



APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

BOARD NOTES: JANUARY 2023

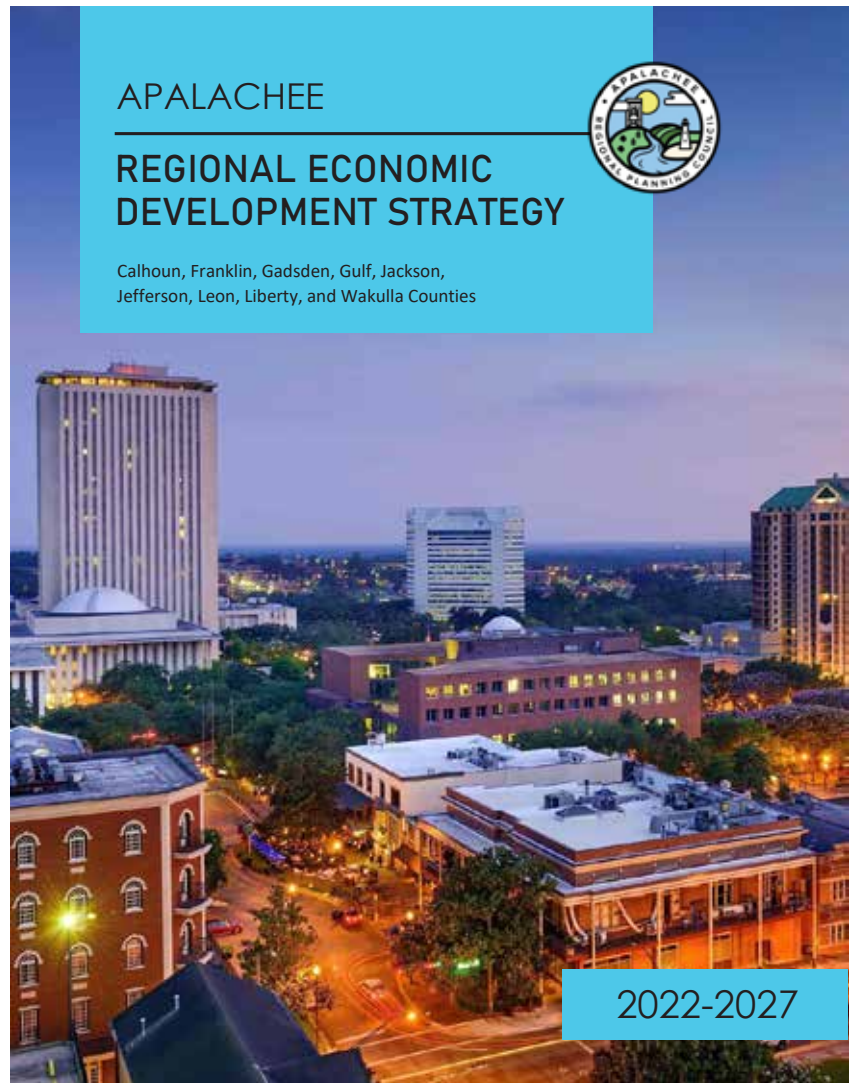
2022-2027 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

– Caroline Smith, ARPC

Caroline Smith provided an explanation and overview of the Regional Economic Development Strategy. A working draft was recently approved at the ARPC Executive Committee Meeting. In past years, this document was referred to as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It was determined that changing the name to Regional Economic Development Strategy is more appropriate. The document is updated yearly and rewritten every five years. Providing an understanding of the Region’s economic goals, the Regional Economic Development Strategy assists in obtaining EDA funding and is required by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The strategy provides an outline of the Region’s objectives, but does not typically focus on specific projects. Through the guidance of ARPC staff, the strategy has evolved into a more user-friendly document and includes a background of the Region, a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis, an action plan including goals and strategies, and evaluation metrics to utilize as the Region moves forward.

The 2022-2027 Strategy also includes two new elements required by the EDA: Economic Resilience, and Opportunity Zones. Opportunity Zones emerged from the 2018 Jobs and Tax Act, and provide a path for incentives to encourage new employers and businesses to operate within the Region. Sub- Sections within the Strategy include: Geography, Disaster Recovery, Economic Resilience, Opportunity Zones, and Data-Dive. The Regional Data-Dive provides information on Population and Workforce, Business and Industry, and Quality of Life. Within the SWOT analysis, the Strengths and Weaknesses are generally internal aspects within the Region and the Opportunities and Threats are aspects influenced outside of the Region.

Strengths include Collaboration, Education and Workforce, Business and Industry Infrastructure, and Quality of Life. Threats include Collaboration, Business & Industry, Social and Political Environment, Funding, and Disasters. The Goals of the Strategy include Transformative Regional Collaboration; Economic Diversity, Equity, and Growth; Dynamic Workforce; Resilient infrastructure; Affordable Housing; and Enhanced Quality of Life. Within each of the goals, it is intended that at least one objective remains a catch-all to allow for unforeseen goals and objectives in the future.



NEXT BOARD MEETING: MARCH 30, 2023

CONGRATULATIONS!

ARPC Board Elections 2023

ARPC Board Members unanimously selected Franklin County Commissioner Ricky Jones as the ARPC Board Chair! In addition, Jackson County Commissioner Jim Peacock will serve as ARPC Vice Chair, and City of Tallahassee Commissioner Jack Porter was selected as ARPC Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations!



