The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity works with businesses, individuals and communities all across the state to ensure that Florida is the best state in the nation to find a job, start a business, get an education and raise your family.

This resource guide will provide you a menu of options available to communities and businesses in your area as you focus on economic development and prosperity for your residents.
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COMMUNITY GRANTS & LOANS

Florida Job Growth Grant Fund - Infrastructure

The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund is an economic development program designed to build on Florida’s success and economic prosperity. The Job Growth Grant Fund can be used for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida’s diverse industries.

- The public infrastructure projects can include transportation and utilities needed to support economic development.
- The funding may not benefit a single company.

**Eligibility:** Local government entities (infrastructure projects).
**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/JobGrowth](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/JobGrowth)

Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant

The Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant can help with the planning, preparation and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities that result in job creation, capital investment and the strengthening and diversification of rural economies.

**Eligibility:** Rural town, city or county governments as defined in section 288.0656, Florida Statutes.
**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/RIF](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/RIF)

Jackson County wanted to offer a higher level of medical services to its residents, including provider visits for diagnosis and treatment of minor illnesses or injuries, minor surgical procedures, basic X-ray, laboratory testing and specialized care for adult and geriatric patients. In 2016, Jackson County was awarded a grant from the Rural Infrastructure Fund to construct the Jackson County Quick Care medical facility. The grant allowed the county to construct a new medical facilities building and cover the cost of water line and sewer improvements needed to support the facility.
Small Cities Community Development Block Grant

The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides funding for economic activities, infrastructure improvements and housing rehabilitation. Funds have been used for wastewater and stormwater improvements, road improvements, rehabilitation of substandard housing, downtown revitalization, park facilities and other projects for public benefit. The objectives of the CDBG Program are to benefit low- and moderate-income individuals, prevent or eliminate slum or blight and address urgent community needs.

**Eligibility:** A city with a population of less than 50,000 or a county with a population of less than 200,000 in the unincorporated areas that does not receive CDBG funds directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/CDBG](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/CDBG)

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A CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant was awarded to the city of Chattahoochee to fund construction of an emergency alternate access point to the historic Crawfish Island community. The project included construction of a single lane road and a bridge to ensure timely responses by emergency vehicles that were frequently blocked by trains accessing a nearby switching yard. The project also funded improvements to the city's wastewater treatment plant, providing a benefit to all residents of the city of Chattahoochee.

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Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund

The Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund provides financial assistance in the form of either a loan or loan guarantee for a specific project that leads to the creation of new jobs, and which maintains or increases the economic vitality of rural counties.

**Eligibility:** A unit of local government in a designated rural county, or an economic development organization substantially underwritten by a unit of local government within a rural county, with the ability to repay the loans, or compensate for the guarantees and reserves.

**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/RLF](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/RLF)
Regional Rural Development Grant

The Regional Rural Development Grant Program builds on the skills and knowledge of the economic and tourism development representatives in the area being served. The grant must be matched each year by an equivalent amount of non-state resources.

These grants may be used to:
- Fund economic or tourism development-related studies.
- Develop marketing tools.
- Create a building and sites database that ties into the statewide database.
- Provide leadership development training for the representatives of the area served.
- Provide technical assistance to businesses within the area served through the designated economic or tourism representatives.
- Provide scholarships to local designated economic or tourism development representatives, or to county and city commissioners to enhance skills and obtain certifications.

Eligibility: A regional organization formed by two or more designated rural counties that is actively engaged in economic or tourism development.

Website: [www.FloridaJobs.org/RDG](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/RDG)

The Regional Rural Development Grant Program provided assistance to economic development organizations responsible for attracting Klausner Lumber One to the Suwannee County catalyst site in the North Central Rural Area of Economic Opportunity, resulting in more than 200 new high-paying jobs in the region.
Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants

Community Planning Technical Assistance Grants assist with meeting the requirements of the Community Planning Act, addressing critical local planning issues and promoting innovative planning solutions.

Special consideration is given to:
- Rural local governments, including rural local governments in an urban county.
- Innovative planning proposals that could be used by other local governments in the state.
- Regional projects (those that benefit more than one local government).

A Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant awarded to the Gulf County Economic Development Council enabled the county to coordinate with Franklin, Liberty and Gadsden counties to create a Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ). Designating an FLZ helps a county to coordinate and recognize a concentration of activities and infrastructure associated with freight transportation. This concentration of significant state roadways and rail lines as well as seaports, airports and waterways in close proximity to an Intermodal Logistics Center will provide opportunities for economic development in the region. Under this grant, the four counties created a strategic plan to attract businesses, and as a designated FLZ, they will receive priority for state funding.
Community Planning Technical Assistance

In addition to planning grants, DEO helps to promote Florida’s diverse economy and build vibrant rural and urban communities through the planning assistance it provides while implementing the Community Planning Act. This assistance involves coordinating state and local government and private interests to ensure the requirements for comprehensive planning are met while growing Florida’s economy.

Planning assistance covers a wide range of activities and can include:
- Coordinating reviews of plan amendments to ensure Florida’s important state resources are protected.
- Addressing compatibility of development proposals with existing land uses, including those in coastal areas or near military bases.
- Helping small and rural communities meet state requirements for comprehensive planning and addressing growth challenges.
- Assisting in the development of new visions, strategies and master plans for economic development.
- Offering strategies for high density, mixed-use, new development and redevelopment in urban areas.
- Recommending ways to ensure adequate and efficient supplies of central, publicly owned or financed infrastructure, including supplies of potable water and affordable housing.
- Supporting communities with DEO’s other initiatives, such as offering potential strategies as part of the Competitive Florida Partnership and providing planning expertise for Technical Assistance Grants.
- Advising local governments of the resources available from DEO and other agencies to address planning and development issues.

Eligibility: Local governments and regional planning councils.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/TechnicalAssistanceGrants

Community Resiliency Initiative

The Community Resiliency Initiative helps coastal local governments plan for and adapt to changing conditions resulting in increased vulnerability to coastal flood risk.

DEO offers the following support to local governments:
- Resources and guidance on adaptation.
- Technical assistance to local governments on adaptation planning.

Eligibility: Local governments with coastal management elements in comprehensive plans.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/AdaptationPlanning
The Competitive Florida Partnership focuses on what makes a community unique and the strengths and resources that can be built upon to help make a community more diverse, vibrant and competitive in today's economy. The Competitive Florida Partnership aims to preserve the distinct character of a community while improving upon and sharing the uniqueness of local assets for the greater good of Florida's economy.

Communities that participate in the program receive the following types of resources and support:

- Community asset mapping.
- Economic analyses.
- Development or update of an Economic Development Strategy.
- Resource matching to implement actions.
- Advice on economic development projects.
- Feedback on local comprehensive plans.
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- Connections with other communities and experts.
- Community marketing.

**Eligibility:** Rural and small local governments.

**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/CompetitiveFlorida](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/CompetitiveFlorida)

Through its efforts with the Competitive Florida Partnership, Port St. Joe has worked to reinvigorate its local economy with a focus on downtown revitalization and historic preservation. The primary obstacle identified through the first year of the Competitive Florida asset mapping exercise was the need for capital improvements in the business district. During the second year of the partnership, Port St. Joe developed a plan to improve water distribution and wastewater collection systems in the business district. The improvements to Port St. Joe’s business district helped them apply for and obtain a Historic Preservation grant to renovate the Port Theatre Art and Culture Center.
Rural Economic Development Initiative

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) involves more than 17 state and regional agencies and organizations that help rural communities solve problems to improve the fiscal and economic outlook of their community.

Two primary objectives of REDI are to:

- Be responsive to the communities’ issues, questions, needs and objectives.
- Deliver the best possible service to rural communities by coordinating the work of state agencies and other organizations.

**Eligibility:** Rural Communities as defined under section. 288.0656, Florida Statutes.

**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/REDI](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/REDI)

The Florida Department of Transportation’s (DOT) participation in REDI projects is a vital component in the success of infrastructure development across the state. DOT’s Small County Outreach Program funded the repairs and painting of the CR 340 Rock Bluff Bridge over the Suwannee River connecting Gilchrist and Dixie counties. The steel substructure of the bridge was corroded, and the expansion joints on the approaches were allowing water under the structure, causing significant erosion. The bridge was sand-blasted and repainted, the steel columns had concrete jackets added at the water line and the expansion joints were replaced. This work significantly extended the life of the bridge. If these funds were not made available to the county, the bridge would have continued to deteriorate until it needed to be replaced at a substantially greater expense.
COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD GRANTS

Community Services Block Grant

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program provides federal funds to assist eligible low-income households in attaining the skills, knowledge and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. Eligible agencies may provide a variety of anti-poverty services, such as emergency healthcare, food, housing, daycare and transportation assistance. This grant may also provide financial management assistance, nutrition programs, community gardening projects, food banks, job counseling, placement and training services and homeless prevention programs. Applicants must apply for assistance with the local CSBG provider for their county and must provide proof of household income.

