



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

FLORIDAJOBS.ORG



**NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

The Honorable Ron DeSantis,  
Governor of Florida  
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

The Honorable Bill Galvano,  
President, Florida Senate  
Room 409, The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

The Honorable Jose Oliva,  
Speaker, Florida House of  
Representatives  
Room 420, The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Galvano and Speaker Oliva:

It is with great pride that I submit the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's annual report for fiscal year 2018-2019. Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, our agency has been charged with helping Floridians rebuild stronger after Hurricanes Irma and Michael. Additionally, we are focused on making smart, strategic investments in Florida communities, developing our talented workforce and providing ways for Floridians to enhance and grow their skills in preparation of the future.

In this report, you will read how our agency, alongside our partners, has worked to maintain a diverse, business-friendly environment so employers continue to come to our state and create opportunities for all Floridians. In the following pages, we will share the health of Florida's economy and our efforts to keep the momentum moving forward.

Over the next year, we will continue to prioritize initiatives that promote economic growth. This includes advancing efforts to mobilize federal funding through the first-of-its-kind Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation Program and other long-term disaster recovery funding opportunities for communities who have been impacted by storms. We will weaponize data available to our agency to help policy makers, businesses and communities make smart, strategic investments. We will also leverage opportunities with the Florida Talent Development Council to develop a coordinated, data-driven, industry-led statewide approach to meet Florida's needs for a competitive 21st-century workforce.

It is a pleasure to share this report and highlight the great work of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and our partners. If you have any questions about this report, or would like to receive additional information, please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Ken Lawson

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# BUSINESS CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# FLORIDA'S ECONOMIC REPORT

FLORIDA'S ANNUAL PRIVATE-SECTOR JOB GROWTH RATE OF  
**↑ 2.8% ↑**  
 CONTINUES TO OUTPACE THE NATIONAL JOB GROWTH RATE OF  
**1.6%**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
**3.2%**



THE LABOR FORCE CONTINUED TO GROW WITH  
**154,000**  
 ENTERING THE LABOR FORCE OVER THE YEAR AT AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF  
**1.5%**

\*AS OF SEPT. 2019

Strengthening Economic Growth and Resilience  
 Fueling Job Creation and Economic Development

## DEO PRIORITIES

Facilitating Long-term Disaster Recovery  
 Making Smart Strategic Investments

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is building on the success of previous years and prioritizing opportunities for economic, community and workforce development. This includes working to secure and distribute federal funds for long-term disaster recovery, making employment and workforce data available to policy makers and communities so they can make smart, strategic decisions and utilizing opportunities such as the Florida Talent Development Council to develop and implement a coordinated, data-driven, industry-led statewide approach to meet the needs for a competitive 21st-century workforce.

# DEO PARTNERS

Alongside our public-private partners, DEO continues to promote a business-friendly environment that attracts companies to expand in our state, supports small business growth, helps all private-sector companies create new jobs for Florida communities and welcomes tourists year-round. Performance reports included in this report, pursuant to Florida Statutes, include CareerSource Florida, Inc.; Enterprise Florida, Inc.; the Florida Sports Foundation; the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (VISIT FLORIDA) and Space Florida.

# ENTERPRISE FLORIDA



Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) is the principal economic development organization for the state of Florida. Its role is to expand and diversify Florida's economy through private-sector job creation.

EFI collaborates with DEO and its statewide partners to facilitate private-sector job growth through business recruitment, international trade, promotion of sporting events, capital funding programs to assist small and minority businesses and through support of the state's military bases and personnel.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In fiscal year 2018-19, EFI and its statewide partners established more than 100 economic development projects, representing nearly 15,000 new and retained jobs and more than \$1.9 billion in capital investment. EFI markets Florida as the premier business location in the U.S. focusing on Florida's workforce, innovation, infrastructure and pro-business climate. EFI targets business leaders and site-selection professionals around the world.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE & DEVELOPMENT

Florida is home to more than 60,000 exporting businesses, ranking second in the nation. EFI's international trade and development team offers programs to help Florida's small and mid-sized businesses grow through trade. Florida-based companies looking to expand internationally can take advantage of the comprehensive exporting assistance provided by EFI through a network of professional trade managers located around the state. EFI assists businesses expanding into the international marketplace by organizing and underwriting overseas trade missions and trade shows, providing export counseling and advice, assisting with the development of Export Marketing Plans, providing grants for participation in overseas trade shows and missions and developing foreign-language trade websites.

Last year, goods valued at \$153.5 billion flowed through Florida's airports and seaports, with Florida-origin exports reaching \$73.5 billion to 190 countries, making Florida a world leader in international trade.

## MILITARY AND DEFENSE

The Florida Defense Alliance and Florida Defense Support Task Force, part of EFI, work to maintain and enhance the state's military installations and Florida's reputation as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

The Florida Defense Alliance is a consortium of representatives of defense-related organizations, including defense industry, economic development organizations and other state leaders who come together to protect, promote and enhance the value of Florida military installations and missions.

