

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



SOUTH FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ESTABLISHED 1994

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for South Florida, 2022-2027

STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023



Welcome



The Honorable Steve Geller

Chair, South Florida CEDS Strategy Committee

State Senator

CEDS GOALS & ACTION PLAN

1. CULTIVATE A **COMPETITIVE ECONOMY** AND FOSTER UPWARD ECONOMIC MOBILITY

2. CREATE VIBRANT AND CONNECTED PLACES TO INCREASE THE OVERALL **QUALITY OF LIFE**

3. DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, AND MAINTAIN **RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE** TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND POPULATION GROWTH

4. PROMOTE **REGIONAL COLLABORATION** OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL, PUBLIC-PRIVATE, INTERAGENCY, AND NON-PROFITS TO ADDRESS SOUTH FLORIDA'S ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

PRIORITY GOAL 1: CULTIVATE A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY AND FOSTER ECONOMIC MOBILITY

1.1 Maintain a Competitive Edge

- a. Support business incentives and programs to advance traditional and emerging industries, create local jobs, and increase competitiveness in a global marketplace.
- b. Routinely review and update current and nascent cluster analyses to identify workforce needs.
- c. Support high quality early childhood education (including family support services) and life skills trainings.
- d. Recruit top-notch faculty to higher education institutions and market the region to relocating firms.
- e. Enhance and support the regional airports and seaports.

1.2. Boost Entrepreneurial Development

- a. Invest in small business and scalable startup training incubators and accelerators.
- b. Integrate entrepreneurship into the K-12 curriculum at a young age to encourage entrepreneurship and development of an innovation mindset over time.
- c. Support existing entrepreneurial programs offered by academic institutions and other partners.
- d. Encourage new businesses, job creation, and investment within low-income communities to reverse negative trends, create equity, opportunity, and a more positive future for residents.
- e. Educate the community about the importance of attracting entrepreneurs and instilling an entrepreneurial mindset.

- f. Engage with the entrepreneurial population directly to create business events to retain them in the region.
- g. Market and prepare missing entrepreneurial resources including access to community-based funding, angel investment, venture capital, and ecosystems
- h. Collaborate and educate local municipalities to expedite new business permits

1.3. Invest in Workforce Development

Workforce development is a high economic development priority in South Florida. As noted in the Florida Chamber Foundation's 2021 Florida's Workforce Needs Study, a skilled and competitive labor force is key to the prosperity and sustainability of the economy.

If a region cannot offer a good quality of life for its workforce, workers may choose to relocate, especially those in high-skilled, high-demand fields. Likewise, increasing postsecondary education attainment without sufficiently increasing the jobs that require advanced talent simply furthers brain drain into regions and states where college-level and higher-skilled jobs are available.

- a. Support and invest in apprenticeship, internships, youth employment, existing educational credentials, micro credentials, and on-the-job training programs to create high paying jobs and address future building trade labor shortages.

PRIORITY GOAL 1: CULTIVATE A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY AND FOSTER ECONOMIC MOBILITY

- b. Connect the region's labor force with the necessary skills and trainings to create pathways for quality career opportunities in targeted industries of the region to fill in the workforce gap for high paying jobs.
- c. Connect existing workforce needs with upskilling opportunities of underemployed workers.
- d. Develop strategies to help close the gap between the region's employer needs and education.
- e. Create and build upon strategies that lead to a more inclusive labor market that support the growth of quality jobs.
- f. Strengthen resources and partnerships that support pathways to 21st century jobs.
- g. Expand programs that build soft skills alongside certification or training.
- h. Expand awareness of available workforce programs to local businesses and job seekers.
- i. Increase access to convenient transportation and transit systems to enhance mobility; diverse and affordable housing; quality affordable child-care; quality educational opportunities; and other amenities.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

SFRPC CEDS Committee; Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties and municipalities; K-12 Public Schools; Academic & Research Institutions; Workforce Organizations; Chambers of Commerce; Children's Services Councils; Community- & Faith-Based Organizations; Miami-Dade & Broward Urban Leagues; Florida Department of Education; Hospitals; Industry Associations; Regional Employers; Youth Services; Community Foundations; Economic Development Organizations; Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

PRIORITY GOAL 2: CREATE VIBRANT AND CONNECTED PLACES TO INCREASE THE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE

2.1. Promote transit planning, implementation, and utilization to move people throughout the region

- a. Expand economically beneficial and safety-focused bicycle and pedestrian projects and facilities and support first and last mile connections to communities to include all modes of transportation.
- b. Assess current and future housing availability and its alignment with future growth and employment patterns.
- c. Support implementation/investment of a “South Florida Mobility Plan” including possible rail, rapid bus, and new technology.
- d. Support policies that incentivize transit and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) investments such as a mobility fees, tax increment finance districts, and increased density around transit hubs.

