

2021

LEGISLATIVE
BULLETIN

January 29, 2021

Second Committee Week of the 2021 Legislative Session

After the short break, the Legislature reconvened for week two of five committee weeks. This week heard several bills and continued with committee introductions and presentations.

On Monday in the Senate Procedural Briefing, President Simpson informed Senate Chairs and Vice Chairs of each committee that they would continue to follow COVID-19 protocols throughout Session. These protocols include testimony taking place virtually at the Civic Center and restricting Senators from meeting with lobbyists on Capitol grounds.

Committee meetings will be held on the weeks of January 11th and 25th, and February 1st, 8th, and 15th. During committee weeks, the House and Senate will notice meetings seven days in advance with a full agenda of bills and topics to be discussed.

All members of the House and Senate and Staff will be tested for COVID-19 prior to committee week commitments.

Latest Legislative News

Bill eliminating regional planning faces opposition heading into hearing

By Bruce Ritchie / Politico

TALLAHASSEE — A bill that would eliminate the state's 10 regional planning councils, which was proposed in legislation by Senate President Wilton Simpson in 2015, goes before its first committee on Tuesday.

[FL SB62 \(21R\)](#), filed by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island), would transfer regional planning responsibilities to other state agencies. The Senate Committee on Community Affairs will conduct Tuesday's hearing.

Ron Book, a lobbyist who serves as executive director of the Florida Regional Councils Association, said the councils provide a variety of services, including planning evacuation routes, assisting local transportation planners and administering economic development grants.

"I'm hopeful that discussion in the committee and in the weeks to come we will have the opportunity to demonstrate there is a continued need around the state for them," Book said.

[Read More.](#)

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FLORIDA
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All About Florida

ANALYSIS OF GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET



IN A HURRY?

Click [here](#) to listen to this week's FAC-ish Podcast:
Legislative Update - all of the same legislative
announcements, faster and easier than ever before!



Community & **Urban Affairs**

Regional Planning Council Repeal Legislation Clears First Hurdle



*Commissioner Doug Smith
Martin County*



*Commissioner Jimmy Anderson
Baker County*



*Commissioner Peter O'Bryan
Indian River County*

[SB62- Regional Planning Councils](#) by Senator Bradley was heard in Senate Community Affairs. The bill repeals the Florida Regional Planning Council Act which establishes Florida's ten regional planning councils (RPCs), county participation requirements, and the councils' responsibilities. Statutory functions presently performed by RPCs are transferred to state agencies and local governments. While removing RPCs from state law, the bill authorizes local governments to enter into interlocal agreements to create regional planning councils. Thus, RPCs that were initially created by interlocal agreement that are still in effect may continue in existence despite the proposed repeal. Finally, the bill removes references and makes conforming changes to various state statutes consistent with the proposed RPC repeal.

Before approving the bill, the Committee members heard from many speakers, including county commissioners, city commissioners, and various organizations, about the benefits of regional planning councils, the importance of the services and roles performed, the potential loss of opportunities for local governments and the state if the councils are repealed. Martin County Commissioner, Doug Smith, informed members about the successful projects in which the Treasure Coast RPC has assisted Martin County. He noted that "in 1960 Florida's population was 5 million, in 2021 its 21.9 million; if there was ever a reason to have regional planning [councils] and the talent and skill level they embody at the forefront in dealing with the issues of 1,000 people per day moving into Florida, now is the time we should do more on a regional level." Baker County Commission Chair, Commissioner Jimmy Anderson, mentioned the importance of RPCs to rural communities with minimal resources. "The services [the Northeast Florida RPC] can provide to small rural communities [like Baker County] is not something we can provide from our budget every year." Indian River County Commission Vice-Chair, Peter O'Bryan, spoke to the role RPCs in generating funds for economic development telling the Committee that "in the last 5 years regional planning councils have brought in \$138 million to the benefit of [our] constituents."