The Florida Defense Support Task Force is a legislatively mandated body with a mission to preserve and enhance Florida's military missions and installations. The Task Force is charged with working with base commanders to prevent encroachment, maintaining and expanding the missions of Florida military installations and strengthening state and local support for military families and veterans.

In early 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that \$725,000 has been awarded through the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) Grant Program to six projects to protect military installations across the state. Grant funding will support community projects at Florida military installations that will diversify local economies, provide support for local infrastructure projects and strengthen Florida's military bases ahead of any potential Department of Defense realignment or closure actions. Florida's military and defense industry contributes more than \$84.9 billion in economic impact and supports more than 801,747 jobs, which is the second largest economic sector in the state.



**“Under Governor DeSantis’ leadership, Enterprise Florida and the Florida Defense Support Task Force remain committed to strengthening and protecting our military installations and helping those communities that support our military men and women in uniform,” said Jamal Sowell, Florida Secretary of Commerce and Enterprise Florida President & CEO. “This investment will provide Florida’s military bases with the resources to be resilient and continue Florida’s reputation as the most military-friendly state in the nation.”**

# FLORIDA SPORTS FOUNDATION



The Florida Sports Foundation (FSF), part of EFI, assists Florida communities with securing, hosting and retaining sporting events and sports-related businesses that generate significant economic impact and sports tourism for the state through grant programs, legislative initiatives and industry partner services, recognition and development.

During fiscal year 2018-19, FSF awarded 137 sporting event grants for a total of \$2,508,401 in awards to 27 industry partners in all 8 regions of the state. Those events include 103 that took place during the fiscal year, and 34 after. The projected 686,332 out-of-state visitors will bring an estimated total impact of \$676,387,674.

The economic impact performance standards reporting is generated by granted events taking place during the year, as events carry over year-to-year. The grants taking place during the fiscal year totaled 128, awarded \$2,775,236, with more than 691,000 out-of-state visitors and economic impact totaling \$795.5 million.





## FLORIDA SENIOR GAMES (FSG)

In 1992, the first Florida Senior Games State Championships were held in Bradenton. Over the years, the Florida Senior Games, together with local games, has provided fun, fellowship, fitness and competition for Florida's fastest growing age group.

Every year, the FSF sanctions the FSG Series Qualifiers in Florida, which lead up to the Florida Senior Games in December. In fiscal year 2018-19, 21 Series Qualifiers were held with more than 18,000 attendees representing more than \$3.4 million in local community impact. The 2018 FSG, held in Clearwater and throughout Pinellas County, saw more than 5,600 attendees, with athletes participating in 24 sports, and brought \$1.3 million in local community impact. Athletes came from more than 200 Florida cities, 46 states, Barbados, Canada, the Cayman Islands, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Trinidad & Tobago and the United Kingdom. The two programs combine to bring more than \$4.7 million in direct impact to the local communities in the state.

The 2018 Florida Senior Games also served as a qualifier for the bi-annual National Senior Games, run by the National Senior Games Association. In June 2019, 687 Floridians traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where the Sunshine State's athletes competed and brought home 450 medals, the third-most among the 50 states behind California and host, New Mexico. The next National Senior Games are coming to Florida in 2021!



## SUNSHINE STATE GAMES

The State of Florida created the Sunshine State Games to provide Florida's citizens an Olympic-style sports festival they can call their own. The Sunshine State Games, now in its fourth decade of competition, is the nation's oldest state games and is Florida's largest and longest standing multi-sport festival. The mission of the Games is to provide quality competition for Florida's amateur athletes of all ages and skill levels. In fiscal year 2018-19, more than 29,000 attendees took part in 48 sporting events in more than 20 different communities, bringing more than \$6.2 million in local community impact.



## ENTERPRISE FLORIDA, INC. PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	FY 2018-19 ACTUALS	PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
<b>BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT – PROPOSED JOB CREATION</b>		
Total number of proposed jobs to be created by businesses assisted by EFI	14,828*	18,000*
In rural communities	163	300
By international businesses	2,440	700
With incentives	8,485	8,000
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>		
Number of Florida based businesses assisted by EFI for international trade	2,458	2,250
Number of companies with export sales attributable to activities conducted by EFI	724	260
Amount (US dollar value in millions) of projected export sales attributable to the activities conducted by EFI	\$1.18 Billion	\$625
<b>MARKETING FLORIDA</b>		
Web traffic to EFI's website (overall traffic in visits)	443,361	250,000
Positive media hits	927	700
Total social media channel followers	45,900	21,000
Total media impressions (print, digital, broadcast, out of home)	127,000,000	33,000,000
<b>MINORITY AND/OR SMALL BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CAPITAL</b>		
Number of businesses that received financial assistance**	6	6
<b>GENERAL</b>		
Satisfaction of businesses served with investment or trade assistance provided by EFI	97%	95%
Number of strategies in the <i>Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development 2018-2023</i> being implemented by EFI	11	11
Response rate for Business Development/International Trade Development customer satisfaction survey	32%	25%
<b>FLORIDA SPORTS</b>		
Economic contributions to communities as a result of hosting Florida's Senior State Games and Sunshine State Games Championships	\$11,016,275	\$7,000,000
Number of participants (athletes and families) competing in and attending Florida's Senior State Games and Sunshine State Games Championships	53,951	40,000
Economic contributions from Florida Sports Foundation sponsored sporting event grants	\$795,517,366	\$200,000,000
Number of attendees at the sponsored grant events	691,475	300,000

\*The job creation numbers comprise duplicated accounts and represent selected subsets of this total. They will not add up to this total.