Commissioner Ricky Jones
Franklin County

ARPC Chair



Commissioner Jim Peacock
Jackson County

ARPC Vice Chair



Commissioner Jack Porter
City of Tallahassee

ARPC Secretary/Treasurer

Several new members have also been appointed to the ARPC Board, including:

- Kim Applewhite
City Clerk, City of Marianna
- Doyle Brown
Liberty County Commissioner
- Sebrina Brown
Commissioner, City of Carrabelle
- Rick Minor
Leon County Commissioner
- Johnny Paul
Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
- Sandy Quinn, Jr.
Gulf County Commissioner

FL DEO Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grant – Regional Broadband Planning

ARPC staff was awarded funding to coordinate with Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs), as established by the FL DEO Office of Broadband, to create a regional broadband plan.

The Regional Broadband Planning Project expands upon ongoing local and state-level broadband planning efforts by serving to fill the gap and align efforts between these state and local planning projects, ensuring that the predominantly rural, nine-county Apalachee Region of Northwest Florida is in the best possible position to access state, federal, and private resources. ARPC staff will achieve this goal through several activities, including: 1) Coordination between Local Technology Planning Teams; 2) Creation of a digital, interactive broadband planning map; and 3) Development of a Regional Broadband Plan. Internal planning meetings have begun, and staff is eager to move the Region forward in shared broadband goals.

Hazardous Materials Exercises:

ARPC staff acted as the lead planner and facilitator for the 2022 Jackson County HazMat Tabletop Exercise. This exercise included more than ten agencies and sixty participants including the Bay County HazMat team. The scenario for this year's exercise involved a train derailment and release of methylamine in the city of Marianna. In addition to the exercise, Bay County HazMat team performed a technical decontamination drill. Technical decontamination is the deliberate decontamination of responders wearing personal protective equipment. It is performed with emphasis on thorough agent removal or neutralization versus speed.



Equitable Lending Leaders Program

In an effort to better serve the community through the ARPC Revolving Loan Fund Programs, staff is participating in the Equitable Lending Leaders Program, created by Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) and Recast City, and funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Equitable Lending Leaders (ELL) is an online cohort program that brings together leaders from revolving loan funds (RLFs) across the country to learn and adopt best practices to improve equitable outcomes in small business lending. Covering a range of topics from outreach and pipeline cultivation to decision-making processes and underwriting criteria, as well as building an ecosystem that supports the development of a small business community. ELL is about making real change in RLF programs and communities to advance equity. This program also provides a forum for RLF leaders to discuss the challenges faced in pivoting toward a more equitable lending model, which will inform formal policy recommendations back to EDA for the RLF program.



The 2021-2022 ARPC Annual Report is now available! To view the full report, please click [here](#).

**\$39:1 RETURN
ON MEMBER COUNTIES
REGIONAL INVESTMENT**

2022 ARPC MEMBER DUES YIELDED A \$2,706,400
DIRECT/INDIRECT RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF \$69,947



The Apalachee Local Emergency Planning Committee sponsored training for 193 people totaling 1,354 training hours in 2022.



The ARPC Revolving Loan Funds created or retained a total of 86 jobs in 2022.



The ARPC Housing and Community Development Program completed 46 housing projects in 2022.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Loan Underwriting Review Panel Search

As discussed at the August Board Meeting, ARPC staff is requesting assistance from ARPC Board members in identifying appropriate and willing professionals to join a voluntary, third-party RLF loan application review panel. This small panel of professionals would lend their expertise in reviewing loan applications prior to their presentation before the Executive Committee. Suggested members include accountants; professionals from the Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship, regional business schools or not-for-profits with experience in promoting small business development; and lenders from banks and/or credit unions. If you are aware of parties with loan evaluation experience and an interest in serving on the loan review panel, please have them contact the ARPC or forward their contact information to Rick McCraw (rmccraw@arpc.org or 850.312.5031) or Melissa Franklin (mfranklin@arpc.org or 850.312.5016).



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ARPC OUT AND ABOUT IN THE REGION, AND BEYOND!



ARPC Holiday Gathering 2022

In December, ARPC staff had the opportunity to gather in celebration of another phenomenal year! Steaks on the grill and local oysters were enjoyed by all, and staff appreciated the chance to spend time together on a gorgeous day. Looking forward to the 2023 gathering!



Florida Rural Economic Development Summit 2022

In December 2022, ARPC staff participated in the annual Rural Summit in St. Augustine, Florida. The Florida Rural Economic Development Summit (FREDA) is a consortium of Florida's 32 rural counties with a focus on providing and facilitating education, technical assistance, and advocacy services.



2022 National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

BBHCC Coordinator Christian Levings traveled to Anaheim, California to attend the 2022 National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference from November 28th - December 2nd. Mr. Levings represented Region 2 of Florida while spending the week learning, teaching, and exchanging ideas with his colleagues from both around the state and country.

FDOT-Chipley

RideOn staff was invited to present at the annual Grants Workshop held November 2 at FDOT headquarters in Chipley. Representatives of transportation providers from across our service area, as well as some local government agencies, were offered specific examples of ways the CAP can assist with their goals, as well as receiving incentive items and information about Best Workplaces for Commuters.



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