



# East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Six Regional Planning Councils receive \$1.49 million in grant funding to develop statewide approach to flood planning

*East Central Florida Regional Planning Council will be project manager on three-year effort*

**Orlando, Fla. (Jan. 21, 2021)** – The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and five other regional planning councils around Florida will receive a total of \$1,499,000 from the state to develop a cohesive statewide approach to flood planning. The three-year project will provide a framework for jurisdictions across Florida to create disaster models, prepare actionable strategies and determine how to prioritize and fund mitigation projects.

The funding for the project is part of nearly \$20 million in resiliency funding awarded by Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to 37 municipalities, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations around the state.

The Regional Planning Councils will share information and build templates for jurisdictions around the state to use in developing mapping, models and mitigation plans to address flooding challenges in their respective areas.

"This project, the first of its kind in Florida, will be highly impactful for the state," said Hugh Harling, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council's Executive Director. "And for the Central Florida area, it's important to know that this project doesn't only involve coastal areas, but also inland areas where significant amounts of rain can cause serious problems."

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council will act as project manager, while the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will lead the technical work and the Northeast Florida Regional Council will take the lead on data visualization. The work will also involve collaboration and assistance from the state's other regional planning councils.

"The project reflects a new level of cooperation and teamwork for our state's Regional Planning Councils," said Sean Parks, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council's Chair. "Flooding issues affect many parts of Florida, and this project will help municipalities and counties work to make their communities more resilient."

The funds are being made available through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program. The program, administered by DEO, provides funding for

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### Executive Committee

<b>Chair</b> Sean Parks County Commissioner Lake County	<b>Vice Chair</b> Emily Bonilla County Commissioner Orange County	<b>Secretary</b> Billie Wheeler County Council Member Volusia County	<b>Treasurer</b> Bryan Lober County Commissioner Brevard County	<b>Immediate Past Chair</b> John Lesman Governatorial Appointee Seminole County	<b>Member at Large</b> Julian Green City Commissioner City of Wildwood Sumter County	<b>Member at Large</b> Amy Lockhart County Commissioner Seminole County
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communities and organizations to develop or enhance state, regional, or local plans which will enable the state of Florida to withstand future disasters.

The funds are allocated through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation program formed in response to the 2016-17 presidentially declared disasters.

“The resiliency of the state of Florida remains a top priority for my administration as we approach the two-year anniversary of my executive order to achieve more now for Florida’s environment,” said Gov. DeSantis. “I’m pleased to build on our environmental achievements with this first-of-its-kind, mitigation program that will provide Florida’s communities the opportunity to become more resilient to future storms.”

Through Rebuild Florida, local governments have access to resources necessary to bolster their community’s resiliency to future disasters.

DEO is the governor-designated state authority responsible for administering all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) long-term recovery funds awarded to the state. Rebuild Florida uses federal funding for Florida’s long-term recovery efforts from the devastating impacts of natural disasters. For more information, visit [RebuildFlorida.gov](http://RebuildFlorida.gov).

### **About the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council**

Established in 1962 as an area-wide association of governments, the ECFRPC is represented by 32 Council members and a skilled staff that provides technical assistance to governments and organizations within the East Central Florida region. The ECFRPC covers eight counties including Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia and 78 member towns and cities.

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