\*\*The number given represents the number of individual transactions throughout the fiscal year.

More information about EFI may be found at [EnterpriseFlorida.com](http://EnterpriseFlorida.com). A copy of the most recent EFI annual report may be found at [EnterpriseFlorida.com/wp-content/uploads/2017-18-EFI-Annual-Report.pdf](http://EnterpriseFlorida.com/wp-content/uploads/2017-18-EFI-Annual-Report.pdf).

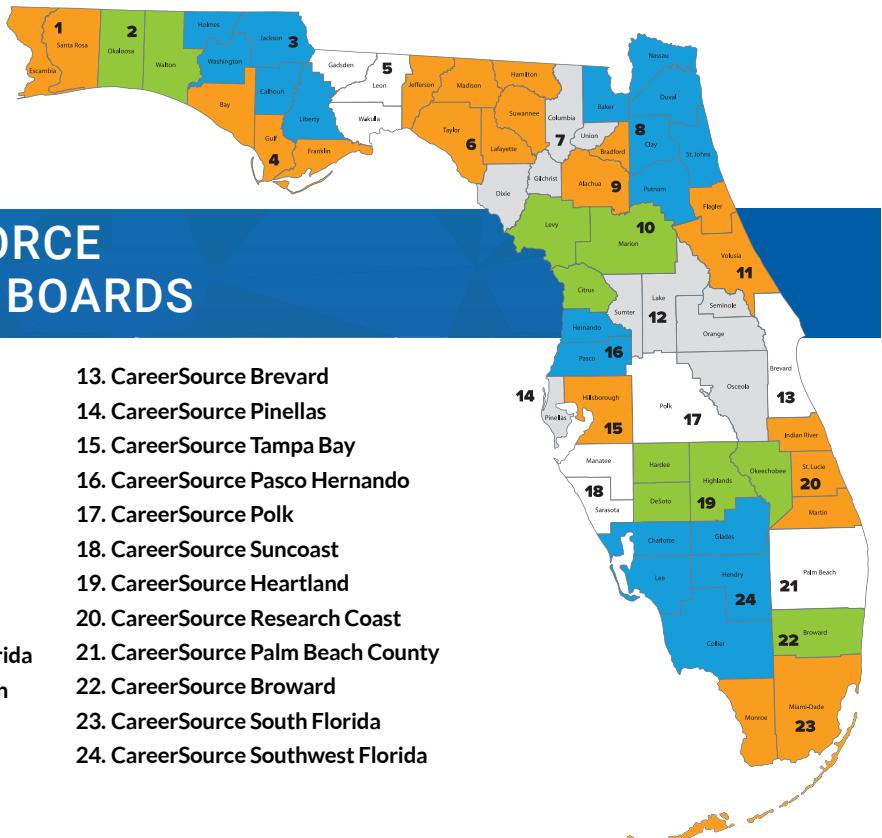
# CAREER SOURCE FLORIDA



CareerSource Florida Inc. is the statewide board of business and government leaders charged with guiding workforce development for the state of Florida. Created as a not-for-profit corporation, the state workforce investment board provides oversight and policy direction for talent development programs administered by DEO, Florida's 24 local workforce development boards and more than 100 career centers across the state.

CareerSource Florida's board of directors includes the Governor, members of the Florida Legislature and leaders in business and industry, government, labor, economic development, education and youth and community-based organizations; and representation from federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act partners including DEO and the Florida Department of Education (DOE) Divisions of Career and Adult Education and Blind Services and Vocational Rehabilitation.

DEO partners with CareerSource Florida and the state's local workforce development boards to strengthen Florida's business climate by supporting employers and helping Floridians gain employment, remain employed and advance in their careers. Across the state, nearly 56,000 businesses were served by their local workforce development board last year, receiving help with recruiting, hiring and training new and existing employees.



## CAREERSOURCE FLORIDA PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	FY 2018-19 ACTUALS
<b>INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING (IWT) GRANT PROGRAM</b>	
Number of projected IWT trainees	6,385
Number of IWT Grants Awarded to Businesses	141
<b>QUICK RESPONSE TRAINING (QRT) GRANT PROGRAM</b>	
Number of projected QRT trainees	1,557
Number of QRT Grants Awarded to Businesses	18

More information about CareerSource Florida may be found at [CareerSourceFlorida.com](http://CareerSourceFlorida.com).

