting period.		Provide technical planning assistance to local governments; funding and assistance for businesses; and small business and rural initiatives. Support economic development planning with Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

9. Agency-Level Unit Cost Summary: Exhibit VI / LBR Schedule XI

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - FY 2024-25 SCHEDULE XI / EXHIBIT VI
 AGENCY LEVEL UNIT COST SUMMARY

COMMERCE, DEPARTMENT OF	FISCAL YEAR 2022-23			
	OPERATING			FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
SECTION I: BUDGET				
TOTAL ALL FUNDS GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT			1,219,417,611	110,408,900
ADJUSTMENTS TO GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (Supplementals, Vetoes, Budget Amendments, etc.)			2,403,494,509	351,847,600
FINAL BUDGET FOR AGENCY			3,622,912,120	462,256,500
SECTION II: ACTIVITIES * MEASURES				
	Number of Units	(1) Unit Cost	(2) Expenditures (Allocated)	(3) FCO
<i>Executive Direction, Administrative Support and Information Technology (2)</i>				57,256,500
Provide Workforce Services To Employers And Job Seekers * Number of employers, job seekers, training and welfare transition participants, & other workforce groups served; number of labor market statistics & information requests; number of strategic plan strategies implemented.	731,673	461.37	337,569,048	
Process Reemployment Assistance Claims * Number of initial claims filed and number of weeks paid by unemployed.	1,747,844	83.64	146,183,300	
Review Disputed Reemployment Assistance Appeals Referee Decisions And Defend Disputed Commission Orders In Court * Number of Reemployment Assistance appeals disposed of, appeals received, appeals filed with District Courts of Appeal by Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission and District Courts of Appeal court decisions made.	4,163	1,044.99	4,350,278	
Community Assistance And Community Revitalization Initiatives * Number of grants/technical assist for infrastructure improve, economic develop, housing rehab, energy & weatherization assist, self-sufficiency training/community service programs. Number benefiting from CSBG services.	110,407	11,597.91	1,280,489,922	
Technical Planning Assistance To Local Governments - Funding And Assistance For Businesses - Small Business And Rural Initiative * Number of technical/planning assistance to local govt's, small businesses/rural initiatives; Number of grants benefiting businesses, communities/economic development organizations; number of strategic plan strategies.	5,403	3,496.87	18,893,575	
Economic Development Incentive Programs Business Development And Support * Number of incentives applications received and reviewed; number of payment claims validated.	314	234,389.31	73,598,242	
Administer Incentive Programs To Develop Florida's Film And Entertainment Industry * Number of productions assisted by the Office of Film and Entertainment and sales tax exemptions approved.	3,349	295.39	989,258	
Economic Development Program Planning, Evaluation, And Partnership Coordination * Number of contracts and contract mgmt. deadlines completed; number of partner entities implementing one or more Strategic Plan strategies; number of economic development partners supported.	91	1,253,210.88	114,042,190	
Sadowski Programs * Number of loans funded	2,729	145,400.28	396,797,358	
TOTAL			2,372,913,171	57,256,500
SECTION III: RECONCILIATION TO BUDGET				
PASS THROUGHS				
TRANSFER - STATE AGENCIES				
AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS				
PAYMENT OF PENSIONS, BENEFITS AND CLAIMS				
OTHER			397,995,154	405,000,000
REVERSIONS			434,087,738	
TOTAL BUDGET FOR AGENCY (Total Activities + Pass Throughs + Reversions) - Should equal Section I above. (4)			3,204,996,063	462,256,500

SCHEDULE XI/EXHIBIT VI: AGENCY-LEVEL UNIT COST SUMMARY

(1) Some activity unit costs may be overstated due to the allocation of double budgeted items.
 (2) Expenditures associated with Executive Direction, Administrative Support and Information Technology have been allocated based on FTE. Other allocation methodologies could result in significantly different unit costs per activity.
 (3) Information for FCO depicts amounts for current year appropriations only. Additional information and systems are needed to develop meaningful FCO unit costs.
 (4) Final Budget for Agency and Total Budget for Agency may not equal due to rounding.

10. Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Access to Capital: Refers to the ability of small, rural, minority businesses and/or businesses serving disadvantaged areas to obtain loans and funds to expand their operations.

Areas of Critical State Concern: A program protecting resources and public facilities of major statewide significance as defined in s. 380.05, F.S.

Auditor General: Constitutional officer, appointed by the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, adopts rules for financial audits and conducts financial, operational, and performance audits.

Bureau of Labor Market Statistics: Bureau within FloridaCommerce's Division of Workforce Services. The Bureau produces, analyzes, and delivers labor statistics to improve economic decision making.

Career Centers: Career centers located throughout Florida that offer workforce development services such as job search, referral, and placement assistance; career counseling and educational planning; support services, including childcare and transportation assistance needed to gain employment; workforce training programs; and other available workforce development services.

CareerSource Florida, Inc.: Established in s. 445.004, F.S., CareerSource Florida, Inc. is the statewide workforce policy and investment board of business and government leaders charged with overseeing the CareerSource Florida network, which includes FloridaCommerce, 24 local workforce development boards, and nearly 100 career centers.

Community Action Agencies: Florida's community action agencies connect low-income individuals with programs that can help families pay bills, obtain employment, and become self-sufficient.

Community and Competitiveness Planning: Type of planning is strength-based planning and is based on unique community factors to build and enhance a given local economy in partnership with the target community.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): A federally funded program which provides community development grants to smaller local governments to improve local housing, streets, utilities, and public facilities. The CDBG program also supports downtown redevelopment and job creation.

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR): In response to Presidentially declared disasters, Congress may appropriate additional funding for the CDBG Program as Disaster Recovery grants to rebuild the affected areas and provide crucial seed money to start the recovery process.

Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation: First-of-its kind federal funding from HUD for Mitigation activities. While this funding is allocated to communities that experienced presidentially declared disasters, projects do not need direct tie-back to the disaster and are instead focused on securing critical community lifelines against future storms.

Community Planning: Type of planning combines integrated land-use planning and infrastructure and resource planning to improve the built, economic, and social environments of communities.

Community Revitalization: Efforts undertaken to give new life to a community through economic development or redevelopment.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG): Program providing services to assist low-income people in attaining the skills, knowledge, and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. The CSBG Program also provides low-income individuals with immediate life necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, and medicine.

Development Orders: Orders granting, denying, or granting with conditions an application for a development permit (e.g., constructing a building, house, or road).

Distressed Markets and/or Communities: Communities demonstrating indicators of economic standing that show significant weaknesses. Examples may include indicators such as unemployment, underemployment, home ownership rates, business formation rates, capital investment, changes in assessed valuations, percentage of substandard housing, out-migration, and population loss now prevalent in some rural regions and adverse impacts from rapid immigration prevalent in some border communities and regions.

District Courts of Appeal (DCA): A three-judge panel serving five districts to review final actions taken by state agencies in carrying out the duties of the executive branch of government.

Division of Emergency Management: A division within the Executive Office of the Governor that plans for and responds to both natural and man-made disasters.

Economic Development: Programs and policies designed to promote and improve the economic health of a specific area.

Economic Development Incentives Portal: An interactive, online portal which can be found on the FloridaCommerce website. The portal contains details on every non-confidential Florida economic development incentive project with an executed contract.

Economic Development Organizations: Organizations supporting economic development initiatives, including local governments, community-based organizations, and private entities.

Emergency Services: Services provided during an emergency to individuals or communities in need due to a disaster.

Environmental Resource Permit Applications: Applications for permits granted after environmental reviews in an Area of Critical State Concern.

Federal Auditors: Program auditors at the federal government level.

Financial Assistance and Support: community development support includes grant awards, incentives, loans, emergency services, self-sufficiency programs, and weatherization activities.

