Dear Partners,

As the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), it is my pleasure to share this Community Resource Guide. We want you to know about every opportunity DEO can offer your community as you plan for the future.

DEO works with communities, businesses and Floridians 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 a family. The state of Florida is dedicated to building the right business environment, providing proper workforce training and making smart, strategic investments in communities across the state in order for all Floridians to enhance their lives.

Our team at DEO is constantly collecting data to identify opportunities for investment in Florida’s economy, workforce, education and employment. Businesses are continuing to come to Florida due to the friendly business environment created by our Governor and Legislature with low taxes, reasonable regulations and a quality workforce. Because businesses continue to choose Florida, our communities are continuing to grow and thrive.

I hope that you will find this resource guide helpful as you explore opportunities for your community to grow. This guide will provide you a menu of options available to communities, homes and businesses throughout Florida as you focus on economic development, disaster recovery and workforce development for the prosperity of your residents.

Sincerely,

Ken Lawson
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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

Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund

The Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund provides loans to local governments, or economic development organizations substantially underwritten by a unit of local government, to finance initiatives directed toward maintaining or developing the economic base of rural communities, especially when addressing employment opportunities.

Eligibility: local governments, or economic development organizations substantially underwritten by a unit of local government, must be located in:
- Counties with populations of 75,000 or less
- Counties with populations of 125,000 or less if contiguous to a county with a population of fewer than 75,000; or
- Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO).

All loan repayments of principal and interest are returned to the loan fund and made available for loans to other applicants. However, if the recipient is located within a rural area of opportunity, repayments of principal and interest may be retained by the applicant if they are dedicated and matched to fund regionally-based economic development organizations representing that area.

Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/RLF

Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program

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 development 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 direct CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/CDBG
Regional Rural Development Grant Program

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 the designated economic or tourism development representative, or to county and city commissioners to enhance skills and obtaining certifications.

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

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

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.

This program is intended to facilitate access to other state and federal infrastructure funding programs. Eligible uses include:

- Infrastructure feasibility studies,
- Design and engineering or other planning and preparation activities,
- Improvements to public infrastructure for industrial or commercial sites and
- Upgrades to or development of public tourism infrastructure, such as: stormwater systems; telecommunications facilities; broadband facilities; roads or other remedies to transportation impediments.

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)
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 counties and municipalities including rural municipalities in an urban county.
- Innovative planning proposals that could be used by other counties and municipalities in the state.
- Regional projects (those that benefit more than one county or municipality).

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

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 and facilities 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 under DEO’s other initiatives, such as offering potential strategies as part of the Competitive Florida Partnership Program 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.
- Resources and guidance on adaptation to coastal flood risks.
- Technical assistance to local governments on adaptation planning.

Eligibility: Local governments and regional planning councils
Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/TechnicalAssistanceGrants
www.FloridaJobs.org/AdaptationPlanning
**Competitive Florida Partnership**

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)

**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/RuralEconomicDevelopmentInitiative](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/RuralEconomicDevelopmentInitiative)
The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) helps to increase energy efficiency and reduce the health and safety concerns in low-income homes. The goal of the program is to reduce the 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

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 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

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

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

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 connects employers with qualified, skilled and talented job seekers to employment and career development opportunities. These services are provided online at www.EmployFlorida.com and in person at more than 100 career centers across the state.

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 when hiring jobseekers with barriers to employment.
- Foreign Labor Certification program, which processes labor certification applications for employers seeking to bring foreign workers in the United States.
- Development of partnerships to better serve targeted industries.
- Development of apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships to benefit employers as well as job seekers.
- Opportunities for dislocated workers to work in temporary disaster-relief jobs to help in recovery efforts of communities affected by a natural disaster, such as a hurricane.
- Engaging individuals who have applied for Reemployment Assistance (formerly Unemployment Compensation) early in the claim process in order to assist them in getting back to work faster.

Florida Job Growth Grant Fund - Workforce

The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund is an economic development program designed to build on Florida’s success and economic prosperity. The Growth 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
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
Website: www.CareerSourceFlorida.com/Business-Services/Training-Grants

Quick Response Training

Quick Response Training is an employer-driven training grant program designed to assist new and existing 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
Website: www.CareerSourceFlorida.com/Business-Services/Training-Grants

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 job seekers 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 job seekers
- 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 receiving temporary cash assistance benefits
- Individuals receiving food assistance benefits
- Individuals seeking apprenticeship opportunities

Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/Workforce-Programs
Workforce Statistics and Economic Research

The DEO Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research produces, analyzes and delivers 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, unemployment 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.
- **Data Visualizations and Online Tools**: Interactive online tools and dashboards that allow users to explore and understand data in a user-friendly format.