A copy of CareerSource Florida's most recent state annual report may be found at [CareerSourceFlorida.com/AboutUs/Reports-and-Publication](http://CareerSourceFlorida.com/AboutUs/Reports-and-Publication).

## EXPANDING APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Working closely with DEO and the Florida Department of Education's Office of Apprenticeship, the CareerSource Florida network is helping to expand apprenticeship opportunities to businesses in several growing industries including information technology, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, maritime, hospitality and trade and logistics. In February 2019, the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors unanimously approved the first statewide Apprenticeship Policy for Florida's workforce system to support the continued expansion of apprenticeships. The policy aligns with Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 19-31 to make Florida the No. 1 state in the nation for workforce education. Additionally in March 2019, Governor DeSantis announced the state board allocated \$1.75 million in fiscal year 2018-19 to help Floridians acquire the skills needed for in-demand occupations through new and expanded apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs across Florida.



**“Our network is aligned with Governor DeSantis’ vision for a dynamic, educated workforce that meets employers’ needs,” said CareerSource Florida President and CEO Michelle Dennard. “Each of these apprenticeship projects is an example of the innovative solutions our local and state partners are pursuing to address demand for skilled talent and provide greater opportunity for Floridians seeking well-paying careers.”**

## MEETING INDUSTRY NEEDS

Under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, sector strategies are regional, industry-focused approaches to building a skilled workforce and are an effective way to align public and private resources to address the talent needs of employers. Each of Florida's local workforce development boards are advancing sector strategies with funding and/or technical support from CareerSource Florida.

One example is the Community-Based Sector Strategy Training Initiative, through which CareerSource Research Coast provided scholarships for 40 Registered Nursing students at Indian River State College to help strengthen the local healthcare industry. Students in the program had varied backgrounds and financial challenges. At least 15 of the first 20 graduates are now employed as RNs earning an average of \$22 an hour. Another 17 graduated in May 2019, with two more expected to attain an associate degree and credentials in December 2019.

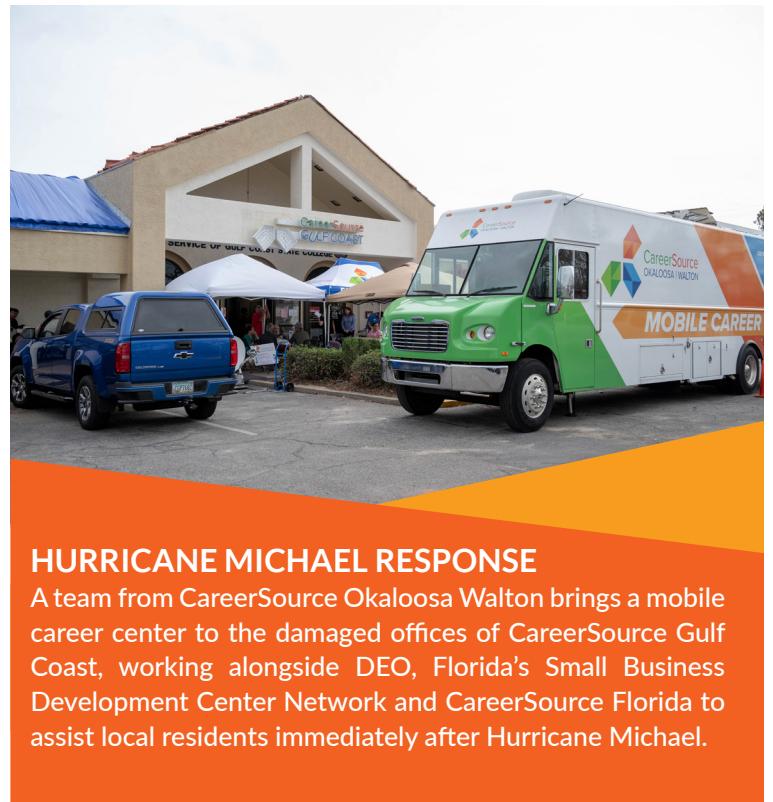


**CHRISTY GUERRERO,**  
Sector Strategy Grant recipient

## RESPONDING IN CRISIS

The CareerSource Florida network brought teams from across the state to assist Floridians whose businesses, jobs and homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Michael. Mobile units were deployed immediately to serve areas that lost office space, power and internet. Working in partnership with DEO, the CareerSource Florida network assisted more than 10,500 residents with filing Disaster Unemployment Assistance applications in Bay County alone.

DEO awarded \$16 million in Dislocated Worker Emergency Grants to local workforce development boards in the impacted counties to provide temporary employment to workers affected by major dislocations, including natural disasters. As of September 2019, more than 660 participants have been served through local development workforce boards.



### HURRICANE MICHAEL RESPONSE

A team from CareerSource Okaloosa Walton brings a mobile career center to the damaged offices of CareerSource Gulf Coast, working alongside DEO, Florida's Small Business Development Center Network and CareerSource Florida to assist local residents immediately after Hurricane Michael.

