

Gov. Scott: \$29 Million Investment will Continue to Grow Jobs Across Florida

Dec. 21, 2018

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced four awards for more than \$29 million in funding from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, established by Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature in 2017, provides \$85 million for improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training in Florida. Since July, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has received more than 100 proposals requesting more than \$610 million in funding. Today's announcement reflects a total of more than \$143 million in funding awarded to 45 communities across the state, including more than \$42 million to 16 rural communities since the fund was established in 2017. Additional announcements on grant awards are forthcoming. Through Governor Scott's focus on job creation and economic development programs like the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, since December 2010, every Florida county has experienced a decrease in unemployment. Under Governor Scott's leadership, Florida businesses have created more than 1.67 million private-sector jobs since December 2010 and Florida's unemployment rate has fallen to just 3.3 percent, the lowest level in 12 years.

Governor Scott said, "When I became Governor in 2011, I made a commitment to turn Florida's economy around and build a business environment that allowed companies to succeed and create jobs so that every family would have the opportunity to live their dreams in our state. Programs like the Job Growth Grant Fund allow us to deliver the needed infrastructure and training to fuel this success. I will never stop fighting for Florida jobs and I am thankful the Florida Legislature fully funded such an important economic development tool."

The four awarded projects include:

- **Orange County Government** (\$16,000,000) to extend Kirkman Road to six lanes, with two dedicated bus lanes. The extension will create a single interchange at Sand Lake Road and Kirkman Road, which will then intersect with Universal Boulevard allowing for another transportation artery in the congested corridor that feeds the Orange County Convention Center and other major destinations.
- **City of Pensacola** (\$10,000,000) for the expansion of the Pensacola International Airport, including building additional taxiways and ramps and completing work on

hangars. These improvements will allow the city to attract aviation, aerospace and other industry related companies to the area.

- **Pasco County Board of County Commissioners** (\$3,088,580) to create Overpass Business Park, a new 100-acre, shovel-ready economic development site in Pasco County along the I-75 corridor.
- **Gadsden Technical Institute** (\$357,328) to develop a Diesel System Technician training program. Individuals who complete the program will gain skills in the areas of preventive maintenance, heating and air, steering and suspensions, drivetrain and hydraulics providing them the credentials to service medium and heavy-duty trucks and buses.

These proposals were reviewed by DEO and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI), and chosen by Governor Scott based on their strong return on investment to the state and to meet the demand for a robust workforce or infrastructure needs. Return on investment was calculated to determine the best projects for the state and economic development in the regions.

Cissy Proctor, Executive Director of DEO, said, “Under Governor Scott’s leadership, we have had the privilege to work with our partners at EFI to identify communities that can benefit from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. I have seen firsthand how this funding is making significant investments in our workforce and infrastructure, creating opportunities for Florida families across the state.”

Mike Grissom, Interim President & CEO of Enterprise Florida said, “Thanks to Governor Scott and economic development tools like the Job Growth Grant Fund, Florida is able to compete to be the number one destination for businesses to succeed. Each of these investments will bring new opportunity and job growth to communities throughout the state.”

For more information about the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, visit www.FloridaJobs.org/JobGrowth.

What They Are Saying...Gov. Scott Announces \$29 Million Investment will Continue to Grow Jobs Across Florida

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Here's what this round of grantees are saying:

Jerry Demings, Mayor of Orange County Government said, "We are excited about the infrastructure improvements we will make to Kirkman Road with this funding from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. By relieving congestion, we will promote business expansion for our local community and support the economic growth of our various industries here in Orange County, including aerospace, defense and tourism."

Ashton Hayward, Fmr. Mayor of City of Pensacola said, "This is big win for Pensacola and the great state of Florida. Governor Scott has been a tremendous leader, creating the right environment to bring skilled jobs to Florida. This award will allow us to attract aviation and aerospace companies to the City of Pensacola, continuing our efforts of enhancing a global presence along the I-10 Aerospace Corridor."

Grover Robinson, Mayor of City of Pensacola said, "We are very excited about the award from Governor Scott's Job Growth Fund. This is a great example of local, state, and federal entities coming together to create good paying jobs that will have a transformational impact on our region."

Ron Oakley, Pasco County Commission Board Chairman said, "On behalf of the Pasco Board of County Commissioners and the citizens we serve, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Governor Rick Scott for recognizing the importance of Overpass Business Park as a priority for Florida Job Growth Grant Funding. Once completed, the Overpass Business Park project will support four to five thousand high-paying jobs and

be home to 2.2 million square feet of industrial and office development. The project is a critical initiative for pursuing the type of strategic, innovative, long-term economic growth and opportunity Pasco County is committed to, and the State's generous partnership makes this possible."

Sylvia Jackson, Executive Director of Gadsden Technical Institute said, "Gadsden Technical Institute is honored to be one of the recipients of the Florida Job Growth Grant. The application of grant funds to develop a Diesel Engine Repair Program represents a partnership between the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Gadsden County School Board, the Gadsden County Development Council, Gadsden Technical Institute, Four Star Freightliner, and Career Source Capital Region to provide much needed training to match Gadsden County community members with career opportunities."

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