



LEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION MEETING PACKET
REPRESENTATIVE ESPOSITO, CHAIR

Tuesday, October 28th, 2025
9:00AM – 1:00PM, or Upon Completion of Agenda
Room 102 (U- Building), Florida Southwestern State College

Table of Contents

- **Local Bills (Pg. 2)**

1. Special Act relating to Fort Myers Beach Iona Merger (Pg. 2)
2. Special Act relating to Lee County Tourist Development Council (Pg. 5)

- **Presentations by Local Officials and Members of the Public (Pg. 6)**

- Lee Board of County Commissioners (Pg. 6)
- City of Bonita Springs (Pg. 26)
- Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Council, Second District (Pg.32)
- The Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida Inc. (Pg. 35)
- Healthy Start Coalition of SWFL (Pg. 72)
- Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (Pg. 78)

V. Local Bills

1. Special Act relating to Fort Myers Beach Iona Merger

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Lee County; amending chapter 2000-384, Laws of Florida; revising the boundaries of the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District; repealing chapters 2000-422 and 2008-275, Laws of Florida, relating to the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District; providing for the merger of the districts; providing for transition of the governing body; transferring assets and liabilities of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District to the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District; requiring a referendum; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 2 of section 3 of chapter 2000-384, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

(3) The lands to be included within the district are the following described lands in Lee County:

In Township 45 South, Range 24 East, the unincorporated portions of Section 2 and 3, all of Sections 9 and 10, the west half (1/2) of the northwest quarter (1/4) and the west half (1/2) of the southwest quarter (1/4) of Section 11, all of Sections 15 and 16, the east half (1/2) of Section 17, all of sections 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and in Township 46 South, Range 24 East, that portion of Section 2 lying west of the waters of Hendry Creek, all of sections 3, 4, 5, 6, the north half (1/2) of 7, all of sections 8, 9, 10, those portions of sections 11 and 14 lying west of the waters of Hendry Creek, all of sections 15, 16, 17, 22, that portion of Section 23 lying west of the waters of Hendry Creek, and in Township 45 South, Range 23 East, the south half (1/2) of Section 25, the south half (1/2) of Section 27, the southeast quarter (1/4) of Section 28, all of sections 33, 34, 35, 36, and in Township 46 South, Range 23 East, all of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, and 12 less and except the southeast quarter (1/4) thereof, the west half (1/2) of 13, and the east half (1/2) of 14 less and except that portion located within the territorial limits, of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District, and less and except that portion of all the above described lands located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Fort Myers.

TOGETHER WITH

All that part of Lee County that is located and situated within San Carlos Island; Estero Island; Easterly One-Half (1/2) of Section 13, Township 46 South, Range 23 East; Section 18, Township 46 South, Range 24 East; and section 7, Township 46 South, Range 24 East except that part which is located and situated north of the old railroad grade.

Section 2. Chapters 2000-422 and 2008-275, Laws of Florida, are repealed.

Section 3. Transition.—

(1) As of the effective date of this act, the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District is merged into the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District. The board of commissioners of the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District, as provided for in this act and chapter 2000-384, Laws of Florida, shall serve as the governing body of the district and is authorized to exercise all powers that may be exercised by the board pursuant to chapter 2000-384, Laws of Florida.

(2) Notwithstanding s. 191.005, Florida Statutes, from the effective date of this act until the next general election, the governing body of the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District shall be comprised of the five members of the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District board of commissioners as of the effective date of this act and the two members of the governing board of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District elected pursuant to chapter 2000-422, Laws of Florida, whose terms expire at the 2028 general election.

(3) All assets and liabilities, including any pension liabilities, of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District as of the effective date of this act shall be transferred to the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District.

Section 4. Referendum.—

(1) The referendum election called for by this act shall be held on November 3, 2026, concurrent with the 2026 general election.

(2) The ballot title for the referendum question shall be in substantially the following form:

MERGER OF FORT MYERS BEACH AND IONA-MCGREGOR FIRE CONTROL DISTRICTS

(3) The referendum question shall be placed on the ballot in substantially the following form:

Shall Chapter 2026- , Laws of Florida, amending the boundaries of the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District to include all territories currently included in the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District, abolishing the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District, providing for a transitional board, and transferring the assets and liabilities of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District to the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District, become effective?

() YES.

() NO.

(4) In the event this question is answered affirmatively by a majority of the qualified voters in each district voting in the referendum, this act shall take effect. The referendum election shall be conducted by the Supervisor of Elections of Lee County in accordance with the Florida Election Code.

Section 5. This act shall take effect only upon its approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District and the Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District voting in a referendum to be held on November 3, 2026, except that this section and section 4 shall take effect upon becoming a law.

2. Special Act relating to Lee County Tourist Development Council

An act relating to Lee County, Florida.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1.

Lee County Tourist Development Council; composition.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 125.0104(4)(e), Florida Statutes, the Lee County Tourist Development Council as established by Lee County ordinance pursuant to section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, the "Local Option Tourist Development Act", shall be composed of ~~nine (9)~~ eleven (11) members who shall be appointed by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners. The Chair of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners or any other member as designated by the Chair shall serve on the Council. ~~Two (2)~~ Three (3) members of the Council shall be elected municipal officials, ~~one of whom~~ The first municipal official shall be from the most populous municipality. The second municipal official shall be from the municipality that generated the highest revenues from the tourist tax in the most recent fiscal year. If the municipality that generated the highest revenues from the tourist tax in the most recent fiscal year is also the most populous municipality, then the second municipal official shall be from the municipality that generated the second highest revenues from the tourist tax in the most recent fiscal year. The ~~second~~ third municipal official shall be from the other municipalities and shall serve a term of ~~two (2) years~~ one (1) year. ~~Six (6)~~ Seven (7) members of the council shall be persons who are involved in the tourist industry and who have demonstrated an interest in tourist development, of which members, not less than three (3) nor more than ~~four (4)~~ five (5) shall be owners or operators of motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks, or other tourist accommodations in the county and subject to the tax. All members of the Council shall be electors of the county. The changes in the composition of the membership of the Lee County Tourist Development Council mandated by this act are effective July 1, ~~2013~~ 2026. The changes in composition of the membership of the Lee County Tourist Development Council mandated by the act shall not cause the interruption of the current term of any person who is a member of the Lee County Tourist Development Council, except the ~~two (2)~~ three (3) municipal members upon the effective date. Except as specifically provided herein, the provisions of Section 125.0104(4)(e), Florida Statutes, shall apply to the Lee County Tourist Development Council.

Section 2.

This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

VI. Presentation by Local Officials and Members of the Public

1. Lee Board of County Commissioners

2 | LEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS | Adopted October 7, 2025

4 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA INTRODUCTION

This document represents the 2026 Florida Legislative Session Agenda of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners. While these priorities guide the County's advocacy efforts in Tallahassee, they are not exhaustive and new issues may arise or evolve that will require Board attention.