Despite the many persons who testified about the positive role RPCs play, the bill's sponsor focused her comments on removing a state mandate, saving counties money, and that local governments could reconstitute the RPCs within their region by agreement. Committee members supporting the bill also focused on the point that regional planning would continue just in a different direction and removing a layer of bureaucracy was a good thing. The Committee adopted an amendment which retains the boundaries of regional planning council regions, as they existed on January 1, 2021, for the purpose of statewide emergency shelter planning. The DEO will continue to identify emergency shelters and shelter deficits by regional planning district consistent with current practice. The committee approved the bill on a 6-3 vote and now heads to the Senate Judiciary Committee. There is not yet a House companion bill.

Increased Interest Rate for Construction Projects Passes Community Affairs

[SB378- Payment for Construction Services](#) by Senator Bradley was heard in Senate Community Affairs. The bill increases from one percent to two percent the interest rate applied to unpaid amounts for construction services on state and local government projects. The bill also increases by one percent the interest rate set by the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to s. 55.03, F.S., on payment amounts wrongfully withheld for construction labor, services, or materials related to private sector construction projects. SB378 passed unanimously (9-0) and moves to Governmental Oversight and Accountability. There is no House companion yet.

Abolishing the CRC Sweeps Through First Committee

[SJR204- Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission](#) by Senator Brandes was heard for its first committee meeting in Government Oversight and Accountability. This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the state constitution to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission. Currently, the Commission assembles every 20 years to propose amendments to the Florida Constitution. If this joint resolution is passed, Florida voters must approve the amendment by at least 60%. This resolution passed unanimously (6-0) and moves to its second and final committee, Senate Rules.

FAC Second Vice President, Commissioner Truex Speaks on the Building Permit Process



FAC Second Vice President, Bill Truex from Charlotte County, participated in a panel discussion in the House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee to discuss streamlining the building permit process with local officials, developers, and contractors.

Commissioner Truex provided the committee with insight on the efficiency of e-permitting or online permitting. He explained how crucial these efficiencies have been during COVID-19, as it has kept staff and the public safe, and has saved builders' and contractors' time and money. Additionally, he touches on the discrepancy on plan examiners and inspectors within the approval process.

The panel included speakers from the Planning & Development Services for the City of St. Pete, the Economic Development Department for the City of Orlando, City of Auburndale, University Engineering Sciences, and Moss.

View the full meeting [here](#).

FAC Contact:

For additional information, please contact Eddy Labrador at elabrador@fl-counties.com.



COVID-19 AD HOC

COVID-19 Liability Protections Senate Bill Passes through Judiciary

[SB72- Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19](#) by Senator Brandes was heard for its first committee meeting in Senate Judiciary on Monday. SB72 provides liability for businesses, educational entities, governmental entities, and religious institutions against COVID-19 claims. Under this bill, when a covered entity proves "good faith" evidence that it substantially complied with applicable COVID-19 guidelines, they are immune from civil liability from a COVID-19-related civil action.

The bill also provides that for any COVID-19-related civil action against a covered entity, a plaintiff must:

- Plead its complaint with particularity
- Submit, at the time of filing suit, a physician's affidavit confirming the physician's belief that the plaintiff's COVID-19-related injury occurred because of the defendant's conduct
- Prove, by clear and convincing evidence, that the defendant was grossly negligent

A COVID-19 related claim must be brought within one year after the action accrues, unless the claim accrued before the bill's effective date, which then allows the plaintiff to bring the civil action within one year after the bill takes effect. This bill does not include liability protections for healthcare providers at this time.

Before approving the bill, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard and defeated several amendments

designed to change the burden of proof; require a plaintiff to show ordinary negligence rather than gross negligence; eliminate substantial compliance in favor of the defendant proving it complied with all state-issued COVID-19 executive orders and CDC COVID guidelines; having the court determine the defendant's immunity through a summary judgment proceeding; and allowing a plaintiff to obtain the required affidavit from a qualified medical expert, who need only opine as to whether the plaintiff had COVID at the time the cause of action accrued and that the plaintiff's infection resulted in the injury, damages, or death claimed. In addition, another amendment sought to provide designated health care workers, including paramedics and emergency medical technicians, who contracted COVID-19, with a rebuttable presumption they did so within the course and scope of their employment; however, the sponsor withdrew the amendment. SB72 passed its first committee with a vote of 7-4, the next stop is Commerce and Tourism. Last week, its companion bill HB7 passed the Civil Justice and Property Rights Subcommittee and is headed to the House Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee.