Florida Sports Foundation: A 501(C) 3 non-profit corporation operating as the official sports promotion and development organization for the State of Florida. It is charged with the promotion and development of professional, amateur, recreational sports, and physical fitness opportunities that produce a thriving Florida sports industry and environment.

Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development (Strategic Plan): FloridaCommerce's Division of Economic Development is statutorily charged by s. 20.60.4, F.S., to create a five-year statewide economic development strategic plan. The Strategic Plan can be downloaded from www.floridajobs.org/FL5yrPlan.

Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation branded as VISIT FLORIDA: Established in s. 288.1226, F.S., VISIT FLORIDA is a not-for-profit Direct Support Organization of FloridaCommerce. It serves as Florida's official source for travel planning to visitors across the globe.

Full Time Employee (FTE): What is considered full-time employment in Florida varies from company to company. The most common definition is working 40 hours a week or 2080 hours a year. In some medical professions, such as nursing, 36 hours a week is often considered full-time employment.

Governor DeSantis' Priorities: Strategic priorities to restore and protect Florida's environment, improve Florida's education system, economic development, job creation, health care, public safety, and public integrity.

Incentive Program Application: Refers to the process of applying for state economic development incentives established in Florida statute.

Incentive: A tool used to influence business decisions about where new investments will take place. Economic development incentives can be either financial or non-financial, including tax exemptions, tax credits, workforce training, or public infrastructure improvements. The types of incentives offered depend both on the needs of the applicant community and/or the applicant business.

Independent Auditors: Auditors with no affiliation to the organization being audited.

Labor Market Information (LMI): Data collected by FloridaCommerce's Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research (WSER). They include a variety of labor market, economic and demographic data such as: employment and wages data which include current employment, projections and wages by industry and occupation, occupational profiles and career information; labor force size data which include employment, unemployment and unemployment rates; economic indicators such as the Florida Price Level Index, Consumer Price Index, income and unemployment claims data; and population background information such as age, race, gender, income, veteran's status, and education information.

Land Development Regulations: Regulations regarding zoning classifications and land-use permissions.

Loans and Loan Guarantees: FloridaCommerce's loan and loan guarantee programs enable small businesses to obtain term loans or lines of credit to help them grow and expand their businesses.

Local Workforce Development Boards: Twenty-four regional business-led boards that develop local workforce services strategy and policy and oversee service delivery of nearly 100 career centers by providing services directly or through competitively procured service providers.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): Community development program providing grant funds to community action agencies, local governments, and non-profit agencies to assist low-income households in meeting the costs of home heating and cooling. Most of the funds are used for utility payment assistance.

Low to Moderate Income: Refers to family income level in relation to family size which is at or below a program-specific level as determined by the funding source according to criteria established by the federal Office of Management and Budget.

Material Weakness: As defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission, a material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in procedures within an organization that are designed to reasonably ensure compliance with the organization's policies such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the company's annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis by the company's procedures.

Office of the Inspector General: Established in s. 20.055(2), F.S., the Office of Inspector General provides a central point for coordinating and promoting accountability, integrity, and efficiency in government agencies.

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA): An office of the Legislature that provides data, evaluative research, and objective analyses to assist legislative budget and policy deliberations.

Public-Private Partner Contract Management: Through s. 20.60.4(e), F.S., FloridaCommerce manages the public-private partnership contracts "to avoid duplication and promote coordinated and consistent implementation of programs in areas including, but not limited to, tourism; international trade and investment; business recruitment, creation, retention and expansion; minority and small business development; rural community development; commercialization of products, services or ideas developed in public universities or other public institutions; and the development and promotion of professional and amateur sporting events."

Public-Private Partnership: This is a hybrid organization formed and supported by both the public and private sector. FloridaCommerce's public-private partnerships include CareerSource Florida, Inc., Florida Housing Finance Corporation, Florida Sports Foundation, Space Florida, SelectFlorida and VISIT FLORIDA.

