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FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL 2019 State Legislative Agenda

This Legislative Agenda represents the Florida Economic Development Council's (FEDC) positions on economic, workforce and community development issues being considered during the state's annual legislative session.

Priority 1: FEDC supports Enterprise Florida, the state's primary economic development organization. This includes operational support and funding for business development, marketing the State of Florida as a business destination and international trade activities.

Priority 2: FEDC supports programs through CareerSource Florida, Florida SBDC Network, GrowFL, FloridaMakes and state academic institutions that connect existing and aspiring small businesses with the critical intelligence and talent they need to innovate, grow and thrive.

Priority 3: FEDC supports the following legislative priorities put forth by the Florida Rural Economic Development Association.

- Eliminate program match requirement for Rural Regional Development Grant (RRDG) program per Florida Statute 288.018, appropriate, earmark or otherwise set aside \$250,000 for each of the three Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO) designated by Executive Order of the Governor's Office, and increase the total available dollars for the RRDG program from \$750,000 to \$1 million dollars. The action to increase the total available dollars does not require any additional funds but rather authorizes the use of funds already available through the Rural Revolving Loan Fund.
- Establish an across the board Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) matching percentage of 50 percent in place of current designations of 30 percent RIF match for Non-Catalyst Sites and 40 percent RIF match for Catalyst Sites.

Priority 4: FEDC supports efforts to enhance the competitiveness of Florida as a business location by phasing out business rent tax, reducing the communications service tax and reducing corporate income tax.

Priority 5: FEDC supports federal, state and local solutions that provide greater affordable workforce housing for Florida's families.

FEDC is a statewide network of economic, workforce and community development professionals who can serve as subject matter experts before the Florida Legislature and Executive offices. The Florida Legislature engages annually in substantive discussions about the strategies and infrastructure behind our statewide economic development system. FEDC's membership can bring perspective and expertise to these discussions through effective communication of the diverse assets of Florida communities and job creation strategies resulting in positive economic impacts.