**Small Business Loan Program**

The Small Business Loan Program (SSBCI) was designed by the federal government to help states strengthen existing loan and equity programs and/or create new programs that support financing small businesses. This program does not offer direct loans to small businesses; these loans must be applied through a third-party lender (credit union, commercial lender, and Certified Development Finance Institutions).

The loan proceeds must be used for a “business purpose.” A business purpose includes, but is not limited to; startup costs, working capital, business procurement, franchise fees, equipment, inventory, as well as the purchase, construction renovation or tenant improvements of an eligible place of business that is not for passive real estate investment purposes. The program permits the purchase of a portion of the loan originated by the lender, facilitating the loan by reducing the lender’s credit risk. The following are the typical terms:

- Typical loan participation will be between 5-20% of the loan amount, up to a maximum 50% (1:1 min).
- Minimum $250,000 loan amount; maximum $5,000,000 (lower amounts permitted).
- Maximum participation term is five (5) years.
- Interest rates and fees are negotiable.
- Under no circumstances will a loan participation be permitted under a scenario that allows the Partnering Lender to incur less than 20% risk of loss (based on the total required financing).

Website: [https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/small-business/state-small-business-credit-initiative-ssbci/](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/small-business/state-small-business-credit-initiative-ssbci/)

**Black Business Loan Program**

The Black Business Loan Program provides loans and loan guarantees through loan administrators for black-owned businesses that are unable to obtain capital through conventional lending institutions but could compete successfully in the private sector. Current loan administrators are FAMU Federal Credit Union and Miami-Bayside Foundation.

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)

**Microfinance Guarantee Program**

The Microfinance Guarantee Program is designed to stimulate access to credit for entrepreneurs and small businesses in Florida by providing guarantees on loans made to these entrepreneurs and small businesses. Microfinance loan guarantees may be used for any allowable business purpose such as startup costs, working capital and the acquisition of materials, supplies, furniture, fixtures and equipment.

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](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Microfinance)
Prospera Hispanic Business Initiative Fund

Prospera is an economic development, nonprofit organization specialized in providing bilingual assistance to Hispanic entrepreneurs with a variety of management training programs and services not currently available due to cultural and language barriers. This contributes to the growth and success of Hispanic-owned businesses.

Services 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

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. The program provides a lender with the necessary security, in the form of a partial guarantee, for the lender to approve a loan or line-of-credit.

- **Florida Export Support Program** – This 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

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.

In addition to the Brownfield Areas Loan Guarantee Program, the Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund program is designed to encourage redevelopment and job creation within designated brownfield sites. Businesses may be refunded up to $2,500 per job created.

Eligibility: Businesses that locate in Brownfield areas.
FloridaDisaster.Biz

FloridaDisaster.Biz is a one stop shop for assisting businesses in preparing, responding and recovering from storms or natural disasters. Preparing your business and employees for potential impacts from disasters is an important step most business owners overlook. Businesses can use the Business Preparedness Toolkit at FloridaDisaster.biz to start their business preparedness plan. During a disaster, businesses registered with FloridaDisaster.biz can access critical disaster updates from the State Emergency Operations Center. Impacted businesses can submit a Business Damage Assessment Survey on the site, so that local, state and federal partners understand business impacts and can make recovery resources available after an emergency event. For more information and to register your business visit FloridaDisaster.Biz.

Eligibility: Any private sector Florida business
Website: www.FloridaDisaster.Biz

Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan

In the event of a disaster, the Governor of Florida has the option to activate the Emergency Bridge Loan Program by Executive Order. DEO is the state administrator for the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan and works with partners to distribute funds to eligible small businesses affected by a disaster. The loan serves as a bridge to a long-term loan from the Small Business Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, private insurance, or other long-term funding sources. The purpose of the Emergency Bridge Loan Program is to provide a source of expedient cash flow to Florida small businesses impacted by a disaster. These short-term, interest-free working capital loans are intended to “bridge the gap” between the time a major catastrophe hits and when a business has secured longer term recovery resources, such as sufficient profits from a revived business, receipt of payments on insurance claims or federal disaster assistance.

Amounts, term, interest and payment information will be made available on the website once a disaster has been declared and the Governor activates the program.

Website: www.FloridaDisasterLoan.org
National Dislocated Worker Grant

National Dislocated Worker Grants are awarded for temporary employment to workers affected by major dislocations, including natural disasters.

Disaster relief employment is restricted to projects that provide cleaning and renovation of damaged structures and facilities, as well as humanitarian assistance to disaster victims. Humanitarian assistance may involve staffing of shelters and recovery centers, distribution of food and supplies and assistance navigating resources. 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 in the affected areas receive funding to be used for eligible individuals.

Website: For information regarding National Dislocated Worker Grants, visit your local CareerSource Center at www.FloridaJobs.org/OneStop/OneStopDir

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides assistance to individuals whose employment has been either lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster, as declared by the President of the United States. Individuals are eligible if they lived or worked in a disaster declared county and as a direct result of the disaster became unemployed. DUA benefits are paid weekly in accordance with federal and state regulations. The DUA benefit duration typically lasts up to 26 weeks.

