

FEDC's membership is comprised of 500 economic, workforce, and community developers and Florida business leaders from 250 entities committed to elevating Florida's global competitiveness through workforce development, job creation, and capital investment in high wage, in-demand occupations that strengthen Florida's rural, metropolitan, coastal, and inland communities and diversify Florida's economy.

Strengthen Florida's Globally Recognizable Business Brand

- Enhance the resiliency of Florida's small businesses by repealing the tax on commercial leases, also known as the "Business Rent Tax", which is only levied by the state of Florida.
- Invest in Trade and Foreign Direct Investment to expand Florida Manufacturing thereby improving all other sectors as outlined in the [FloridaCommerce Manufacturing Report](#).
- Maintain funding for VISIT FLORIDA's marketing programs to emphasize that Florida is open and welcoming for domestic and global tourists.

Fund the Job Growth Grant Fund at \$100,000,000 as outlined in the Governor's Focus on Florida's Future budget.

- Prioritize investments in customized training, earn-to-learn apprenticeship programs, and training infrastructure that target 21st century skills to fill high-wage, high-skill career vacancies in targeted industries.
- Increase investment in university and institutional research initiatives to accelerate the use of Industry 4.0 technologies, such as, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data analytics, autonomous robots, simulation, cloud computing, augmented reality, and additive manufacturing.
- Support the identification, analysis, and prioritization of sites suitable for new and expanding developments in Florida's targeted industry sectors.

Increase funding for Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) and Quick Response Training (QRT) grants to upskill Florida's workforce.

- Offer flexibility in QRT average wage thresholds to address rising wages and direct training to those who could benefit the most; thereby, increasing economic mobility for workers and the talent pipeline for companies creating new to Florida jobs.

Fully fund the Sadowski Act Housing Trust Fund to provide Affordable Housing.

- Support innovative partnerships to achieve placemaking in Florida that improves housing options for Florida workers and retains primary age workers.
- Streamline building permitting to unleash innovative solutions in the construction and trades sectors that will enhance community resilience.

Protect the Impact of Economic Development in Florida

- **Support** SB 196 (Simon) / HB 141 (Shoaf) – Regional Rural Development Grants Program, which deletes the requirement that certain grants received by a regional economic development organization must be matched in a certain manner.
- **Monitor/Oppose** HB 609 (Botana) / SB 1144 (DiCeglie) which repeals provisions related to local business taxes.