



AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION

American Flood Coalition

Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2020



We are the American Flood Coalition

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and nonpartisan coalition advocating for national solutions to flooding and sea level rise



**Federal
Champions**



**Cities, Towns
and Counties**



**Elected
Officials**



Businesses



**Military
Groups**



**Civic and
Academic Groups**



What we offer



Best-in-class educational guides

Scalable educational resources to meet our members' needs



Tools for effective communication

Opportunities and tools for communicating about flooding with stakeholders at all levels



Networks of leaders on flooding

Forum to connect virtually and in-person with other leaders and share learnings



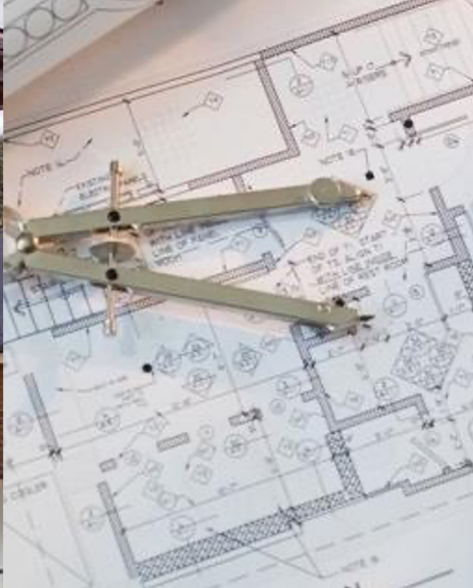
Competitive local resilience pilots

Competitive local pilots that promote deeper engagement on flooding and sea level rise



Platform for advocacy and education

Strong platform that makes local voices and needs heard at the federal level



Our 4 pillars for coastal and inland solutions

Economy

Invest in infrastructure that boosts the economy and protects property values

Communities

Use smart planning to keep communities safe and save taxpayer dollars

Rebuilding

Build back stronger to protect communities from future flooding

Military

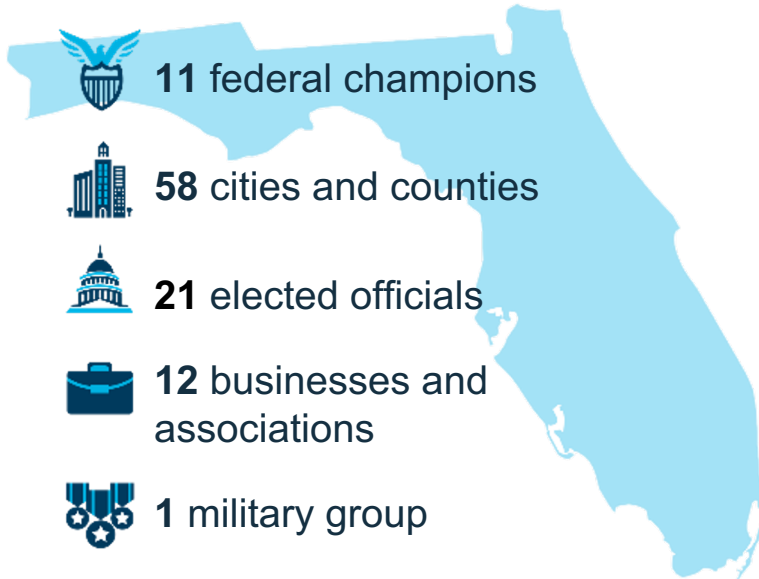
Ensure our military installations are ready to deploy 365 days a year





AFC Florida Membership

Our Florida coalition members



Tampa Bay Times

OPINION

Republican leaders say Florida must prepare for sea level rise | Column

"What exactly can our state government do? Quite a bit,"
write state Rep. Chris Sprowls and Senator Wilton Simpson.

[Source: Tampa Bay Times](#)

Op-ed by Incoming **Speaker Chris Sprowls** and
President Wilton Simpson on the role the state
plays in adapting to flooding and sea level rise.
(9/10/20)





We provide best practices in adaptation

We track **best practices in adaptation** from **city and state plans** across the country



...and have gone deeper with some of our members to help them **sequence and prioritize** their **adaptation actions**



We build informational resources and guides to assist our members

Flood Funding Finder



- Identifies **federal funding opportunities** that address flooding and sea level rise
- Targeted towards communities with populations of **50,000 or fewer**

Dual Disaster Handbook



- Worked with the American **Public Health Association**
- Draws on **case studies** and **best practices**
- Provides **six actionable recommendations** for proactive planning

Building a regional resilience collaborative





What is a regional resilience collaborative?

- **Formal partnership** to work together to improve the resilience of the communities within the footprint of Apalachee Regional Planning Council
- **Bring together a diverse set of stakeholders**, including local officials, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, agencies, and businesses to create unified goals and a vision for the region

A successful example: East Central Florida

- Through the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, a formal resilience collaborative was created
- Developed an MOU and have brought together 25 counties & cities, as well as 6 regional organizations/agencies
- The goal was a recommitment to regionalism and to develop a structure and framework to approach regional resilience





What can a regional collaborative offer?

Increased capacity

Many local governments do not have the resources to address the challenges of resilience alone. Through regional collaboration, participants can benefit from shared resources

Regional planning standards

Water does not care about political boundaries. A regional approach allows for cost-savings, a clear standard for the private sector, and reduction of duplicative efforts

Louder voice together

Regions that work together have a louder voice on issues of importance. Given the groups proximity to Tallahassee, a unified voice would be even more powerful

Collaboration on projects & studies

Through a regional partnership, local governments can reduce cost of projects and studies by working together

More competitive funding applications

When applying for funding, regional collaboratives have been quite successful, and many agencies note their encouragement for regional approaches





How can AFC support a regional resilience collaborative?

- **Resources and time:** Full-time staff of 15 and will offer a small grant to help jumpstart the collaborative
- **Connections in Florida and across the country:** 220 coalition members in 19 states, and deep roots in Florida
- **Develop messaging:** Assist with messaging of the collaborative, especially in more rural areas; can also provide graphic design support for branding



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