Eligibility: Local governments and Community Action Agencies.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/CSBG

The Osceola County Council on Aging used CSBG funds to supplement other grant funds to create Project OPEN, the Osceola Poverty Elimination Network. Project OPEN provides low-income residents with access to food, education, financial training and workforce development services to help families and individuals move from poverty to long-term economic stability.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds provide home energy assistance. Payments are made to energy companies on behalf of eligible low-income households. LIHEAP also supports programs that provide energy-related repairs and improvements to residential homes. Applicants must apply for assistance with the LIHEAP provider in their county.

Eligibility: Local governments and Community Action Agencies.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/LIHEAP

Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) helps to increase energy efficiency and reduce health and safety concerns in low-income homes. The goal of the program is to reduce heating and cooling bills of low-income individuals by making the homes more energy-efficient.

Energy-efficiency measures performed through the program include:

- Air and duct sealing.
- Wall, floor and attic insulation.
- Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system improvements.
- Lighting efficiency improvements.
- Water heater and pipe insulation.

Eligibility: Local governments and Community Action Agencies.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/WAP
WORKFORCE SERVICES

Driven by the needs of Florida businesses, DEO, in partnership with CareerSource Florida and the 24 Local Workforce Development Boards, provides a dynamic statewide system to offer high-quality workforce services to prepare Floridians of all ages today for the jobs of tomorrow. The workforce system offers resources to identify employer needs for skilled workers, training assistance and labor market information. These services are provided online at www.EmployFlorida.com and in person at 100 career centers across the state.

Some of the services include:

- Referring qualified applicants.
- Advertising job openings.
- Job fairs and employee recruitment.
- On-the-job training programs.
- Federal bonding program, which allows employers to hire at-risk applicants with limited liability to their businesses.
- Reemployment and Emergency Assistance Coordination Team (REACT), a team of state and local community representatives that plan and coordinate assistance for Florida’s employers and workers affected by layoffs.
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program, which provides employers the opportunity to earn a federal tax credit for jobseekers with barriers to employment.
- Foreign Labor Certification Program, which processes labor certification applications for employers seeking to bring foreign workers into the United States.

The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund is an economic development program designed to build on Florida’s success and economic prosperity. The Job Growth Grant Fund can be used for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida’s diverse industries.

- The workforce training projects will provide Floridians with transferable, sustainable workforce skills applicable to many employers.
- The funding may not benefit a single company.

Eligibility: Entities that partner with state colleges or technical centers (workforce projects).
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/JobGrowth

The first grant from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was awarded to Manatee Technical College in January 2018. This funding was provided to help the college enhance and expand its successful Advanced Manufacturing and Production Technology program. This proposal was chosen based on its strong return on investment to the state and the demand for a robust manufacturing workforce in Manatee County, home to hundreds of manufacturing companies.
Quick Response Training

Quick Response Training is an employer-driven training grant program designed to assist new and expanding Florida businesses in targeted industries to create customized, skills-based training for high-skill jobs. This reimbursement program is flexible and responsive to individual company needs. Quick Response Training is managed by CareerSource Florida.

**Eligibility:** New or existing Florida businesses.

Incumbent Worker Training

Incumbent Worker Training is a grant program designed to meet the needs of current Florida employers, or a group of employers, who are seeking to retain a skilled workforce. Through this business-driven program, Florida is able to better retain businesses and provide skills upgrades for their existing full-time employees.

**Eligibility:** Businesses must have been in operation in Florida for one year, have at least one full-time employee, demonstrate financial viability and be current on all state tax obligations.
Workforce Programs

DEO’s workforce programs include a wide array of targeted employment and training opportunities for individuals seeking entry or re-entry into Florida’s workforce.

Examples of these populations include:
- Military veterans and their family members.
- Workers displaced due to job closings and layoffs.
- Individuals who lost their jobs due to a natural disaster.
- Disabled jobseekers.
- Youth, adults and dislocated workers.
- Individuals in jobs threatened or lost due to foreign competition.
- Individuals receiving reemployment assistance benefits.
- Migrant and seasonal farmworkers.
- Ex-offenders.
- Individuals transitioning from welfare.
- Individuals receiving food assistance.