Issues are not ranked in order of priority. Commissioners, staff, and contract lobbyists will pursue all legislative policies approved by the Board and place appropriate priority on the issues according to opportunities that arise during the legislative process. As usual, Lee County Commissioners emphasize maintaining home rule authority and opposing cost shifts or unfunded mandates.

The state legislative session will begin January 13, 2026, and conclude March 13, 2026.

CONTENTS

- SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
- SUPPORT AND TRACKING ISSUES
- BACKUP MATERIAL



3 | LEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS | Adopted October 7, 2025

PRIORITIES

1) Policy Considerations –

- a. **SUPPORT** modifying state imposed restrictions on transit agency advertising that would generate additional advertising revenue to decrease reliance on taxpayer funding.
- b. **SUPPORT** modifying HB 683 (2025) to allow time frames for Change Order approval that provide local elected authorities opportunity to approve/deny in a transparent process.
- c. **SUPPORT** fully funding the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund to maintain essential transportation services for eligible populations statewide.
- d. **SUPPORT** enhancing FDOT’s District 1 Urban Office in Fort Myers to facilitate local decisionmaking for FDOT priorities within Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties.
- e. **SUPPORT** state funding to improve and widen critical hurricane evacuation routes— especially corridors tied to regional growth—such as Burnt Store Road.

2) **SUPPORT Appropriations for Lee County Local Support Project Requests – a. District 21 Medical Examiner Facility – \$2,650,000**

Funding for design and construction of the facilities which serve Lee, Hendry and Glades counties. Rapidly expanding caseloads for both routine and emergency services exceed the capacity of the current facility. (Glades and Hendry are “fiscally constrained” counties).

- b. **Sunshine Boulevard from 75th Street to State Road 80 - \$5,000,000**
Conduct alignment study and Project Development and Environment Study for the Sunshine Boulevard extension from 75th Street to SR 80 in Lehigh Acres.
- c. **Sun Trail Network/Iona Area Sidewalk - \$5,000,000**
Construct a new sidewalk on Pine Ridge Rd from San Carlos Blvd to Summerlin Rd. This would be part of the statewide Shared-Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail Network.
- d. **Lee County Utilities Fort Myers Beach Water Reclamation Facility - \$5,000,000**
- e. **Lee County Utilities Southeast Force Main Improvements - \$4,000,000**
Construct force mains and upgrade valves to connect the wastewater system to the new Southeast Water Reclamation Facility, supporting growth and improving flow reliability.
- f. **Lee County Utilities North Lee County Wellfield Expansion - \$2,000,000**
Expand sustainable water supply and reduce reliance on freshwater sources.

g. Lee County Civic Center - \$950,000

Fund master planning, design and/or construction for the 92.3-acre site in northeast Lee County, featuring a multi-use event center, agricultural facilities, and community amenities.

6

2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Lee County Board of Commissioners advocates for the preservation of local home-rule and opposes any legislation, policies or regulations that would impose unfunded responsibilities upon the County.

SUPPORT ISSUES

911 Systems – SUPPORT maintaining oversight of 911 systems and networks at the County level, including approval of expenditures. SUPPORT legislation and funding to further regionalize Next Generation 911 systems to improve redundancy and resiliency in the face of disasters.

Development Regulations – OPPOSE legislation (e.g., HB 695 (2025)) or regulatory changes that allow private service providers to act as local building officials, thereby undermining public safety and transparency.

Emergency Management – SUPPORT additional funding for statewide emergency management systems, including emergency notification systems, coordination platforms, and communications infrastructure.

EMS Balance Billing – OPPOSE limitations on the ability of county EMS providers to seek reimbursement for out-of-network transports. SUPPORT requirements for private insurers to pay local governments for the actual cost of emergency service delivery based on audits of expenditures by AHCA.

EMS Regulation – SUPPORT maintaining a countywide regulatory system for EMS transport through the current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) process.

FEMA Monitoring – SUPPORT monitoring proposed reforms to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and impacts to the State Department of Emergency Management.

Harmful Algal Blooms – SUPPORT state initiatives that address the proliferation of harmful algal blooms such as blue-green algae and red tide.

Library Cooperatives – SUPPORT continued recurring funding and increase the State’s investment in the Multitype Library Cooperatives.

Regional Planning Councils – SUPPORT legislation to allow counties to opt out of mandatory membership.

Resiliency/Flood Mitigation – SUPPORT state and federal resiliency efforts to identify and address vulnerabilities to public infrastructure and public safety through continued funding of planning and capital improvements.

Waste-to-Energy – OPPOSE preemption of new waste to energy construction within a certain distance of specific properties such as residential areas, schools, and similar locations.

Water Management Basin Boundaries – SUPPORT updating boundaries of water basin districts according to hydrological conditions to ensure that taxpayers are contributing to the sub-district that best serves them and that

water management districts are providing equitable service to all basins. SUPPORT implementing the study commissioned by the legislature to scientifically determine the boundaries of Big Cypress Basin.

Background

Public transit systems across Florida support regional mobility and economic activity. To sustain and improve these services, agencies rely on a mix of funding sources, including advertising revenue from placements on vehicles, shelters, and other assets. In 2024, House Bill 1301 imposed new restrictions on advertising that prohibits ads on the exteriors of transit vehicles purchased with Florida Department of Transportation capital funds. These limitations affect a longstanding source of supplemental revenue, potentially leading to reduced service, deferred maintenance, or increased reliance on other funding sources.

Proposal

This proposal recommends restoring transit agencies' ability to generate advertising revenue on approved platforms, including the exteriors of buses funded by the state. Reinstating these advertising opportunities would provide agencies with additional funds to support operations, maintenance, service improvements, and infrastructure investments. Between FY 2019–20 and FY 2023–24, LeeTran generated over \$4.8 million in advertising revenue. The new restrictions reduce annual revenue by approximately \$660,000, representing a significant financial impact. The proposal also encourages expanding advertising options on bus interiors, shelters, benches, and digital platforms, consistent with state funding requirements.

Benefits

Restoring a flexible, cost-effective funding source that transit agencies depend on to support operations and improve LeeTran service. Advertising revenue supplements budgets for maintenance, safety, service expansion, and infrastructure upgrades.

Background

Local governments establish their own thresholds for when construction Change Orders must be formally reviewed and approved by their elected governing bodies. In Lee County, for example, Change Orders exceeding \$100,000 must undergo internal procurement review before presentation to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration. This process ensures that elected officials entrusted to safeguard taxpayer funds retain direct oversight of significant fiscal decisions. House Bill 683 (2025) requires all public entities to approve or deny construction Change Orders within 35 days, with automatic approval if no action is taken. While intended to expedite project delivery, this provision risks bypassing the accountability of governing boards by allowing substantial expenditures to take effect without elected review when meeting schedules, public notice requirements, or circumstances such as recess or quorum limitations prevent timely board action.

Proposal

This proposal seeks to amend HB 683 to clarify that a Change Order will not be deemed automatically approved if it is placed on a published agenda for consideration by the governing body within the 35day period. Because thresholds for board approval vary by jurisdiction, the amendment should apply broadly to any Change Orders requiring elected body review under local law or policy. By ensuring that these Change Orders either receive an approval/denial within 35 days or are added to a published agenda within that timeframe, the law would balance timely project delivery with the essential responsibility of elected boards to safeguard public funds. This modification preserves transparency, protects the integrity of fiscal oversight, and ensures that decisions remain in the hands of duly elected representatives rather than being triggered by procedural deadlines.

Benefits

Extending the approval timeline safeguards the integrity of public procurement by ensuring board oversight. This modification reduces fiscal risk, promotes transparency, and upholds accountability in managing public projects.



9 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund

Background

The Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund (TDTF) supports Lee County in providing essential transportation for residents with disabilities, low income, or mobility. Administered by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, the fund enables LeeTran—the County’s

Community Transportation Coordinator—to deliver coordinated services like ADA Paratransit, the Cape Coral MiniBus, and the Fixed-Route Bus Pass Program. These services connect residents to healthcare, jobs, education, and other vital needs. The County works with the Metropolitan Planning Organization to ensure services align with the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan and are safe and efficient.

Proposal

Lee County supports full funding of the TDTF as a crucial investment in addressing the mobility needs of vulnerable residents. In 2023, 39,203 individuals were identified with critical transportation needs, and 16,039 daily trips were provided to maintain access to healthcare, employment, and essential services. With over 365,000 transportation-disadvantaged residents countywide, sustained funding is necessary to preserve these services and prevent reductions that would restrict access and independence for thousands.

Benefits

Fully funding the TDTF ensures Lee County residents can get to healthcare, jobs, and school without delays. Reliable transportation leads to better health and economic stability while cutting down costly emergency service use.

Background

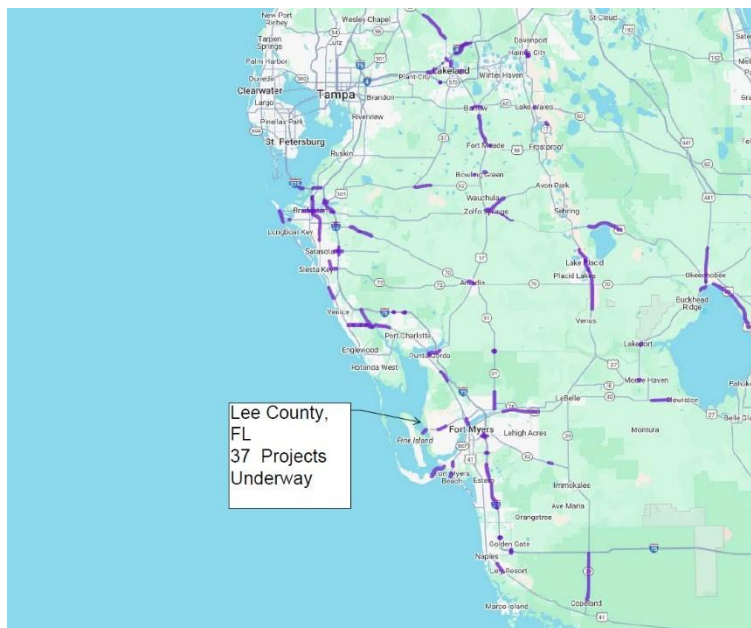
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 encompasses a 12-county region in Southwest Florida. Lee County, the district's most populous, continues to experience significant population growth, infrastructure development, and transportation demand. It serves as a key hub for regional planning, emergency response, and economic activity.

Proposal

This proposal recommends enhancing FDOT's Southwest Area Office in Fort Myers to better align leadership presence with the district's population and its high concentration of FDOT projects. Doing so will strengthen regional planning efforts in emergency management, infrastructure resilience, and interagency coordination.

Benefits

Providing more resources in the District's most populous county enhances coordination with local and regional partners, improves responsiveness to project oversight and emergencies, and supports more efficient decision-making for the district's active transportation needs.



11 Lee County Facilities District 21 Medical Examiner Facility

Background

The Lee County Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) provides essential forensic services—such as autopsies, death investigations, and the issuance of death certificates—for Lee County, as well as neighboring Hendry and Glades counties. As population growth accelerates, the increasing demand for these services has pushed the current facility beyond capacity. To continue supporting public safety and the justice system effectively, expanding and upgrading the MEO's facilities is now critical.

Proposal

Lee County is requesting \$2.65 million in state funding for design and construction phase services of an expanded Medical Examiner's Office. The project will add 22,000 square feet of morgue and administrative space, increasing capacity and improving efficiency to meet the growing demand for services across Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties. The expansion will streamline workflow and enhance the office's ability to manage a rising caseload. The project received \$875,000 in the FY 2025-26 General Appropriations Act; this additional funding would support the completion of design and the initiation of construction phase services.

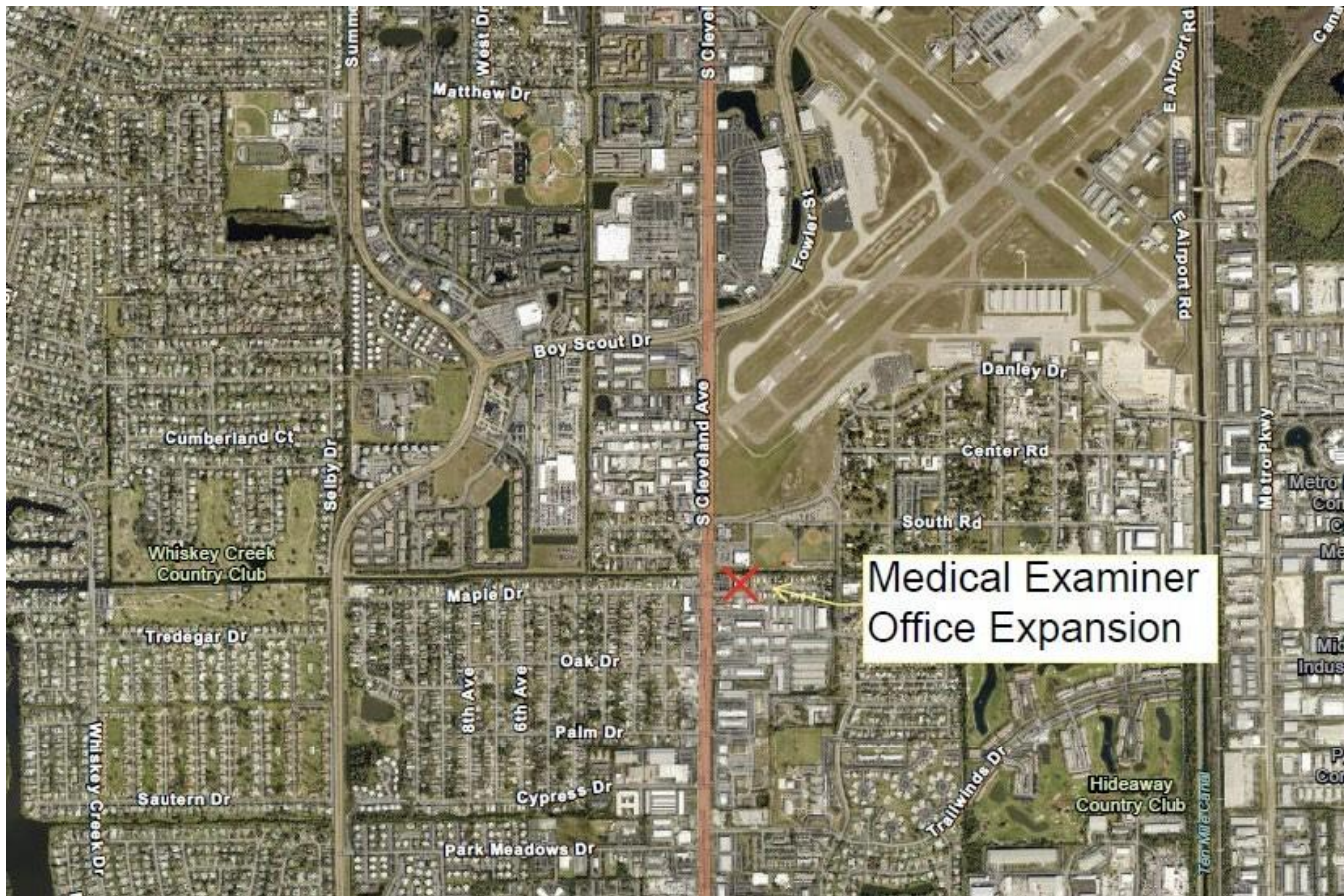
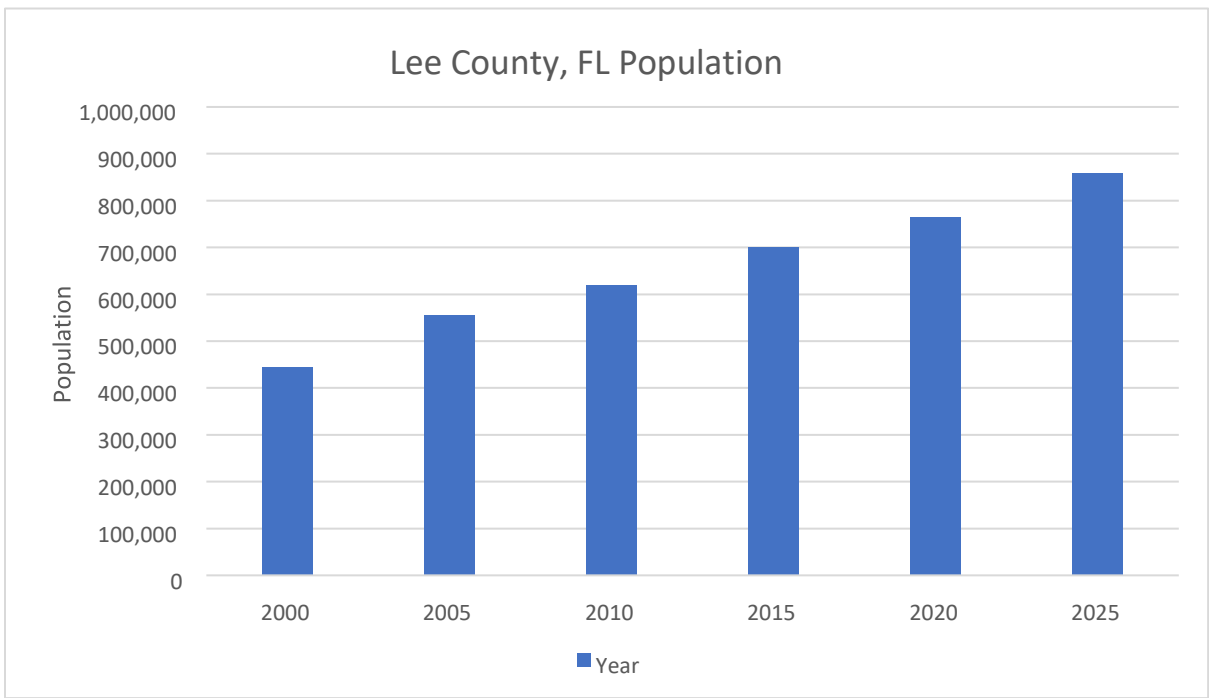
Benefits

This project is vital to the health and safety of Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties. Expanding the Medical Examiner's Office will increase capacity, allowing for faster case processing, improved emergency response, and enhanced public safety. As fiscally constrained counties, Hendry and Glades are unable to fund these critical upgrades on their own. State funding is essential to ensure the continued delivery of vital forensic services to these communities.

Funding

State funding requested:	\$2.65 million
Future requests:	Not yet determined
Total project cost:	Estimated \$40 million

[see images on next page]





12 Sunshine Boulevard from 75th Street to State Road 80

Background

The Sunshine Boulevard extension project, planned from 75th Street to State Road 80 (SR 80) in Lehigh Acres, addresses the rapid growth and development within Lee County. This area has experienced significant residential and commercial development, leading to increased traffic congestion. This project will support this area's fast-paced growth by improving transportation infrastructure.

Proposal

Lee County seeks funding to conduct an alignment study and a Project Development and Environment study. These studies are essential steps in identifying feasible routes and evaluating potential effects on the community and environment.

Benefits

This project will improve connectivity in Lehigh Acres by connecting major routes and surrounding areas, reducing traffic congestion and supporting the area's rapid growth.

Funding

State funding requested:	\$5 million for FY
2025-2026 Future requests:	Not yet
determined. Total project cost:	To be
determined	

[location map forthcoming]



13 Sun Trail Network/Iona Area Sidewalk

Background

Lee County is experiencing a growing population alongside increased pedestrian and bicyclist activity, highlighting the need for improved multimodal transportation infrastructure. Key corridors like Pine Ridge Road see significant pedestrian and bicycle use but currently lack sufficient infrastructure to support safe and accessible travel for these users.

Proposal

Lee County proposes constructing a 6-foot sidewalk and a 5-foot shared-use path along Pine Ridge Road from San Carlos Boulevard to Summerlin Road. This project aims to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety, reduce vehicle conflicts, and improve community connectivity. The corridor is part of FDOT's SUN Trail Program, which develops statewide non-motorized trails. Prioritized by the Lee County Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee based on safety data and community input, this proposal requests funding for construction to advance regional mobility and expand the SUN Trail network.

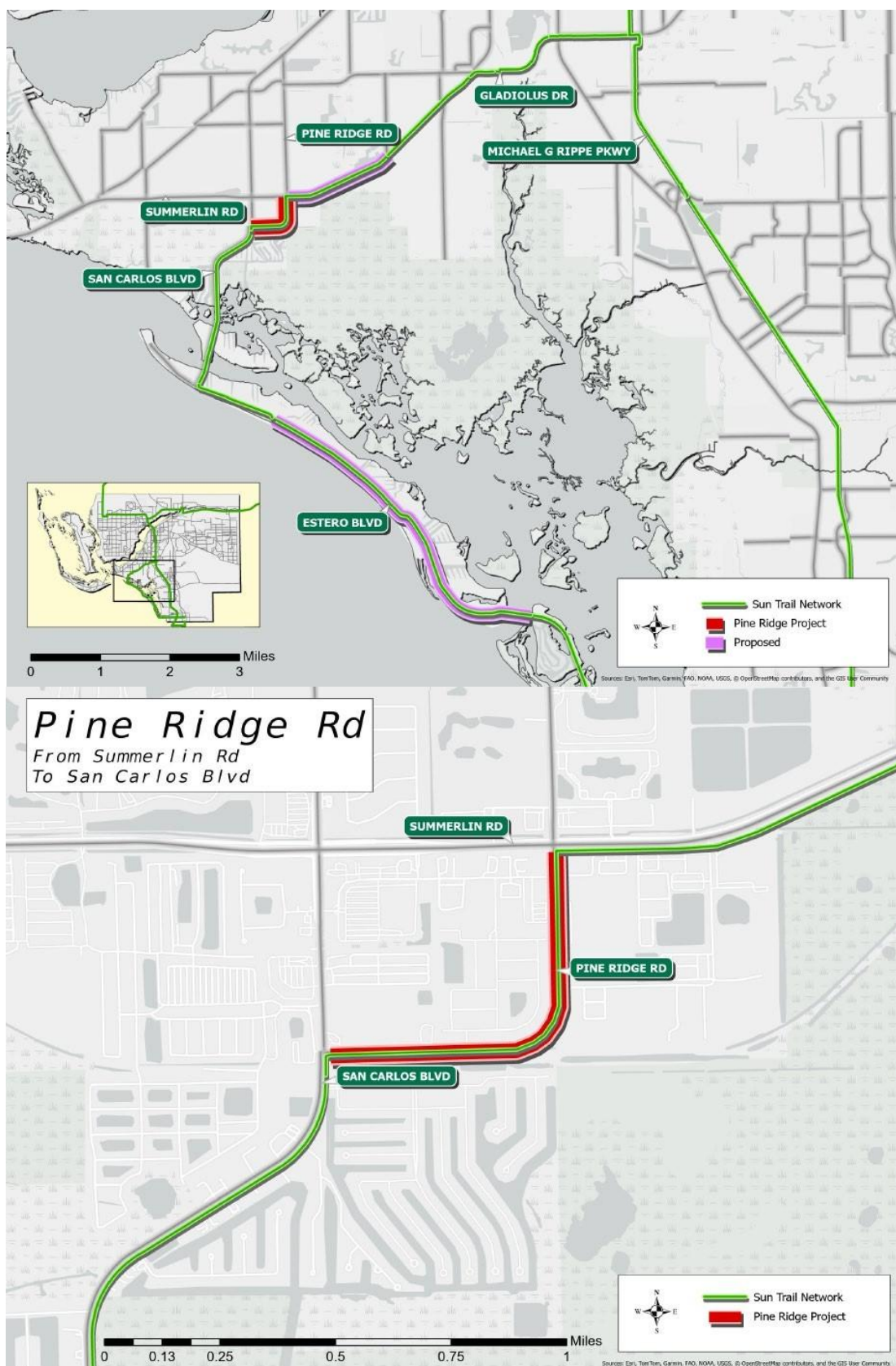
Benefits

This project will improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety by adding dedicated pathways where infrastructure is lacking. It enhances connectivity across Lee County and links to the Florida SUN Trail system, supporting regional mobility goals.

Funding

State funding requested:	\$5 million
Future requests:	Not yet determined.
Total project cost:	Estimated \$7.2 million

[see maps on next page]





14 Lee County Utilities Fort Myers Beach (FMB) Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)

Background

The Fort Myers Beach Water Reclamation Facility (FMB WRF) is essential for maintaining water quality and environmental health in Lee County. Before Hurricane Ian, the county developed a comprehensive master plan to guide improvements through 2050, focusing on capacity, efficiency, and resiliency. However, the hurricane's five- to seven-foot storm surge in September 2022 caused extensive damage, including saltwater intrusion and flooding that submerged much of the ground-level infrastructure, resulting in electrical failures.

Proposal

This project will rehabilitate and modernize the Fort Myers Beach Water Reclamation Facility to restore treatment capacity, replace aging infrastructure, and repair damage from Hurricane Ian. Key improvements include constructing three advanced Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) trains – vital in the advanced wastewater treatment process – and implementing hazard mitigation and flood-proofing measures to protect the facility from future climate impacts, ensuring reliable service for coastal communities.

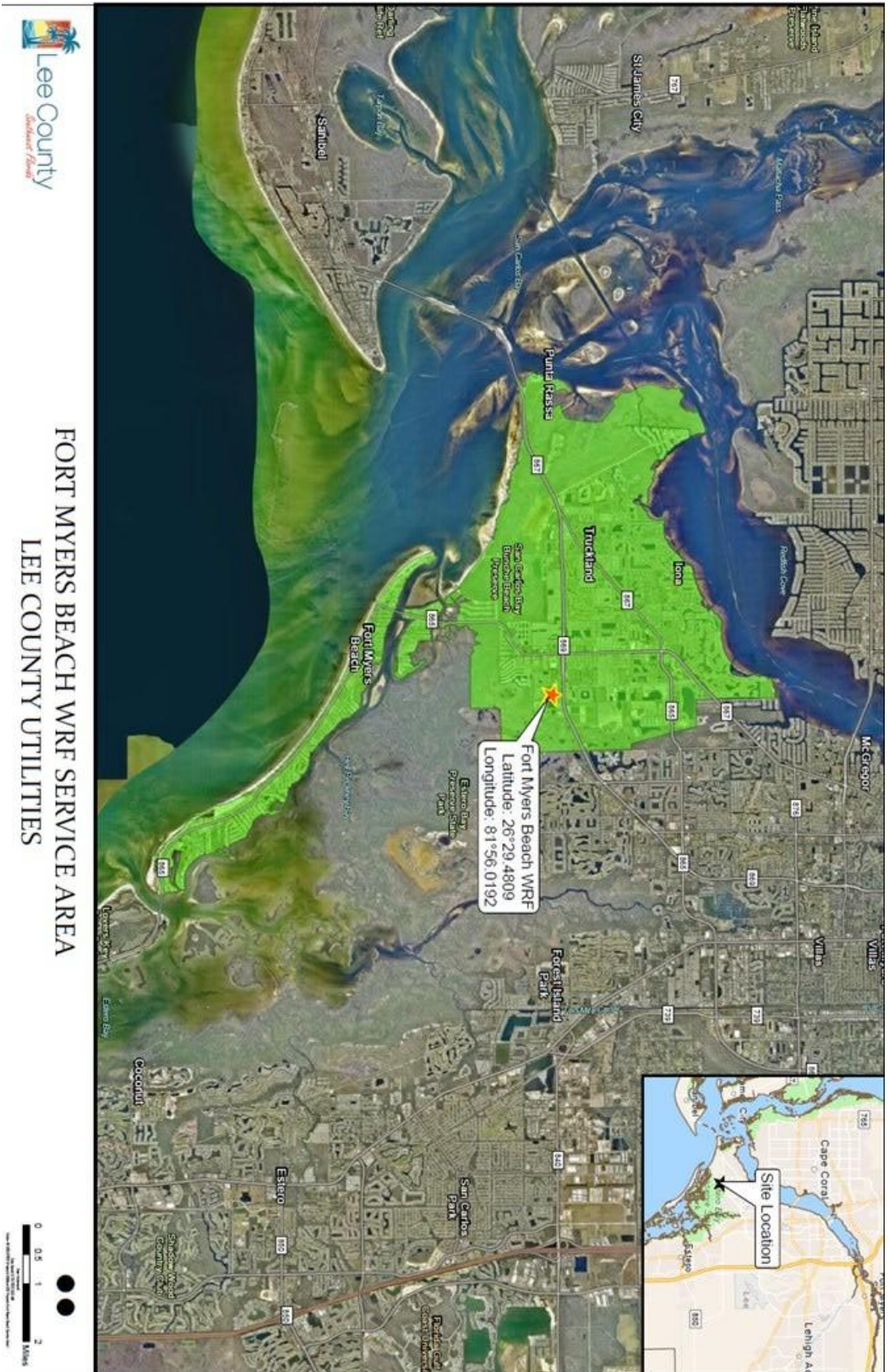
Benefits

By incorporating advanced treatment technologies like BNR trains, the project directly supports the goals of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Caloosahatchee River and Estuaries Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), as the facility is located within the designated service area. The upgrades will restore and expand wastewater treatment capacity for 27% of Lee County Utilities' service area. Climate-resilient features will prevent service disruptions and sewer overflows during severe weather, protecting public health and improving long-term sustainability.

Funding

State funding requested:	\$5 million for FY 2026-2027
Lee County match:	Balance of project costs
Future requests:	None anticipated
Total project cost:	Estimated \$209 million

[see map on next page]





15 Lee County Utilities Southeast Force Main Improvements

Background

Lee County's southeastern region is experiencing significant growth, creating a need for expanded wastewater infrastructure. To meet this demand, the County is constructing the Southeast Water Reclamation Facility (SEWRF) to increase treatment capacity and system reliability. Concurrently, the Southeast County Force Main Improvements project is underway to support efficient flow distribution and ensure proper connectivity between existing infrastructure and the new facility.

Proposal

The purpose of this project is to construct a new wastewater infrastructure that will connect Lee County's existing force main network to the Southeast Water Reclamation Facility (SEWRF). These improvements are necessary to support the continued growth of southeast Lee County and to improve system reliability by diverting a portion of flow currently treated at the Three Oaks Water Reclamation Facility. Project components include the installation of new force mains, valve and lift station modifications, and associated utility work. Construction will be coordinated with the Alico Road Widening Project to reduce community disruption and maximize efficiency. The improvements will also provide expanded service capacity for commercial and industrial developments along Corkscrew Road, enabling continued economic growth in the region.

Benefits

This project ensures reliable wastewater service for a fast-growing region by expanding system capacity and improving flow between treatment plants. Reducing demand on the Three Oaks facility increases efficiency and resilience, especially during peak loads. Infrastructure upgrades along Corkscrew Road support continued residential and commercial development, attracting investment and sustaining economic growth. Located within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Everglades West Coast Basin Management Action Plan, the project also reduces reliance on septic tanks—protecting water quality and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

Funding

State funding requested:	\$4 million
Future requests:	To be determined.
Total project cost:	\$7.9 million

[see map on next page]





16 Lee County Utilities North Lee County Wellfield Expansion

Background

Lee County Utilities (LCU) serves a growing population and is actively working to ensure a sustainable, long-term water supply. In response to increased demand and in line with the 2023 Lee County Utilities Master Plan, LCU is implementing strategic improvements to expand its Alternative Water Supply (AWS) program. This program focuses on diversifying water sources and strengthening the resilience of the region's potable water system.

Proposal

LCU requests funding to construct a raw water transmission pipeline connecting five new brackish groundwater wells in North Fort Myers to the North Lee County Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Plant. The project involves installing approximately 5 miles of pipeline to transport brackish water for treatment and potable distribution. This phase (3B) of the North Lee County Wellfield Expansion, identified in the 2023 LCU Master Plan, addresses rising regional water demand. It supports LCU's AWS strategy by using alternative water sources, reducing freshwater aquifer stress, and enhancing system reliability.

Benefits

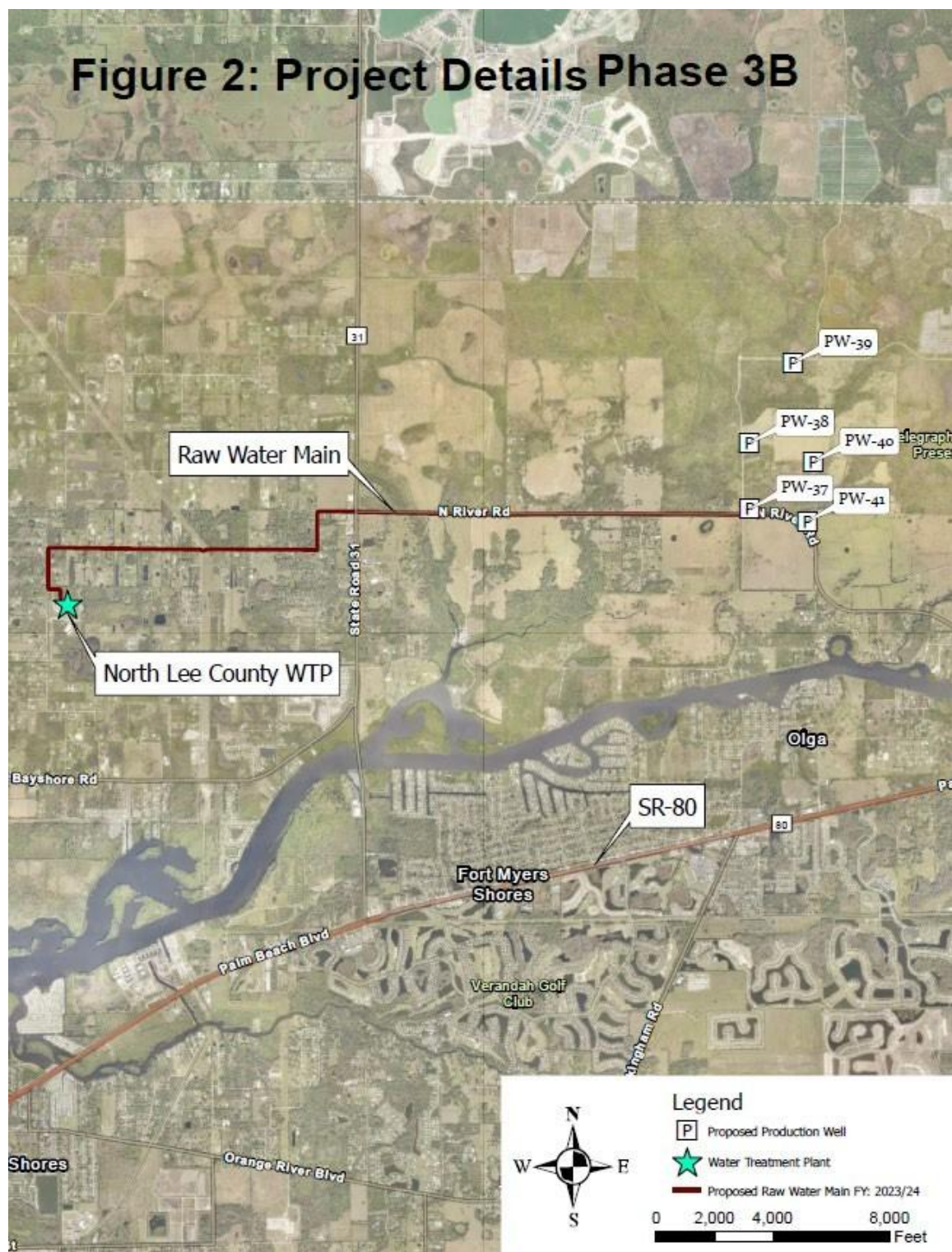
This project enhances Lee County's potable water reliability by developing drought-resilient brackish groundwater as an alternative source. It meets growing regional demand while reducing reliance on vulnerable freshwater aquifers. By shifting to deeper brackish sources, it protects shallow aquifer recharge, promotes responsible water management, and ensures a stable supply of potable water and fire protection in North Lee County.

Funding

State funding requested:	\$2 million
Future requests:	To be
determined Total project cost:	\$21.2
million	

[see map on next page]

Figure 2: Project Details Phase 3B





17

Lee County Civic Center

Background

The Lee County Civic Center Complex in North Fort Myers is a multi-use facility owned by Lee County. Since opening in 1978, the 92.3-acre site has hosted concerts, trade shows, fairs, sporting events, and community gatherings. The complex features a large arena, animal barns, support buildings, and open grounds, and serves as the longtime home of the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair. Due to aging infrastructure and changing community needs, the facility is currently under review.

Proposal

This project seeks funding to develop a master plan for the design and construction of the Lee County Civic Center Complex and fairgrounds. The goal is to transform the site into a modern, multi-use community hub that supports agricultural education, public engagement, and economic development.

Planned improvements include a new regional event center, upgraded animal barns and show arena, a multi-use educational facility, improved 4-H offices, restrooms, and RV accommodations, along with redesigned stormwater systems and walking paths. Passive recreation areas will be integrated to promote outdoor activity and wellness. In partnership with Lee County School District and FGCU's School of Agribusiness, upgraded facilities will expand opportunities for agricultural education and youth development. Infrastructure enhancements will also support better tracking of events, participation, and revenue, improving operational efficiency.

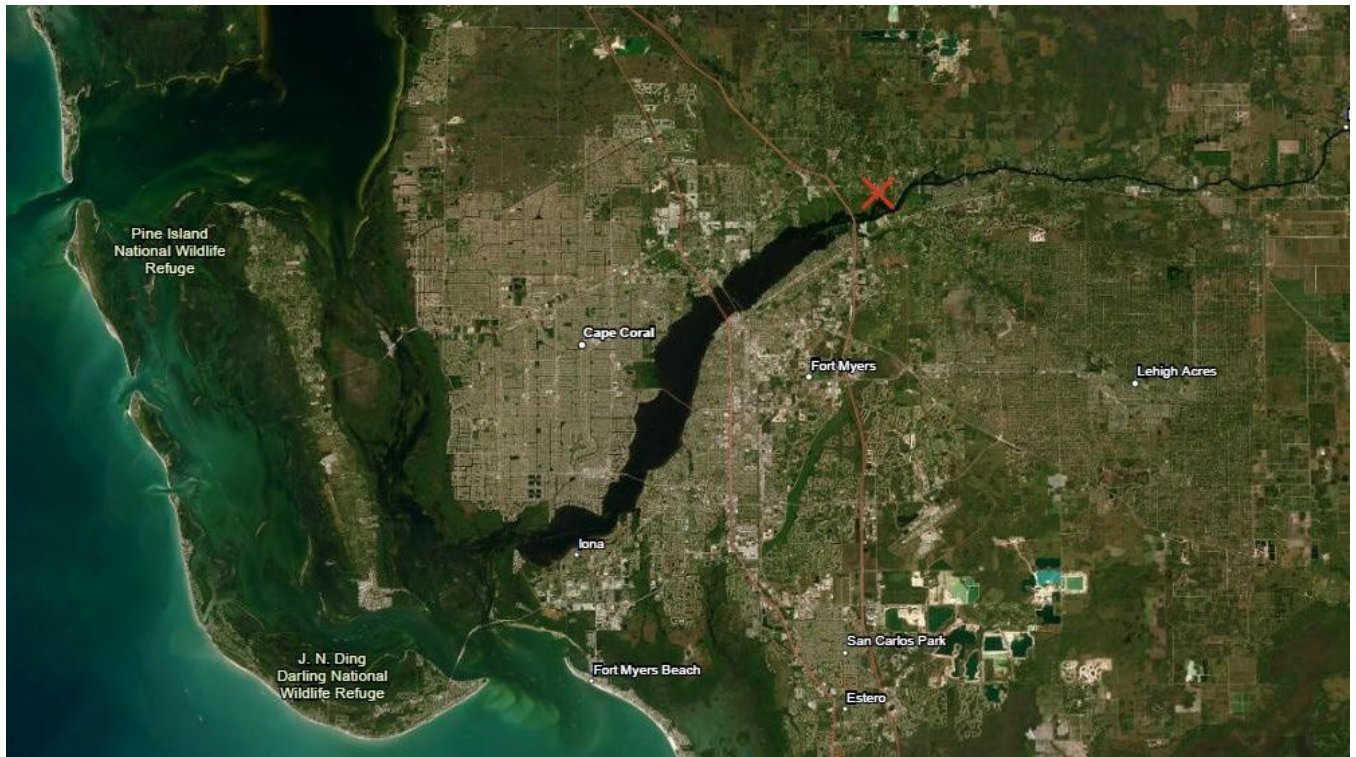
Benefits

Redeveloping the Civic Center Complex will create a vibrant space that attracts more events, benefiting local businesses and supporting job growth. Enhanced partnerships will strengthen agricultural education and provide valuable learning opportunities for the community. The complex will continue to serve as a cultural gathering place, fostering community engagement.

Funding

State funding requested:	\$950,000
Future requests:	Not yet determined.
Total project cost:	Estimated \$53 million

[see images on next page]





2. City of Bonita Springs

City of Bonita Springs

2026 State Legislative Agenda

This document, approved by the City of Bonita Springs City Council on September 17, 2025, represents the 2026 Florida Legislative Agenda of the City of Bonita Springs City Council. While these priorities guide the City's advocacy efforts in Tallahassee, they are not exhaustive, and new issues may arise or evolve that will require the Council's attention.

These issues are not ranked in order of priority. Council members, staff, and contract lobbyists will pursue all legislative policies approved by the Council and will prioritize as appropriate according to opportunities that arise during the legislative process.

Legislative Priorities:

1. Improve Stormwater Management and Resiliency:

- a. SUPPORT legislation and policy that encourages and promotes the City's recovery from future active storm events by providing increased funding, technical assistance, economic development opportunities, and projects in furtherance of sustainable resiliency.
- b. SUPPORT funding for stormwater improvements and flood reduction/mitigation projects within its municipal boundaries, as well as for projects in the region that directly benefit our community.

2. Improve Vehicle and Multimodal Transportation Networks:

- a. SUPPORT funding for projects that enhance transportation connectivity for pedestrian and bicyclists, as well as implementation of Complete Streets.

3. Environmental Protection:

- a. SUPPORT state initiatives that address the proliferation of harmful algal blooms, such as blue-green algae and red tide.
- b. SUPPORT recurring funding for conversion programs designed to move private septic tanks to modern sanitary sewer collection systems. SUPPORT greater flexibility for programs that address the costs incurred by residents connecting to sewer and proper abandonment of septic systems.
- c. SUPPORT legislative or state initiative programs, activities, or opportunities that will provide opportunities to acquire environmentally sensitive lands within the City's municipal boundaries.

- d. SUPPORT legislative grant opportunities and state programs to provide supplemental funding for the City's Beach Nourishment Program as a direct result of significant storm events.

Page I of 2 - City of Bonita Springs 2026 State Legislative Agenda

- 4. Local Government:
 - a. SUPPORT the preservation of local home rule and opposes any legislation, policies, or regulations that would impose unfunded responsibilities upon the City.
- 5. Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) Funding:
 - a. SUPPORT the acquisition of the Seminole Gulf Railway LP property, and the development, design and construction of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail project within the City limits of Bonita Springs and in its entirety. The trail will be developed as a multi-modal linear park for pedestrians and cyclists and ultimately become part of the Florida Gulf Coast Trail.
- 6. Storm Resiliency
 - a. SUPPORT recurring renourishment of Bonita Beach.
 - b. SUPPORT storm hardening through the undergrounding of electrical infrastructure along Bonita Beach Road, from US 41 to the beach, and at Marni Fields.

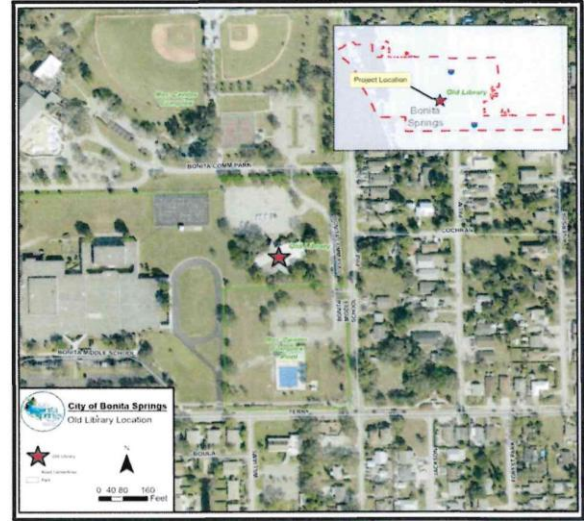
Legislative Appropriation Requests (projects not prioritized):

- 1. Emergency Response Center - Demolition of the old library building and construction of a stormhardened emergency response center to support the City's emergency preparations, response, and recovery and Continuity of Operations - \$4.8m
- 2. Paradise Road Bike Pedestrian Improvement Project - \$6.5m
- 3. Bonita Beach Road/Imperial Parkway Gateway Aesthetic Improvement Project - \$1.2m
- 4. Community Aquatic Facility Expansion - \$5.0m

Emergency Response Center Project Funding Request: \$4,800,000

Background:

The existing building located at 26876 Pine Avenue in Bonita Springs is the former Lee County Library building. Lee County transferred the property to the City in August 2021. The City's Neighborhood Services Department currently occupies the building. Since it was formerly used as a local library the building is not well suited for other uses and has become obsolete. The building will be demolished and a new structure constructed. At a minimum, the City envisions the facility will house the following: a large meeting space (at least to accommodate 75 people), separate storage areas for partners, office spaces, sleeping quarters, bathrooms with showers/dressing rooms, a kitchen with dining



facilities and cold storage, communication/media facilities for video press conferences and citizen updates, an on-site generator, hurricane-impact window or shutters, outdoor space paved and/or gravel surfaces (used for temporary comfort stations, mobile health services feeding station, distribution of water/package foods and tarps as needed, etc.). The new facility will be constructed using code-plus development standards. