



## FEDC Legislative Agenda 2012

This Legislative Priorities Agenda represents the Florida Economic Development Council's (FEDC) positions on economic development issues, especially as they relate to the state's annual legislative session. This document is intended to guide the FEDC Board, members and statewide stakeholders with respect to specific legislative priorities and legislation. It is subject to modification as new legislation is introduced.

- **Increase our State's Ability to Create Jobs and provide infrastructure for economic development** FEDC supports efforts to create and retain jobs in Florida and thus supports the budget requests by key economic and workforce development stakeholders such as Enterprise Florida, Workforce Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity and Space Florida. FEDC also supports the economic development legislative requests of other key statewide economic development stakeholders.
- **Protect our Ability to Recruit Companies.** FEDC strongly supports Enterprise Florida's efforts to reenact Florida's Economic Development Confidentiality and Florida Opportunity Fund Economic Development Statutes. The current state laws should be re-authorized and strengthened to offer clarity to the parties this law protects and to allow public bodies to enter into executive session to discuss Economic Development prospects. (Statutes 288.9626/288.075)
- **Support Florida's Businesses.** FEDC supports efforts to create an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Florida and supports funding state measures to increase access to capital needed for growth for Florida small businesses.
  - Support funding for Small Business Development Centers and additional micro-lending and small business loan programs.
  - Support funding for Grow Florida, the state's Economic Gardening Program. Economic Gardening assists second-stage (small-mid sized) companies in their growth and expansion. This program has helped to create over 1400 direct jobs in our state.

FEDC supports efforts to create opportunities to expand flexibility and resources for appropriate inducements as well as efforts to remove obstacles toward economic development. We are monitoring and seeking opportunities to pursue the following issues during the 2012 Legislative Session:

- Simplify the Qualified Targeted industry "QTI" process and allow companies to receive direct grant payments for jobs created and wages paid. By taking away the tax liability, this allows the LLC's and C Corps to take advantage of the QTI Program. .
- Retain Enterprise Zone incentives that are critical for redevelopment of blighted and impoverished areas and expand Rural Enterprise Zone designations to include full Rural Areas of Critical Concern (RACEC) jurisdictions.