

## **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

- ARA 1. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes the unique fiscal challenges of Florida's rural counties and state-designated fiscally constrained counties. The Association is dedicated to preserving established programs that provide critical resources for essential programs and infrastructure needs of these counties.
- ARA 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing programs to increase funding for rural infrastructure, job growth, and workforce development policies and efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships and collaboration with local stakeholders.
- ARA 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing the ability for Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAOs) to advance local rural economic development initiatives through allocation of additional resources.
- ARA 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development and maintenance of dedicated funding the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act to allow for the purchase of rural easements to prevent the subdivision and conversion of such land into other uses.
- ARA 5. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased state funding and policies that reduce food insecurity among Floridians, in order to: 1) increase the health and productivity of those currently without consistent access to healthy food, 2) consequently reduce the demand for public health and human services, 3) improve the financial security of those in need, and 4) accelerate the recovery and increase the resiliency of Florida's economy in the aftermath of the COVID19 pandemic.

**NEWLY ADOPTED**