Website: [www.FloridaJobs.org/Workforce-Programs](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Workforce-Programs)
Job Search Resources

Individuals seeking employment have a number of resources available through DEO and our partners.

- **Employ Florida**: A powerful online tool specifically designed to help connect employers and jobseekers. Employ Florida customers can access services virtually anywhere, gaining a complete set of employment tools and resources on one website. The Employ Florida mobile app is also available for free on Android and Apple devices. [www.EmployFlorida.com](http://www.EmployFlorida.com)

- **Career Centers**: The CareerSource Florida Network has about 100 walk-in career centers located throughout Florida that provide assistance to individuals with job searches, training opportunities, resume building and more. [www.CareerSourceFlorida.com/Your-Local-Team](http://www.CareerSourceFlorida.com/Your-Local-Team)

- **People First**: Individuals can search and apply for Florida state government positions. [www.PeopleFirst.MyFlorida.com](http://www.PeopleFirst.MyFlorida.com)

- **Teach In Florida**: This website provides employment resources for those interested in careers in Florida’s school systems. [www.TeachinFlorida.com](http://www.TeachinFlorida.com)

- **Job Central National Labor Exchange**: Individuals can search for jobs around the nation, by occupation, industry and state. [www.US.jobs](http://www.US.jobs)

Labor Market Information

The DEO Bureau of Labor Market Statistics produces, analyzes and delivers timely and reliable labor statistics to improve economic decision-making.

The agency provides a variety of labor market, economic and demographic data, such as:

- **Employment and Wages**: Current employment, projections and wages by industry and occupation, occupational profiles and career information.

- **Labor Force**: Labor force, employment and unemployment rates.

- **Economic Indicators**: Florida Price Level Index, Consumer Price Index, income and unemployment claims data.

- **Population**: Age, race, gender, income, veteran status and education data.

BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Economic development incentives are available to businesses of all sizes in rural and urban areas across the state.

These programs include:

- **Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Tax Refund**, which serves to improve economic opportunities within Florida’s Brownfield areas. Brownfield sites are generally abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination.

- **Capital Investment Tax Credit**, which is used to attract and grow capital-intensive industries. Eligible projects must fall within Florida’s target industries or the following designated high-impact sectors: clean energy, life sciences, financial services, information technology, semi-conductor technology, transportation equipment manufacturing, advanced manufacturing or a corporate headquarters facility.

- **High Impact Performance Incentive**, which is a grant for facilities operating in designated portions of high-impact sectors, including clean energy, life sciences, financial services, information technology, semi-conductor technology, transportation equipment manufacturing or a corporate headquarters facility.

- **Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund**, which serves to attract new high-quality, high-wage jobs within Florida’s target industries. Projects must be backed by local financial support (from public or private local sources) and create at least 10 jobs.

Website: [www.FloridaJobs.org/Incentive-Awards](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Incentive-Awards)

ADP is a comprehensive global provider of cloud-based solutions that unite human resources, payroll, talent, time, tax and benefits administration. ADP serves more than 610,000 clients of all types and sizes around the world.

In 2016, ADP worked with DEO and Enterprise Florida to expand its office in Orange County. The project was backed by Orange County and the city of Maitland. This expansion will create 1,600 new jobs and invest more than $28 million in the local community.
Manufacturing Competitiveness Act

The Manufacturing Competitiveness Act Development Approval Program allows participating cities and counties to establish a manufacturing master development plan review process to increase manufacturing opportunities in their communities. Once in effect, a developer of a new or expanding manufacturing business may obtain development approval through a single, consolidated local-level master development plan review. Upon approval, the developer may proceed to development without needing to obtain additional approvals or permits, except for building permits. Approved master development plans would remain in effect for a minimum of 10 years. The program also provides for expedited review of any state-level permits or approvals that may be required.

Eligibility: Local governments that would like to expedite manufacturing permitting processes.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/MCA

Tax Credits

A variety of tax credit programs are also available for businesses across the state to encourage growth.

Examples of these programs include:

- **Rural Job Tax Credit Program**, which encourages the creation of jobs in rural areas. The program offers tax credits (corporate or sales tax) to qualified businesses that create the required number of new jobs within one of the 36 designated rural areas.