2.2. Mobility and Access

- a. Support placemaking investments in diverse communities throughout the region to meet the needs of residents.
- b. Accelerate investments in livable-walkable neighborhoods to increase safety and strengthen connections to key community resources.
- c. Provide access to affordable and safe transportation options.
- d. Support and/or facilitate infrastructure to accelerate electric, connected, and autonomous vehicles adoption.
- e. Leverage existing infrastructure through new technologies.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

SFRPC CEDS Committee; Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties and municipalities; county & municipal transportation/transit agencies and planning departments; Florida Department of Transportation; Broward County Planning Council; Miami-Dade County TPO; Broward County MPO; Academic & Research Institutions; South Florida Regional Transportation Authority; Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC); Brightline; Regional Employers; Economic Development Organizations; Industry Associations

PRIORITY GOAL 3: DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, AND MAINTAIN RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND POPULATION GROWTH

3.1. Water/Wastewater/ Stormwater/Solid Waste

- a. Work proactively with local governments, state agencies, and other relevant groups to identify causes of water pollution and coordinated strategies to alleviate them.
- b. Investigate opportunities for future water, wastewater, and stormwater system expansion, hardening, coordination, connection, and/or interconnections to achieve regional resilience, resource optimization, and environmental priorities.
- c. Reduce barriers and increase accessibility to more diverse alternative water sources through utilities (rainwater, greywater, stormwater, and recycled/reused water and the Floridan Aquifer).
- d. Support financial models and funding strategies addressing regional stormwater management, including support to funding alternatives to advance projects identified as part of the upcoming Central and Southern Florida Resilience Studies being initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and the South Florida Water Management District as the local sponsor.
- e. Support innovative activities and collaborate with South Florida communities to manage and reduce Solid Waste.

3.2. Housing

- a. Educate policy makers, staff, and additional stakeholders about the role quality affordable housing plays in support of a healthy economy.
- b. Increase density housing along transportation corridors and around TOD mobility hubs through partnerships with the public and private sectors.
- c. Encourage zoning changes of commercial areas to include multifamily residential development.
- d. Support new and current financial incentives for affordable and workforce housing.
- e. Advocate for legislative changes and solutions to curb skyrocketing homeowner and flood insurance policy premiums.

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3.3. Sustainable Land Development Patterns

- a. Support programs and investments that match public and private land use and development decisions with existing and planned infrastructure investments.
- b. Educate governments, citizens, and developers on the importance of investing in green and climate-resilient infrastructure.
- c. Inventory available properties that need restoration and/or preservation, including brownfields and historic districts and resources.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS INCLUDE,
BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

SFRPC CEDS Committee; Broward, Miami–Dade, and Monroe counties and municipalities; local planning and utilities departments; Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact; Academic Research Institutions, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; South Florida Water Management District; Florida Housing Coalition; Industry Associations; Community Foundations; Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy; Economic Development Organizations; Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

3.4. Proactively Plan for Natural Disasters / Economic Shocks

- a. Align regional planning efforts with local Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans, Local Emergency Planning Committee, South Florida Water Management District, Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, Florida Division of Emergency Management, and other partners to enhance local and regional preparedness, mitigation, and response due to sea level rise, tidal flooding, storm surge, and saltwater intrusion.
- b. Develop a list of critical wetlands for protection using the Land Acquisition Trust Fund based on the critical ecological value of wetland and vulnerability to development.
- c. Enhance and protect the environment and the region’s natural resources.
- d. Educate local governments on the importance of effective land use planning, zoning code updates, incentive programs, and the development of disaster-specific structure design to better prepare for likely shocks.
- e. Create financing opportunities for resilient infrastructure and have a coordinated public private investment.
- f. Create public private partnerships to pilot innovative resilience solutions including dedicated funding pools.
- g. Collaborate with nonprofits and academic institutions to commercialize research on resiliency.

PRIORITY GOAL 4: PROMOTE REGIONAL COLLABORATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL, PUBLIC-PRIVATE, INTERAGENCY, AND NON-PROFITES TO ADDRESS SOUTH FLORIDA'S ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

4.1. Strengthen partnerships with existing regional organizations and explore opportunities for joint projects

- a. Using the SFRPC as a liaison and communicator, enhance understanding of regional issues and areas of partners expertise among the region's public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors.
- b. Host and engage regional roundtables around topics of mutual interest and prioritization and growth of regional economic clusters.
- c. Encourage widespread use of design charrettes and other venues for public input into project development.
- d. Improve internal communications among all government agencies and stakeholders and support external communications processes through partners.
- e. Engage the business community (including major employers), nonprofit sector, academic institutions, elected officials, and government staff (city managers, county administrators, ports/airports) to implement the CEDS.
- f. Encourage coordination with the South Florida Regional Planning Council to increase focus on regional resilience and attract critical investment to the seven-county Southeast Florida Region.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO,

SFRPC CEDS Committee; Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties and municipalities, Academic & Research Institutions; Industry Associations; Community Foundations; Economic Development Organizations; South Florida Business Council; Broward Workshop and other private-sector business leaders, elected officials, county and city administrators & managers; Ports/Airports; Non-Profit Organizations; Small Business Administration

Contact us

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