DEM Director Moskowitz Updates Senate Committee on Florida Vaccination Status

The Senate Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response, with no legislation before them this week, heard a presentation from the Division of Emergency Management (DEM). Director Jared Moskowitz opened, by providing highlights on how Florida has progressed since the Governor declared a public health emergency in March 2020. Director Moskowitz reported that Florida launched the COVID mobile testing lab, entered into the first partnership with Publix stores for the distribution of COVID vaccines; and broke national records for PPE distribution. The Director reported that the Division of Emergency Management and the counties have crafted a system to run efficiently with the number of vaccines provided from the federal government. Florida is set to receive 307,000 vaccines next week.

NACo Call on Biden's American Rescue Plan



The Deputy Director of The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Gabe Amo, spoke on NACo's membership call Thursday afternoon. He assured local officials and leaders that the White House plans to be a partner in tackling pressing COVID-19 and economic issues on all government levels. The Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, David Kamin, discussed the urgency for action and the strong federal support for state and local governments. There are three components to the American Rescue Plan. First, the Plan would seek to mount a national vaccination program and take aggressive action to safely reopen schools. The vaccination program is estimated to cost \$20 billion.

Second, the Plan seeks to deliver immediate relief to working families, targeting both specific and broad needs of the community by calling for \$1400 stimulus checks for individuals, the continuation of unemployment insurance, hunger assistance to families, and extending eviction moratoriums. This plan would lift 12 million Americans out of poverty this year. Lastly, supporting communities struggling, such as local government services and small businesses by providing them with funding to reopen and rebuild. He emphasized providing funding for first responders, public transit systems, and additional funding for counties through the disaster relief fund. As the call wrapped up, Mr. Kamin reiterated that the White House plans to support the needs of local governments.

NACo Letter to Congressional Leadership on
Local Government Support

NACo Legislative Analysis for Counties:
President Biden's COVID-19 Rescue Plan

COVID-19 Updates & Resources

COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation & Distribution

[Info from the Department of Health & Human Services: COVID 19 Page](#)

The dataset lists the allocations of doses made available for states and jurisdictions to order against. Weekly allocations are provided to states on Tuesdays; after doses are ordered by states, shipments begin the following Monday. The entire order may not arrive in one shipment or on one day, but over the

course of the week; delivery sites are notified by the private shipping partners. Shipments of an FDA-authorized safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine continue to arrive at sites across America. Vaccinations began on December 14, 2020.

Distribution of the vaccine began 24 hours after the EUA, with the first deliveries and vaccinations occurring on Monday, December 14, 2020. Shipments of an FDA-authorized safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine are arriving at sites across America. Vaccinations began on December 14, 2020.

Allocations for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine by Jurisdiction

Allocations for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine by Jurisdiction

Download the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Process (PDF)



Health, Safety, & Justice

Smoking Ban in Public Beaches and Parks Bill Passes First Committee

[SB334-Regulation of Smoking in Public Places](#) by Senator Gruters was heard in Senate Community Affairs. This bill allows counties and cities to further restrict smoking on beaches and parks within their jurisdictions and that they own. Cities may also restrict smoking in county beaches and in city parks so long as it would not conflict with a county ordinance. Additionally, smoking will be prohibited within the boundaries of a state park. FAC waived in supporting this bill. SB334 passed the committee favorably 8-1 and moves to its second committee. The House companion, HB239 Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities, has not been heard.