# VISIT FLORIDA

The logo for VISIT FLORIDA, featuring the words "VISIT FLORIDA" in white on a blue diamond-shaped background with three wavy lines below it.

The Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, known as VISIT FLORIDA, serves as the state's official tourism marketing corporation and the official source for travel planning to visitors across the globe. VISIT FLORIDA is not a government agency, but a not-for-profit corporation created as a public/private partnership by the Florida Legislature in 1996. VISIT FLORIDA matches taxpayer money it receives with investment from the private-sector, dollar-for-dollar.

Through this public/private partnership, VISIT FLORIDA serves more than 13,000 tourism industry businesses, including major strategic alliance partnerships with Busch Gardens Tampa, Disney Destinations, The Hertz Corporation, Hilton, LEGOLAND Florida Resort, SeaWorld Parks & Resorts Orlando, Simon Shopping Destinations and Universal Orlando Resort.

VISIT FLORIDA facilitates tourism industry participation in domestic and international travel trade and consumer shows, as well as media missions to the top global visitor markets. VISIT FLORIDA also works closely with travel agents, tour operators, meeting and event planners, and is responsible for operating Florida's four Official Welcome Centers. According to surveys conducted during fiscal year 2018-19, 55.4 percent of visitors were significantly influenced by VISIT FLORIDA marketing efforts.

Last year, Florida set a record by welcoming 127 million visitors. Nearly 112.6 million were out-of-state domestic travelers and 14.4 million came to the Sunshine State from 194 countries. On any given day, Florida has 2.1 million visitors, more than the number of people who live in 14 different states and the District of Columbia.

Tourism's contribution to Florida's economy continues to grow as well. In the latest economic impact study conducted on 2017 visitation, visitors added \$85.9 billion to Florida's GDP. Their spending contributed \$11.4 billion in state and local tax revenue and supported nearly 1.5 million Florida jobs. For every \$1 the state invests in VISIT FLORIDA, \$2.15 in tax revenue is generated.



## ALL-TIME RECORD SIX-MONTH VISITATION FOR FLORIDA

In August 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis and VISIT FLORIDA announced that Florida welcomed 69.7 million travelers from January through June of 2019, the highest number of visitors during any six months in Florida's history. This record number represents a 5.2 percent increase over the same period in 2018 and includes 62.1 million domestic visitors, 5.3 million overseas visitors and 2.4 million Canadian visitors.

*“Back-to-back record quarters in the first six months of this year demonstrate that the Florida tourism industry has continued to produce results,” said **VISIT FLORIDA President and CEO Dana Young**. “**VISIT FLORIDA** will continue to develop cutting edge marketing programs that highlight our state so that we can attract more visitors, create more jobs and make Florida the world’s number one place to take a vacation. We appreciate Governor DeSantis for his leadership and support for Florida’s iconic tourism industry.”*

VISIT FLORIDA estimates 29.6 million domestic visitors traveled to Florida in the second quarter of 2019, reflecting a 5.8 percent increase over the same period last year. Preliminary estimates also show 2.57 million overseas visitors came to Florida in Q2 of 2019, and 946,000 Canadian travelers visited Florida between April and June of 2019, a 1.4 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018. The number of hotel rooms sold in Florida during quarter two of 2018 grew by 1.9 percent, and Florida’s average daily room rate (ADR) increased by 2.0 percent.



## VISIT FLORIDA PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	FY 2018-19 ACTUALS	PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
Annual percentage of domestic visitors to Florida influenced by VISIT FLORIDA's primary marketing programs	55.40%	40%
Industry rating of VISIT FLORIDA's performance in promoting tourism to Florida	51.00%	45%
Annual share of domestic vacation trips	8.5/10%	8.0/10%
Annual share of international visitor spending	17.78%	15%
Maintain annual market share in traditional feeder markets	19.70%	20%
Growth in annual market share in emerging markets	24.27%	20%
Number of strategies in the <i>Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development 2018-2023</i> being implemented by VISIT FLORIDA	4	4
VISIT FLORIDA MARKETING ACTIVITIES		
Total number of individual businesses actively participating in VISIT FLORIDA marketing activities	13,408	12,000
Total number of individual businesses, located in RACEC-designated communities, actively participating in VISIT FLORIDA marketing activities and the percentage coverage of the total RACEC-designated communities	714 / 94%	600 / 90%

\*Unless otherwise noted all information provided is the most recent data available for the report period.

More information about VISIT FLORIDA may be found at: [VisitFlorida.org](http://VisitFlorida.org). A copy of VISIT FLORIDA's Annual Report may be found at: [VisitFlorida.org/About-Us/What-We-Do/Annual-Reports](http://VisitFlorida.org/About-Us/What-We-Do/Annual-Reports).

# SPACE FLORIDA



Space Florida was established in 2006 and is responsible for accelerating the growth of space-related industries through targeted space business retention, expansion and diversification efforts. Space Florida also provides leadership in innovative educational, research and development, workforce development programs and space-related infrastructure development projects.

