

Press Release

/// FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ///

September 22, 2020

**Community Partner of the Year (State of Florida and South Florida District)
South Florida Regional Planning Council, Hollywood, Florida**

HOLLYWOOD, FL - U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) South Florida District Office recently announced the winners of the SBA's 2020 District and State of Florida Small Business Week Awards. **Congratulations goes to the South Florida Regional Planning Council located in Hollywood, FL for "Community Partner of the Year"**. As per the award criteria, this award honors any organization that assists entrepreneurs through advocacy and other efforts that raise the profile, effectiveness, health, vitality, growth, or expansion of small businesses in the SBA's South Florida District Office territory. These efforts can target specific segments of the small business population such as women, veterans, minorities, exporters, and those small firms located in rural communities.

Since 1974, the South Florida Regional Planning Council has served as the regional planning agency for Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties. It is governed by a public/private board of county and municipal elected and appointed officials from three counties. The Council supports the region's elected leaders and public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders through regional, collaborative planning and the development and implementation of programs and strategies shaping a better future for South Florida.

"Once again, the South Florida Regional Planning Council has excelled in its endeavors to help make South Florida a better place for its citizens and small businesses. The Council continues to strive and take new steps to promote entrepreneurial growth and raise awareness about the resources that are available to our local partners. I am grateful for their continued support and economic development efforts, and look forward to what the future holds." **Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Chair of the South Florida Regional Planning Council**

"We would like to thank our Council and Board Members, as well as our elected officials from Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties for their continued support of our mission. This award is an honor to receive and we continue to anticipate great things for the years to come by enabling our small businesses within the region with the financial support and assistance they need to succeed and help make South Florida a vibrant and beautiful place to work and live." **Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council**

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration has partnered with the SFRPC to oversee and administer a new \$5.3 million CARES ACT Business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program to alleviate sudden and severe economic dislocation caused by the coronavirus in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Designated a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development District in 1994, the SFRPC welcomed this new program into its lending portfolio and is anticipated to speed business and economic recovery from COVID-19 in South Florida, build greater economic diversity, and enhance the region's ability to prepare for and respond to future emergencies. Separately the Council's traditional RLF has focused on helping small/medium size businesses who have been unable to obtain financing from traditional lenders, by providing technical assistance and financing. The affordable housing RLF, offered through the Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, has also made great strides in providing first time minority homebuyers with affordable housing. For more information, please contact Senior Loan Officer, [Jeff Tart](mailto:Jeff.Tart@sfrpc.com). For more information about the SFRPC and its loan programs, please visit: www.sfregionalcouncil.org and www.CARESActRLF.org.

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