Anti-Riot Bill Advances Through First Committee

[HB1- Combating Public Disorder](#) by Representative Fernandez-Barquin was heard in House Criminal Justice & Public Safety on Wednesday. The bill was hotly contested with 69 public speakers from around the state. The bill defines crimes related to rioting and enhances penalties for aggravated rioting, including, but not limited to, acts of assault, battery, destroying memorials and property, and cyber_intimidation. The bill creates a process by which a citizen can file a complaint with the Administration Commission, if a municipality reduces the operating budget of law enforcement. If a municipal governing board interferes with or fails to provide municipal law enforcement with protection during a riot, the municipality will be liable for damages incurred. Passing through its first committee by a vote of 11-6, the next stop is Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. The Senate companion, SB484 by Senator Burgess was referenced to its first committee, Criminal Justice, but has not been heard.

COVID-19 Impacts on Clerk Operations

The House Judiciary Committee convened on Tuesday. Clerk Tara S. Green, Clay County Clerk and Comptroller and President of the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers Associations presented on the impacts of COVID-19 on Clerk operations. Clerk Green shared how some of the challenges of maintaining services to the public during COVID-19 has led to innovations in providing services. Clerks across the state accomplished this by collaborating with partners, utilizing existing technology, and implementing new technology to make sure services were still being offered to citizens, while keeping employees safe. Clerk Green shared financial implications from COVID-19 on Clerk operations. As a result of the pandemic, there is a 50% budget reduction in the fourth quarter of last year, continued layoffs, and an ongoing budget decline. Over the last eight years, there has been a 50.6 million budget reduction. One of the legislative priorities this year will be authorizing Clerks to carry over statewide reserves. To see more on Clerk initiatives: [At Your Service - Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers \(flclerks.com\)](#)

FAC Contact:

For additional information, please contact Tonnelle Graham at tgraham@flcounties.com.



Agriculture & Rural Affairs

State Hemp Program Expands to 66 Florida Counties

FDACS Director of Cannabis Holly Bell updated the Senate Agriculture Committee on the State Hemp Program implemented from SB 1020 (2019). Florida is becoming a model state for US Hemp policy with the USDA and DEA coming to the department for guidance. Initial cultivation plans were approved by the USDA in April 2020 with the first licenses issued later that month. Hemp cultivation is present in 66 of Florida's counties. UF/IFAS was the first university to approve research in Florida focusing on studying genetics and improving cultivation.

Additional information available [here](#).

Statewide Food Programs Provide Update on Addressing Food Insecurity in Florida

Feeding Florida and Feeding Tampa Bay presented to the Senate Agriculture Committee this week on the growing "meal gap" impacting Florida families during the pandemic. The partner agencies highlighted the strategies they use to distribute, coordinate, and prepare for crisis events such as hurricanes and COVID-19. Post-COVID projections estimate 3.6 million Floridians to be food insecure, including 1.5 million children.

Broadband: DEO Director Reviews 2020 Legislation

The House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee met on Wednesday. Chaired by Rep. Brad Drake and Vice Chaired by Rep. Chip LaMarca the committee meeting highlighted broadband with a presentation by DEO Executive Director Dane Eagle. Director Eagle reviewed HB 969 Broadband Internet Service bill from 2020. The bill designated the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) as the lead state agency to facilitate the expansion of broadband Internet service in the state by creating the Florida Office of Broadband (Office) within DEO's Division of Community Development for purposes of developing, marketing, and promoting broadband Internet service in the state. Specifically, the office must:

- Create a strategic plan for increasing the use of broadband Internet service in the state,
- Build local technology planning teams representing, among others, libraries, schools, colleges and universities, local health care providers, private businesses, community organizations, economic development organizations, local governments, tourism, parks and recreation, and agriculture,
- Encourage the use of broadband Internet service, especially in rural, unserved, and underserved areas of the state through grant programs.
- Monitor, participate in, and provide input in proceedings of the Federal Communications Commission and other federal agencies related to the geographic availability and deployment of broadband Internet service in Florida.

Regional virtual workshops have been scheduled January 27, 2021 – February 12, 2021. The schedule of workshops can be found [here](#). DEO is also working on securing funding to establish a three-phase approach for the implementation of broadband expansion.

- Phase 1: Feasibility Study to Specify the Nature of the Connectivity Gap and Why It Exists
- Phase 2: Strategic Plan: Assessing Strategies
- Phase 3: Implementation

Next Steps for the Office of Broadband:

- Host virtual workshops with various with industry and community leaders where participants will discuss broadband internet accessibility.
- Conduct a feasibility study to identify the status of broadband internet availability, access, and affordability in the state.
- Create a Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband to review internet availability, accessibility, and transmission speeds in Florida.
- Design state programs and resource

FAC Contact:



Other Tech Industry Issues

Drones Use Legislation Flies through Senate Committee

[SB44- Drones](#) by Senator Wright was heard in its first committee, Senate Criminal Justice. The bill provides exemptions for law enforcement use of drones for traffic management and collection of evidence at a crime or traffic scene. Additionally, the bill allows state agencies and local governments to assess damage due to flood, wildfire, or any other natural disaster as well as monitoring vegetation or wildlife management on publicly land or water. During committee, the bill was amended to remove drone use exemptions for crowds over 50 people. The bill passed favorably (8-0) and the next stop is Military, Veteran Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security. Two comparable bills, SB518-Drones and HB433-Use of Drones by Governmental Agencies, have not been heard.

FAC Contact:

For additional information, please contact Jeff Scala at jscala@fl-counties.com.



Finance, **Tax**, & Administration

Online Sales Tax Bill Clears First Committee

[SB50-Sales and Use Tax](#) by Senator Gruters was heard in its first committee, Senate Commerce and Tourism. The bill applies Florida's sales and use tax to online/e-commerce sales from out of state retailers regardless of whether the entity has a physical presence within the state. Currently, 43 of 45 states that collect sales tax have authorized sales tax on out-of-state vendors since the 2018 SCOTUS decision, *Wayfair v. South Dakota*, authorizing the practice. Last session, similar bills projected the value of the out-of-state collections to be \$620 million per year recurring in state and local revenues, with a \$120 million impact to local government sales tax revenue. SB50 passed unanimously (11-0) and moves to the next stop, Senate Finance and Tax. The House companion bill, HB15, has not been heard.

DOT Presentation on Revenue Trends and Electric Vehicles

The Senate Transportation Committee heard a presentation from the Department of Transportation on the potential for revenue erosion due to increased utilization of electric vehicles. The presentation included a brief discussion of possible alternative funding sources. Estimates of the possible revenue losses in year 2040 ranged from a low of 8.4% of current forecasted revenue in the most conservative scenario to 30% in the most aggressive scenario.

The DOT presentation is available online as part of the committee meeting packet [there](#).

Public Records Request Bill Moves Through First Committee

[SB400- Public Records](#) by Senator Ray Rodrigues was heard in Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability. The bill prohibits an agency from responding to a request to inspect or copy a record by filing an action for declaratory relief against the requester to determine whether the record is a public record as defined in [s. 119.011, F.S.](#) or the status of the record as confidential or exempt from the provisions of [s. 119.07\(1\), F.S.](#) The bill passed unanimously (6-0) and moves to Senate Judiciary. Currently, there is no House companion.

EDR Coordinator Baker Discusses Tourism Impacts from COVID-19

The House Tourism, Infrastructure, and Energy Subcommittee heard a presentation from Amy Baker, the Coordinator of the Office of Economic and Demographic Research on the history of tourism's contribution to Florida's economy and state revenues. She presented how those tourism related revenues were impacted during the pandemic. Ms. Baker also expressed concern that the tourism revenues will be

among the last revenues to recover as the pandemic impacts recede. The presentation is available online [here](#).

EDR's December Revenue Report

The Office of Economic and Demographic Research released their December Report Tuesday. Total General Revenue collections were \$336.7 million above the recently adopted December official forecast. The overage was due primarily to sales tax collections that were \$178.3 million above the updated estimates. These collections represent November activity and, while overestimate, were still 3.2% below December 2019 collections. Corporate Income Tax accounted for the next biggest overage, coming in \$108.6 million above the recently updated estimate. The report is available online at [here](#).

FAC Contact:

For additional information, please contact Bob McKee at bmckee@fl-counties.com.



Preemption Tracker

Among Other, Some Preemptions to Look out for This Session

[HB 215 Prohibition of Public Funds for Lobbying by Local Governments](#) by Representative Sabatini, among other things, prohibits a local government from using public funds to retain a lobbyist to represent the local government before the legislative or executive branch. However, a full-time employee of the local government may register as a lobbyist and represent that local government before the legislative or executive branch. Except as a full-time employee, a person may not accept public funds from a local government for lobbying. As of yet, there is no Senate companion and the bill has not been scheduled for any committee agendas.

[HB 267/SB426 State Preemption of Seaport Regulations](#) by Representatives Roach and Sirois and Senator Boyd preempts to the state the regulation of commerce in state seaports. The bill prohibits a local government from regulating commerce in seaports in the state, including but not limited to, regulating or restricting a vessel's type or size, source or type of cargo, or the number, origin, or nationality of passengers, all matters will be preempted to the state. Under the bill, any provision of a county or municipal charter, ordinance, resolution, regulation, or policy that is preempted by bill and that existed before, on, or after the effective date of the bill, will be automatically voided.

[SB268 Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing](#) by Senator Perry preempts licensing of occupations to the state and prohibits local government from imposing or modifying additional licensing requirements unless specified. Under the bill, "licensing" means any training, education, test, certification, registration, or license that is required for a person to perform an occupation. Any licensing of occupations authorized by general law is exempt from the preemption. Also, the bill authorizes counties and municipalities to issue journeyman licenses in the plumbing, pipe fitting, mechanical, electrical, alarm system, or HVAC trades. There is not yet a House companion bill that has been filed.

[SB856 State Preemption of Energy Infrastructure Regulations](#) by Senator Hutson provides that regulation of the construction of energy infrastructure is preempted to the state. Local governments cannot implement any regulations that restrict new construction or that expands, repairs, or updates existing energy infrastructure. As of yet, there is no House companion and no committees of reference assigned.

To see the full list, view our [Preemption Tracker](#).

FAC Contact:

For additional information, please contact Eddy Labrador at elabrador@fl-counties.com.



Update on Access 67 and the **Local Government Efficiency Task Force**

The Florida Office of Broadband has partnered with the Florida Regional Councils Association to host 10 virtual workshops where participants will discuss broadband internet accessibility. Industry sector and community leaders within each region have been invited to participate.



These industry sectors include education, healthcare, private business, community organizations, agriculture, tourism, parks and recreation, economic development, local governments and internet service providers. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, January 27 and hosted by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Please schedule to attend the meeting in your region to become informed about broadband and to provide input as the process of broadband deployment moves forward. View the Virtual Broadband Workshop Details: [Broadband-Workshops-Dates.pdf \(flicg.org\)](#)

If you would like more information on the meetings and how to listen in, please contact Katie Smith with the Florida Office of Broadband at Katie.Smith@deo.myflorida.com.

For more information on broadband, please visit [FAC's Access 67 website](#).

Local Government Efficiency Task Force

The 2020 Legislature created the Local Government Efficiency Task Force via [Ch. 2020-114](#), *Laws of Florida*. The law directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability to provide the task force research support. The purpose of the task force is to review the governance structure and function of local governments and determine if changes are necessary to make such governments more efficient. The task force's final report is due by June 1, 2021. The task force held their second meeting on January 20, 2021. FAC was asked to present a top five list of efficiency issues to the task force as they move forward with creation of a report that will be presented to the Governor, Senate President and House Speaker. The task force has county representation including Commissioner Carol Whitmore (Manatee County) was selected as Chair; and former Councilman Ed Kelley (Volusia County) and former Commissioner Paul Caragiulo (Sarasota County). As FAC continues to monitor the activities of this task force, FAC will reach out to the county managers and county attorneys to gain input and expertise relating to efficiency issues.

1/20/21 Meeting Materials

12/1/20 Meeting Materials

1/20/21 Meeting Video

12/1/20 Meeting Video

FAC Contact:

For additional information, please contact Tiffany Henderson at thenderson@fl-counties.com.