Florida's aerospace-related entities have shown continued growth in sales since 2010 and are expected to capture more growth in aerospace and aviation industries. This year, Florida is succeeding in an ever-changing space and aerospace market by seeking out new business in historically non-traditional places. In the past year, Space Florida recruited, retained and expanded 15 space and aerospace-related companies and more than 4,100 jobs.

Space Florida's business development opportunities continue to grow the state's commercial space industry and other aerospace-related sectors through various innovation accelerators, financing capabilities and spaceport improvement program activities.

## SPACE FLORIDA PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	FY 2018-19 ACTUALS	PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
Annual number of jobs created, recruited and/or retained	1,000	4,139
Annual number of companies recruited, retained and/or expanded	15	15
Annual number and amount of funding for research projects, partnerships and grants supported	30/\$2M	30/\$3M
Number of strategies in the <i>Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development 2018-2023</i> being implemented	23	23

More information about Space Florida may be found at [SpaceFlorida.gov](http://SpaceFlorida.gov).

A copy of Space Florida's annual report may be found at [SpaceFlorida.gov/About/Annual-Reports](http://SpaceFlorida.gov/About/Annual-Reports).

## FIREFLY AEROSPACE TO ESTABLISH BUSINESS OPERATIONS AT CAPE CANAVERAL SPACEPORT

Firefly Aerospace, Inc. (Firefly), a provider of economical and dependable launch vehicles, spacecraft and in-space services, announced February 22, 2019 they will establish business operations at Cape Canaveral Spaceport, including launch operations at the historic Space Launch Complex 20 and manufacturing facilities at Exploration Park, Florida.

As Florida's spaceport development authority, Space Florida will enable the company's Florida operations by matching the company's infrastructure investments up to \$18.9 million via the Florida Department of Transportation Spaceport Improvement Program. Firefly will invest \$52 million and will bring more than 200 high paying jobs to Florida.



*"Space Florida is pleased to welcome Firefly Aerospace to the Cape Canaveral Spaceport," said Frank DiBello, Space Florida President and CEO. "Firefly's presence in the State of Florida further solidifies that Florida's Spaceport System is poised to lead the world in this next space era. We look forward to the new launch and manufacturing capabilities that Firefly brings to SLC-20 and Exploration Park, respectively."*



# REQUIRED REPORTS



## BLACK BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

In 2007, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Black Business Investment Act, establishing the Black Business Loan Program (F.S. 288.7102). The program provides capital to eligible black business enterprises that cannot obtain capital through conventional lending institutions but could otherwise compete successfully in the private sector. Eligible recipients may qualify to receive loans, loan guarantees or make investments. Technical assistance is also provided to black enterprises that are seeking help to start a business. The current loan administrators are Miami Bayside Foundation and FAMU Federal Credit Union.

### BLACK BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

FISCAL YEAR	LOAN ADMINISTRATORS	ANNUAL APPROPRIATION	NUMBER OF LOANS/LOAN GUARANTEES	AMOUNT OF LOANS/LOAN GUARANTEES
2018-2019	2	\$2,250,000	17	\$990,011.80
2017-2018	2	\$2,250,000	25	\$1,005,288
2016-2017	2	\$2,250,000	56	\$1,808,058
2015-2016	2	\$2,250,000	66	\$2,663,305
2014-2015	1	\$2,225,000	12	\$153,631
2013-2014	6	\$2,224,998	24	\$660,679
2012-2013	7	\$1,946,875	64	\$2,134,111

More information about the Black Business Loan Program may be found at [FloridaJobs.org/BBLP](http://FloridaJobs.org/BBLP).



## FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOAN PROGRAM

In May 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to support agricultural producers impacted by Hurricane Michael. The program provided more than \$13 million to help more than 70 agricultural producers prepare for the upcoming growing seasons as part of ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Michael.

The first Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan for agricultural producers following Hurricane Michael was awarded to John P. Jordan Farm in Bascom, Florida. On October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall and destroyed homes and Florida farmers' crops, including the Jordan Farm. John P. Jordan Farm has been serving the Bascom community since 2002 and grows peanuts and cotton to be distributed throughout Florida and Georgia.



# FLORIDA UNIQUE ABILITIES PARTNER PROGRAM

A robust workforce includes people of all abilities. The Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program was created in 2016 to recognize businesses and organizations that employ individuals with disabilities, contribute to local or national disability organizations or contribute to the establishment of a program that advances the independence of individuals with disabilities.

The Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program was designed to raise awareness of the economic and social benefits of employing individuals with unique abilities. Employing people with unique abilities is a direct and cost-effective means to assist them in achieving independence and fulfillment. When a company hires someone with a disability, the employee gains confidence, acceptance and financial security.

During fiscal year 2018–19, DEO has more than doubled the number of certified Unique Abilities Partners.

