
Rick Scott
GOVERNOR



Darrick D. McGhee
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of*
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

January 3, 2013

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor of Florida
Executive Office of the Governor
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

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

The Honorable Will W. Weatherford, Speaker
The Florida House of Representatives
Room 420, The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

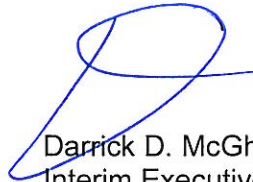
Dear Governor Scott, President Gaetz and Speaker Weatherford:

I am pleased to submit the Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) December 31, 2012, update to the *Economic Gardening Business Loan Pilot Program Report* that was issued on December 31, 2011. This update is a requirement of section 288.1081(8), Florida Statutes, and provides information for the time period April 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012.

DEO is issuing this December 31, 2012, update rather than a report, since there have not been any new loans approved since June 30, 2011, in accordance with section 288.1081(9), Florida Statutes. Prior to June 30, 2011, 100 loan applications were submitted within the program. A total of 38 businesses were approved to receive \$7,875,000 in loan awards. As a result of these loans 161 new jobs were created and 910 jobs were retained with an average wage of \$42,508. To date, loan repayments have totaled \$3,293,889.29.

If you have questions regarding this update or the Economic Gardening Business Loan Pilot Program, please contact Tom Beck, Director of the Division of Community Development, at (850) 717-8477.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrick D. McGhee". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the top and a long, sweeping underline.

Darrick D. McGhee
Interim Executive Director

DDM/jtb

cc: Gray Swoope, Secretary of Commerce/President and CEO, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Tom Beck, Director, Division of Community Development, DEO