- **Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credit Program**, which encourages the creation of jobs in designated urban areas of Florida. The program offers tax credits (corporate or sales tax) to qualified businesses that create the required number of new jobs within one of the 13 designated Urban High-Crime Areas.

- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program**, which offers a federal tax credit to businesses that hire individuals from certain target groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment. In addition to reducing the income tax liability for participating businesses, WOTC promotes workforce diversity and facilitates access to employment opportunities that will help targeted workers move from economic dependency into self-sufficiency as they earn a steady income and become contributing taxpayers.


Brownfield Areas Loan Guarantee

The Brownfield Areas Loan Guarantee Program was established in 1997 to make loan guarantees for projects that redevelop Brownfield areas. The guarantee applies to only 50 percent of the primary lender’s loans. If the redevelopment project is for affordable housing, or includes the construction and operation of a new health care facility or a health care provider, the guarantee applies to 75 percent of the primary lender’s loan.

Eligibility: Businesses that locate in Brownfield areas.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/Business-Resources
Black Business Loans

The Black Business Loan Program provides technical assistance, loans, loan guarantees and investments to black business enterprises that cannot obtain capital through conventional lending institutions.

**Eligibility:** Black-owned enterprises in which a majority (at least 51 percent) of the business owners are black.

**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/BBLP](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/BBLP)

Prospera Hispanic Business Initiative Fund

The Prospera Hispanic Business Initiative Fund (HBIF) Program provides Hispanic-owned businesses with a variety of management training programs and services not currently available due to cultural and language barriers, contributing to the growth and success of Hispanic-owned businesses. Some of the services HBIF provides to Hispanic small businesses and entrepreneurs include business planning, marketing, accounting, loan application facilitation, workshops and grants to pay for other specialized technical assistance, such as website development and corporate branding.

**Eligibility:** Hispanic business owners.

**Website:** [www.Prosperausa.org](http://www.Prosperausa.org)

Prospera is an economic development nonprofit organization specializing in providing bilingual assistance to Hispanic entrepreneurs trying to establish or expand their business. The organization empowers these entrepreneurs through training, support and resources so their businesses can grow and prosper. Since 1991, it has served more than 13,000 entrepreneurs.
Microfinance Loans

The Microfinance Loan Program makes short-term, fixed-rate microloans in conjunction with business management training, business development training and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and newly established or growing small businesses. These loans can be used for startup costs, working capital and the acquisition of materials, supplies, furniture, fixtures and equipment. Participation in the loan program is intended to enable entrepreneurs and small businesses access to private financing upon completing the loan program.

Eligibility: A small business or entrepreneur located in the state of Florida with average annual gross revenues of $1.5 million or less for a two-year period, with 25 or fewer employees.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/Microfinance

New Markets Tax Credits

The New Market Tax Credit Program was established to spur new or increased investments into operating businesses and real estate projects located in low-income communities. The program attracts investment capital to low-income communities by permitting individual and corporate investors to receive a tax credit against their federal income tax return in exchange for making equity investments in specialized financial institutions called Community Development Entities.

Eligibility: A federally certified Community Development Entity.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/Business-Resources

Florida State Small Business Credit Initiative

The State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) is designed to increase access to capital for small businesses.

> Small Business Loan Support Program – The program enables small businesses to obtain term loans or lines of credit to help them grow and expand their businesses. This is accomplished by providing a lender with the necessary security, in the form of a partial guarantee, for the lender to approve a loan or line-of-credit.

> Venture Capital Program – This program provides investment capital to create and grow start-up and early-stage businesses that are believed to have long-term growth potential.

> Florida Export Support Program – The Export Support Program is designed to expand employment and income opportunities through increased exports of goods and services. The program’s loan guarantees support export transactions.

Eligibility: Businesses with 500 or fewer employees.
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/SmallBusinessPrograms
Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery

Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds are appropriated by Congress and support projects in areas that have received a presidential disaster declaration. Working with the state, communities with significant unmet recovery needs may receive assistance in recovery efforts that involve housing, economic development, infrastructure and prevention of further damage to affected areas.

Activities must meet at least one of the three federally declared program objectives:

- Benefit persons of low to moderate income.
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
- Meet other urgent community development needs.