## FLORIDA UNIQUE ABILITIES PARTNER PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	FY 2018-19 ACTUALS
<b>BUSINESS DESIGNATION APPLICATIONS, AWARDS AND ANNUAL CERTIFICATIONS</b>	
Number of applications and nominations received	73
Number of designations awarded	46
Number of annual certifications	130
<b>PROGRAM TOTALS</b>	
Number of applications and nominations received to date	223
Number of current Unique Abilities Partners	176
Number of Employers that are listed in the Employ Florida system as Unique Abilities Partners	84

More information about the Unique Abilities Partner Program may be found at [FloridaUniqueAbilities.org](http://FloridaUniqueAbilities.org).



SODEXO EDUCATION

Debra Dayton is an employee at Sodexo Education and a person with unique abilities. She has been employed as a front house customer service server for years. She may be limited in communication through sign language, but her smile and actions say a lot.

*Sodexo HR Manager, Cathy Hall said, "The value that Debra and each of our employees with unique abilities brings to our business is so much more than I feel like I can explain fully... It's her unique ability to impact the lives of our customers, our team, the culture here and me personally. I would tell businesses and other managers they're missing out if they do not explore hiring people with unique abilities."*

Employers can learn more about the program and read testimonials by visiting the Unique Abilities Partner Program website and by subscribing to the monthly Employer Newsletter at [FloridaJobs.org/Unique-Abilities-Partner-Program](http://FloridaJobs.org/Unique-Abilities-Partner-Program).



# RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) is an effort involving more than 17 state and regional agencies and organizations that help rural communities improve their economies, specifically in terms of personal income, job creation, average wages and a strong tax base. Additionally, REDI works with local governments, community-based organizations and private organizations that have an interest in the growth and development of these communities to balance environmental and growth management issues with local needs.

## REDI IS A LARGE-SCALE COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

- Agency for Health Care Administration
- CareerSource Florida, Inc.
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Department of Children and Families
- Florida Department of Corrections
- Florida Department of Education
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Health
- Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
- Florida Department of State
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Regional Planning Councils Association
- Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences
- VISIT FLORIDA
- Water Management Districts (Northwest Florida, Suwannee River, St. Johns River, Southwest Florida and South Florida)

The Governor may, by executive order, designate up to three rural areas of opportunity as recommended by REDI, which will establish these areas as priority assignments for REDI. This also allows the Governor, acting through REDI, to waive criteria, requirements or similar provisions of any economic development incentive. REDI agencies and other REDI organizations may waive or reduce program match requirements and provide preferential awards to rural or Rural Areas of Opportunity counties and communities or provide other financial or technical assistance. More information about the Rural Economic Development Initiative may be found at [FloridaJobs.org/RuralEconomicDevelopmentInitiative](http://FloridaJobs.org/RuralEconomicDevelopmentInitiative).

Working in partnership with regional economic development organizations (EDOs), REDI agencies can assist rural communities in recruiting new businesses and revitalizing existing local economic engines. One such example is Dixie County where a local sawmill was shuttered for ten years. Dixie County and the REDI agency partnership was able assist a new owner, Cross City Lumber, with reopening the sawmill and creating 92 new jobs by its ribbon-cutting on May 22, 2019, for the economically distressed community. Cross City Lumber reports that it is on track for further expansion.



## RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE RURAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY (RAO) AND RURAL COUNTY STATISTICS

COUNTY	AMOUNT OR VALUE	JOBs CREATED OR RETAINED	PREFERENTIAL AWARDS	WAIVERS GRANTED	TOTAL # OF FUNDING EVENTS AND/OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
<b>NORTH WEST RAO</b>					
Calhoun	\$2,937,120	0	6	3	29
Franklin	\$1,907,320	0	3	4	45
Gadsden	\$6,151,798	0	4	5	49
Gulf	\$1,453,396	0	2	0	40
Holmes	\$1,808,967	0	6	0	33
Jackson	\$2,290,512	15	2	15	89
Liberty	\$1,261,653	0	4	2	28
Wakulla	\$1,453,844	0	0	7	40
Walton	\$9,685,217	6	2	7	32
Washington	\$11,788,780	2	2	7	87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,738,607</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>472</b>
<b>NORTH CENTRAL RAO</b>					
Baker	\$1,724,985	0	2	4	20
Bradford	\$8,312,727	0	3	10	32
Columbia	\$3,408,965	0	4	16	51
Dixie	\$3,699,216	0	2	8	22
Gilchrist	\$3,575,169	0	3	6	19
Hamilton	\$5,839,293	0	4	5	23
Jefferson	\$2,444,966	0	3	6	23
Lafayette	\$2,199,736	0	1	6	17
Levy	\$13,812,168	0	2	11	44
Madison	\$3,385,103	0	5	5	25
Putnam	\$11,293,663	0	3	16	47
Suwannee	\$3,384,296	0	4	11	44
Taylor	\$4,256,316	0	1	2	24
Union	\$760,688	0	2	7	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,097,291</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>409</b>
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL RAO</b>					
DeSoto	\$3,899,403	27	4	10	52
Glades	\$6,315,125	0	1	7	31
Hardee	\$2,913,763	1	5	6	39
Hendry	\$3,794,366	2	4	11	45
Highlands	\$17,823,917	0	7	25	164
Immokalee	\$571,744	0	2	2	8
Okeechobee	\$2,500,420	3	2	8	59
Palm Beach	\$18,972,639	0	0	11	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$56,791,377</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>NON-RAO RURAL COUNTIES &amp; COMMUNITIES</b>					
Flagler	\$2,359,830	1	1	4	32
Nassau	\$2,508,209	0	1	2	21
Walton	\$1,659,050	6	1	5	35
Rural Communities Not Located in a Designated Rural County	\$4,962,424	6	3	5	66
Multi-County Awards	\$7,684,721	54	0	2	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,174,234</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>FEDERAL PARTNERS</b>	<b>\$30,507,576</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$215,309,085</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>1,537</b>