Individuals may be eligible for DUA if, as a direct result of a disaster:

- they became unemployed
- they are unable to reach their place of employment
- they cannot work due to an injury
- they were scheduled to begin work but no longer have a job
- they have become the primary breadwinner due to the death of the head of household

Website: www.FloridaJobs.org/Disaster-Unemployment-Assistance
The Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program is helping eligible homeowners impacted by Hurricane Irma by repairing, rebuilding or replacing damaged homes across the hardest-hit communities. Because funding is limited, priority is given to low-income residents who are most vulnerable, including the elderly, those with disabilities and families with children under the age of 18, with later phases expanding to less vulnerable groups as funding allows.

Eligibility: Homeowners impacted by Hurricane Irma and located in the federal and state identified most impacted and distressed areas
Website: RebuildFlorida.gov

**Rebuild Florida Business Loan Fund**

The Rebuild Florida Business Loan Fund is available to help small businesses that are recovering from past hurricanes to rebuild and expand. The Business Loan Fund is targeted to industries identified by the state as key strategic markets from future growth and focuses on creating and enhancing the diversification and resiliency of Florida’s economy. The Business Loan Fund addresses the current gap in available, affordable capital for businesses by providing longer term loans with higher funding levels at market interest rates.

The Business Loan Fund can provide eligible business financing for the following purposes:

- Inventory purchases
- Construction or renovation
- Working capital needs
- Capital Start up loans
- Machinery and equipment purchases
- Equipment financing and more

Eligibility: Any Florida business suffering from physical or economic damages of Hurricane Irma
Website: RebuildFlorida.gov

**Housing Repair and Replacement Program**

The Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program is helping eligible homeowners impacted by Hurricane Irma by repairing, rebuilding or replacing damaged homes across the hardest-hit communities. Because funding is limited, priority is given to low-income residents who are most vulnerable, including the elderly, those with disabilities and families with children under the age of 18, with later phases expanding to less vulnerable groups as funding allows.

Eligibility: Homeowners impacted by Hurricane Irma and located in the federal and state identified most impacted and distressed areas
Website: RebuildFlorida.gov
**Infrastructure Repair Program**

The Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program provides funding for infrastructure restoration and improvement projects in communities impacted by Hurricane Irma.

**Eligibility:** Counties, municipalities, water management districts, and water authorities located in the areas that experienced Hurricane Irma storm damage that are within the federal and state designated most impacted and distressed areas.

**Website:** RebuildFlorida.gov

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**Voluntary Home Buyout Program**

Reducing the risk of flooding in residential areas is a priority for the state of Florida. Recognizing this, the Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program was created to encourage risk reduction through the purchase of residential property in high flood-risk areas to help reduce the impact of future disasters.

**Eligibility:** Local governments that are within the federal and state designated most impacted and distressed areas.

**Website:** RebuildFlorida.gov

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**Infrastructure Repair Program**

The Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program provides funding for infrastructure restoration and improvement projects in communities impacted by Hurricane Irma.

**Eligibility:** Counties, municipalities, water management districts, and water authorities located in the areas that experienced Hurricane Irma storm damage that are within the federal and state designated most impacted and distressed areas.

**Website:** RebuildFlorida.gov

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**Recovery Workforce Training Program**

The Rebuild Florida Recovery Workforce Training Program will be focused on growing the workforce needed to support long-term recovery jobs, primarily in the construction field.

**Eligibility:** Local workforce development boards, educational institutions and technical centers located within the federal and state designated most impacted and distressed areas.

**Website:** RebuildFlorida.gov

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**Business Recovery Grant Program**

The Rebuild Florida Business Recovery Grant Program is for eligible business owners who are seeking reimbursement for the cost of replacing equipment and inventory damaged by Hurricane Irma as well as other CDBG-DR eligible activities.

Check RebuildFlorida.gov for updates.
MILITARY COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

DEO, in partnership with Enterprise Florida, Inc., runs the following programs supporting military communities in Florida.

Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program

The Defense Reinvestment Grant Program provides funding to defense-dependent communities to support 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 Grant Program

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)

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. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.CareerSourceFlorida.com)

- 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](http://www.SpaceFlorida.gov)

- Florida Housing Finance Corporation assists in providing a range of affordable housing opportunities for residents across the state. [www.FloridaHousing.org](http://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](http://www.FLASports.com)

- Florida SBD 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](http://www.FloridaSBDC.org)

- Veterans Florida is the statewide non-profit corporation to help veterans transition to civilian life. Veterans Florida provides tools for veterans to take advantage of the benefits of living and working in Florida. [www.VeteransFlorida.org](http://www.VeteransFlorida.org)