



2025 Legislative Priorities DRAFT

The **Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC)** is Florida’s leading organization for advancing statewide prosperity by professionalizing our field, strengthening our competitiveness, and serving as the number one source of economic development expertise in Florida. FEDC’s membership is comprised of 500 economic, workforce, and community developers and business leaders from 250 entities committed to elevating Florida’s global competitiveness.

FEDC continues to champion three key **Florida 2030** goals, including economic diversification, growth in rural Florida, and goal alignment among Florida’s distinct regional economies.

FEDC Members connect businesses with **Florida’s world-class higher education system** to create critical **Research, Development, and Talent solutions** that lead to high-wage, career enhancing jobs for Florida families.

Increase funding in key impactful elements of Florida’s economic development toolkit as outlined by [FloridaCommerce](#) and [SelectFlorida](#) to create high-wage jobs in regionally targeted industries.

- **Fund the Job Growth Grant Fund at \$100,000,000** to invest in site identification, site improvements, related infrastructure and talent development critical to high-wage job creation and skills upgrades.
- FEDC supports two Florida Rural Economic Development Association (FREDA) legislative priorities:
 - **Increase the Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to \$75,000,000** recurring funds and remove the “Cycle” for RIF Funding; RIF grant applications and awards should be open until the funds are exhausted.
 - Fund Florida Commerce’s request to establish the Rural Accelerator program focused on providing critical grants to rural local governments and RAO organizations for Site Readiness, Marketing, Strategic Planning, and other vital needs.
- Retain and expand Florida’s growth industries, by **increasing funding for Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) and Quick Response Training (QRT) grants** and offering flexibility in QRT average wage thresholds to address rising wages.

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

- Support innovative partnerships to achieve placemaking in Florida, thereby expanding housing options for Florida workers and retaining primary age workers.
- Support continued implementation of Live Local, Live Healthy, Hometown Heros, and Resiliency initiatives that reign in the ongoing cost of homeownership and strengthen Florida’s talent supply.

Strengthen Florida’s Globally Recognizable Business Brand and Competitiveness.

- Fund the development and execution of a **Florida business development marketing campaign** built upon the input of local and regional economic and business development leaders.
- 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.
- Provide support for the retention and expansion of **Manufacturing in Florida**.