Recovery Housing Program (RHP): A CDBG program that allows states to provide stable, transitional housing for individuals in recovery from a substance-use disorder.

Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission (Commission): The quasi-judicial administrative appellate body responsible for reviewing contested decisions of reemployment assistance appeals referees. The Commission is 100 percent federally funded. The Commission is housed within FloridaCommerce; however, it operates as an independent review body. The Commission is comprised of a chair and two other members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Regional Rural Development Grant Program (RRDG): A grant program that provides funding to regional rural economic development organizations to build professional capacity and provide assistance to rural communities to develop and implement long-term regional economic development strategies.

Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO): Rural Areas of Opportunity are regions that include multiple contiguous rural counties, designated by the Governor. Prior to designation, research is done to establish whether a proposed area shares not only adverse demographics but also a common economy to understand whether it could operate more successfully as an economic region. Commuting patterns as well as industry patterns and other economic data are examined.

Rural County or Community: A rural county is defined as a county with a population of 75,000 or less, a county with a population of 125,000 or less which is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less, or any municipality within a county as described above. A rural community is defined as an unincorporated federal enterprise community or an incorporated rural city with a population of 25,000 or less and an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or resource-based industries.

Rural Economic Development Organizations: Local governments, community-based organizations and private entities that support rural economic development initiatives.

Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF): A reimbursement grant program established to facilitate planning, preparation, and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities to encourage job creation, capital investment; and strengthen and diversify rural economies by promoting tourism, trade, and economic development.

Select Florida: Established in s. 288.12, F.S., SelectFlorida is a newly created direct support organization that will oversee the state's international economic development and trade.

Space Florida: Established in s. 331.302, F.S., Space Florida fosters the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading aerospace industry in Florida. Space Florida promotes aerospace business development by facilitating business financing, spaceport operations, research and development, workforce development, and innovative education programs.

State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI): Created by the U.S. Department of Treasury, the SSBCI helps states strengthen existing loan and equity programs and/or create new programs that support small businesses financing.

Strategic Intermodal System Plan: A plan developed by the Florida Department of Transportation that identifies and prioritizes Florida's transportation capacity investments and it acts as a primary focus for implementing the Florida Transportation Plan.

Talent and Innovation Clusters: Geographic, often regional, concentrations of interconnected businesses, skilled labor, suppliers, service providers, and other institutions in a field.

Technical Assistance: For the purposes of FloridaCommerce's Division of Community Development's measurements, technical assistance is defined as "the timely provision of specialized advice and customized support to resolve specific problems and increase clients' capacity."

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act: Enacted in 1994, the act is intended to protect individuals who are performing, or who performed, uniformed service in accordance with 38 U.S.C. 4301- 4335 from adverse employment discrimination based on their uniformed service and provides for their prompt restoration to civilian employment when they return to civilian life.

Unemployment Compensation: Unemployment compensation provides unemployment benefits to eligible workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own as determined under state law and meet other eligibility requirements of state law. Florida uses the term Reemployment Assistance.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: The Bureau is the principal fact-finding agency for the federal government in the broad field of labor economics and statistics.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): A federal agency, HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, and inclusive communities as well as quality, affordable homes.

U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL): A federal agency that administers federal labor laws regarding workers' rights to fair, safe, and healthy working conditions, including, but not limited to, minimum hourly wage and overtime pay, protection against employment discrimination, employment and training programs, and unemployment insurance.

Weatherization Activities: The process of tightening the envelope of a home and replacing inefficient heating and cooling units.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP): Program providing grant funds to community action agencies, local governments, Indian tribes, and non-profit agencies to help low-income families improving the energy efficiency of their homes to decrease the energy consumption of the client thus reducing their utility bills.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): A federal law created in 2014, which amends the 1998 federal Workforce Investment Act. Its purpose is to strengthen the U.S.' workforce development system through innovation in and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the U.S.