

As approved by the Board of County Commissioners on May 4, 2022

This program cannot be modified without Board approval.



Grants

- Support efforts to apply for available grant opportunities provided through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with the aim of enriching existing programs and resources throughout the County.
- Advocate for full funding of grants administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, such as the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which aim to provide more affordable housing and additional assistance to those in need.
- Support full funding of the Section Capacity Building for Affordable Housing and Community Development Program, which helps local nonprofits in expanding their ability to carry out affordable housing and community development activities that benefit low-income communities.
- Advocate for the full appropriation of grant funding authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to help in addressing the opioid epidemic that is disproportionately affecting Florida and Hillsborough County.
- Advocate for the full funding of grants administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Center for Disease Control.
- Advocate for the adequate funding of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grants program, which funds the Continuum of Care program and Emergency Solutions Grants.
- Support additional funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula grant program, including authorization to recover more than 10 percent for required grant administration.



Affordable Housing

- Support efforts to bolster Project-Based Rental Assistance and Tenant-Based Rental Assistance programs, which together provide affordable homes to more than 8,270 households.
- Advocate for full funding of the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program, which helps Public Housing Agencies access private capital.
- Support efforts to expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, which is the nation's largest and most successful tool for encouraging private investment in the production and preservation of affordable rental housing.
- Support efforts to provide principal loan forgiveness to multifamily owners who are renting in low/moderate-income areas with rents at or below fair market value.
- Advocate for legislation that aims to prevent COVID-19-related foreclosures and evictions through the provision of financial assistance for rent and mortgages.



Health Policy

- Support efforts to increase the allowable uses of Medicare reimbursement dollars.
- Monitor efforts aimed at emphasizing the use of family foster homes with the goal of reducing the placement of children and youth into the foster care system.
- Advocate for legislation that seeks to address mental and physical health concerns that have been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Monitor any changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act that could result in unfunded mandates to the county.



Transportation, Tourism, & Economic Development

- Support legislation that seeks to protect Florida and Hillsborough Counties fruit and vegetable growers from unfair trade practices.
- Seek federal funding for key economic development programs, including workforce funding and manufacturing training programs.
- Support initiatives that seek to continue the development and further expansion of opportunity zones in distressed communities.
- Oppose proposals that would codify the current practice of online travel companies to keep tourist development taxes already collected and due to local governments as excess revenue.
- Support legislation that would require online retailers to collect and remit required state sales taxes to create parity for Florida-based retail outlets.
- Support the continued funding of projects aimed at facilitating transportation and economic development.



Infrastructure & Security

- Seek new or continued funding for local transportation and infrastructure projects that have a direct nexus to economic growth, provided a local match or effort is provided.
- Support efforts to invest in tools that bolster the outreach of state broadband, focusing on both low-income urban and rural areas.
- Monitor efforts to advance a broad infrastructure package and advocate for the inclusion of language that addresses priority needs in transportation, water, telecommunications, climate change, and other areas of infrastructure.
- Advocate for legislation aimed at enhancing resiliency through the improvement of infrastructure to be protected against sea level rise.



Education

- Advocate for restoration of full funding to maintain current Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment levels and ensure the continued provision of quality services.



Environment & Natural Resources

- Support legislation that designate the Little Manatee as a wild and scenic river, thereby ensuring its natural and cultural values are preserved for the enjoyment by future generations.
- Support efforts aimed at enabling innovative technologies to address future water and wastewater needs, such as providing funding to assist in the conversion of septic systems to sewer lines.
- Support increased funding for hurricane infrastructure and stability initiatives, specifically to enhance the capabilities of local facilities to endure hurricane impacts.
- Solicit funding support for key emergency management equipment to assist in the continuity of local safety operations, both during and after a declared emergency.
- Support the development of additional energy sources and alternative fuel initiatives, in addition to advocating for the extension of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act.
- Continue coordinating with local, state, and federal stakeholders to ensure funding of local restoration projects from RESTORE Act funds.
- Advocate for the Environmental Protection Agency to permit states to adopt and support waste-to-energy as a carbon dioxide mitigation technology.
- Support legislation on “net-metering” waste-to-energy, which would allow waste-to-energy facilities to sell energy to customers in an entire service area without restriction.
- Advocate for funding opportunities that would assist in efforts to advance broad electric initiatives as an alternative energy source.
- Solicit authorization and appropriation of funds required for long-term shoreline stabilization activities.



Community Affairs

- Continue to advocate for the preservation of the current tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.
- Support legislation aimed at various bond reforms, such as restoring the use of advance refunding bonds, in order to mitigate the budgetary impacts caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and ensure such rates remain affordable; subsequently monitor the impact of such reauthorization on the county's economy.
- Oppose efforts to preempt local authority regarding revenue and right-of-way.
- Support the long-term viability and stability of MacDill Air Force Base as a valuable asset in the Tampa Bay community.



Criminal Justice

- Support increased prioritization for diversion and preventative programs.
- Support increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program for housing of both “charged” and “convicted” undocumented criminal aliens in county jail.