**Eligibility:** Local communities included in the state’s plan for disaster recovery.

**Website:** www.FloridaJobs.org/CDBG-DR
**Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan**

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program is run in partnership with the Florida Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC). The program provides cash flow to small businesses impacted by a disaster. The program consists of short-term, interest-free working capital loans intended to bridge the gap between the time a major catastrophe hits and when a business has secured longer-term recovery resources, such as profits from a revived business, payments on insurance claims or federal disaster assistance.

**Eligibility:** Business owners in a disaster-impacted area with two to 100 employees.  
**Website:** [www.FloridaDisasterLoan.org](http://www.FloridaDisasterLoan.org)

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**National Dislocated Worker Grant**

National Dislocated Worker Grants are awarded for temporary employment of workers affected by major dislocations, including natural disasters. Disaster relief employment can be in the form of temporary jobs to address structural and humanitarian needs of residents of an area that has suffered a federally declared emergency or major disaster.

Disaster relief employment is restricted to projects that provide food, clothing, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for disaster victims and projects that involve demolition, cleaning, repair, renovation and reconstruction of damaged structures and facilities. Individuals who qualify for disaster relief employment are people who are temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the disaster and dislocated workers and individuals who are long-term unemployed.

**Eligibility:** Local workforce development boards receive funding to be used for eligible individuals.  
DEO, in partnership with Enterprise Florida, Inc., runs the following programs supporting military communities in Florida.

### Florida Defense Reinvestment Grants

The Defense Reinvestment Grant Program provides funding to defense-dependent communities to support advocacy and military community relations.

Its purpose is to support community-based activities that:

- Protect existing military installations.
- Diversify the economy of a defense-dependent community.
- Develop plans for the reuse of closed or realigned military installations, including any plans necessary for infrastructure improvements needed to facilitate reuse and related marketing activities.

**Eligibility:** Defense-dependent counties and cities and local economic development councils that represent a local government with a military installation that could be adversely affected by federal actions.

**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs)

### Florida Defense Infrastructure Grants

The Defense Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding for local infrastructure projects that have a positive impact on an installation’s military value. Projects must benefit both the local community and the military installations. Program funds may not be used to fund on-base military construction projects.

Its purpose is to support infrastructure projects related to:

- Encroachment.
- Transportation and access.
- Utilities.
- Communications.
- Housing.
- Environment.
- Security.

**Eligibility:** Economic development applicants serving in the official capacity of a governing board of a county, municipality, special district or state agency that will have the authority to maintain the project upon completion and that represent a community or county in which a military installation is located that could be adversely affected by federal actions.

**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs)

### Florida Military Base Protection Program

The Military Base Protection Program was created to secure non-conservation lands to serve as a buffer to protect military installations against encroachment and support local community efforts to engage in service partnerships with military installations.

DEO evaluates information provided by military installations regarding potential encroachment threats and provides its recommended rankings to the Florida Defense Support Task Force. This Task Force is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation. DEO assists the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in accomplishing non-conservation acquisitions authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Governor and Cabinet) and funded by the Legislature.

**Eligibility:** Communities with non-conservation lands not subject to acquisition by the Florida Forever Program.

**Website:** [www.FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs)
PARTNERS

Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) is a public-private partnership between Florida's business and government leaders and is the principal economic development organization for Florida. EFI's mission is to expand and diversify the state's economy through job creation. www.EnterpriseFlorida.com

VISIT FLORIDA is the state’s official tourism marketing corporation, serving as Florida's official source for marketing the state to tourists and for travel planning to visitors across the globe. www.VisitFlorida.org

CareerSource Florida is the statewide workforce policy and investment board for the 24 local workforce development boards and 100 career centers throughout Florida. The CareerSource Florida network helps connect businesses with the talented workforce and training needed to succeed and grow. www.CareerSourceFlorida.com
Local Workforce Boards: www.CareerSourceFlorida.com/Your-Local-Team

Space Florida is the state’s aerospace economic development organization, committed to attracting and expanding the next generation of space industry businesses and position Florida as a global leader in aerospace research, investment, exploration and commerce. www.SpaceFlorida.gov

Florida Housing Finance Corporation assists in providing a range of affordable housing opportunities for residents across the state. www.FloridaHousing.org

Florida Sports Foundation assists Florida communities with hosting sporting events and sports-related businesses that generate significant economic impact and sports tourism. www.FLASports.com

Florida SBDC Network is the state’s principal provider of business assistance and provides tools, training and resources to help small businesses grow and succeed. www.FloridaSBDC.org