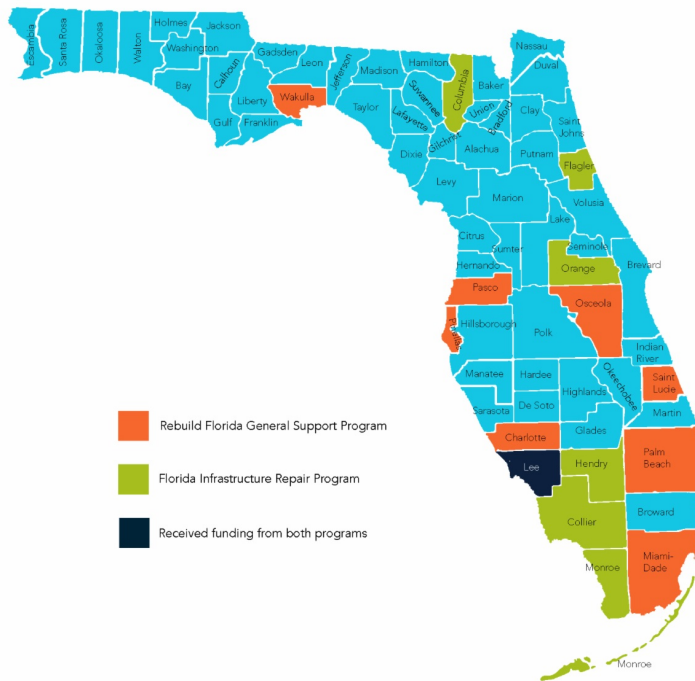


Data Point #2: Rebuild Florida Funds Distributed

Rebuild Florida Funds Distributed

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) dispersed two funding projects through the Rebuild Florida Programs in January 2021. These programs provide funding to restore and repair communities impacted by the recent hurricanes and to prepare for future natural disasters. The *Rebuild Florida General Support Program* was launched on May 15, 2020 with the purpose of accessing and developing disaster plans on the

state and local level. The *Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program* was launched to support local governments with funding infrastructure and community projects for those directly impacted by disasters. A second application cycle to receive funding through the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair program took place in March 2020.



These funds are allocated through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CBDG-MIT) in response to the devastating hurricanes in Florida, Matthew and Irma.

- On January 8th, Governor DeSantis announced \$20 million was awarded to 37 communities through the Rebuild Florida General Support Program.
- On January 22nd, Governor DeSantis announced \$100 million awarded to 24 communities affected by Hurricane Irma through the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program. A map of the counties that were eligible for the Rebuild funding for Hurricane Irma can be found [here](#).
- It is estimated that Hurricane Irma cost 50 billion in damages, making it the fifth-costliest hurricane in the US.
- It is estimated that Hurricane Matthew cost \$1.182 Billion in claims across Florida counties.

FAC's very own, Institute for County Government (ICG), is a co-applicant of the CDBG awarded to Florida State University under the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program.

The links below include the full list of counties, cities, municipalities, and institutions who were awarded funding through the Rebuild Florida programs.

Rebuild Florida General Support Program
(DEO)

Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair
Program (DEO)

FAC Contact:

For additional information, please contact Sara Henley at shenley@fl-counties.com.

WOMEN IN CLIMATE Virtual Webinar

February 5, 2021, 10:00 AM

The fight against climate change needs new voices, bold ideas, and a more inclusive network that has bipartisan support. The Nature Conservancy wants to accelerate solutions—and we believe women's unique perspectives, ideas, and connections are vital to addressing the systemic problem of climate change. Women are climate leaders—informed, empowered, and influential. The important role they play in the business world, community, and in their families shapes a unique worldview. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights, and we all have the power to make great impacts.



Host



Temperince Morgan
Florida Executive
Director, The
Nature Conservancy

Panelists



Representative Kathy Castor
Chair, Select Committee on the Climate Crisis
United States House of Representatives



Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
Miami-Dade County



Commissioner Janet Long
Pinellas County



Representative Stephanie Murphy
United States House of Representatives



Dr. Diane Rowland
Professor and Department Chair,
University of Florida IFAS

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