\*The job creation and retention figures reported by REDI agencies can vary from fiscal year to year due to various reasons including single-year grant allocations, temporary jobs, low rates of unemployment and high workforce participation.



## REBUILD FLORIDA

In September 2018, DEO launched Rebuild Florida to help Florida recover from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irma and future storms with funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This federal funding, specifically from the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery program, is storm-specific and designed to address housing, infrastructure and economic development needs that remain after other assistance has been exhausted, including federal assistance and private insurance.

**Rebuild Florida has launched multiple programs to help Floridians, businesses and communities rebuild their lives.**

Those programs include:

- Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program
- Rebuild Florida Affordable Workforce Housing Construction Program
- Rebuild Florida Business Loan Fund
- Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program
- Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program
- Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program

In 2019, DEO launched the state of Florida's coordinated effort to access more than \$633 million in first-of-its-kind federal funding for disaster mitigation projects. These funds are available through the HUD newly created Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program formed in response to the 2016 and 2017 presidentially declared disasters.

DEO will lead the creation of the State Action Plan that will provide a high-level strategy for how the funding will be used to address eligible communities' disaster mitigation needs. The State Action Plan will be developed in partnership with state agencies working on resiliency efforts, as well as with input from local communities and stakeholders to determine Florida's most critical disaster mitigation needs.

While CDBG-DR funding for Hurricane Michael has been announced, the federal government has not released the funding to the state and the federal register containing the guidance necessary to spend it has not been published by HUD as of October 2019. However, DEO and Rebuild Florida are already planning and working with local, state and federal partners to determine what the long-term recovery needs will be in the Florida Panhandle.

To learn more about DEO's long-term recovery efforts for the state of Florida, please visit [RebuildFlorida.gov](http://RebuildFlorida.gov).





## TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY 2019

In April, First Lady Casey DeSantis and Governor Ron DeSantis joined the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day at the Florida Capitol. More than 500 children, parents and mentors toured more than a dozen exhibits from a wide variety of organizations, while participating in interactive, hands-on activities and learning about the many career opportunities available to them in the Sunshine State.

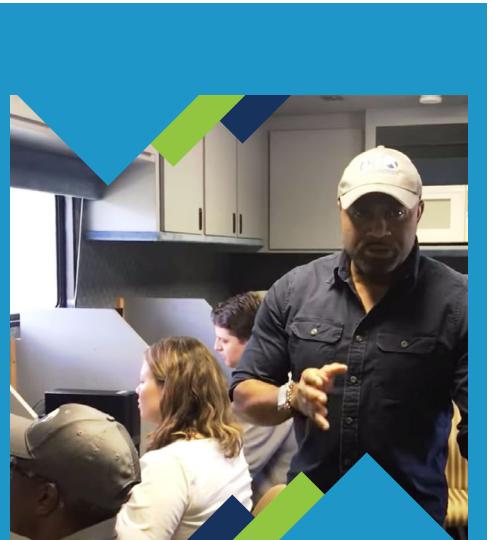
DEO hosts a career exploration event on Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day each year at the Florida Capitol. Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day is a nationwide initiative of the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Foundation, dedicated to developing innovative strategies and research-based activities in informal educational programs that empower girls and boys in all sectors of society.



## FLORIDADISASTER.BIZ

FloridaDisaster.biz equips business owners with resources to prepare a basic business continuity plan, access critical updates during a disaster event and learn about post-disaster recovery resources available to help get Floridians back to work. Information such as weather reports, executive orders and state situational updates are shared on the site to keep businesses across the state updated and informed.

FloridaDisaster.biz is home to the Business Damage Assessment Survey. This survey allows DEO to collect information on the damages received by impacted businesses as a result of an event. In fiscal year 2018-19, DEO activated the Business Damage Assessment Survey three times, including the Red Tide events and Hurricane Michael. More than 1,500 business damage assessment surveys were submitted via FloridaDisaster.biz over the course of these disaster events. The information provided in the survey helped inform decision makers on whether or not to activate resources such as the Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program and request federal resources such as the Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan.



Members of the DEO Private Sector Disaster Recovery Team assist in promoting [FloridaDisaster.biz](http://FloridaDisaster.biz) throughout the year.



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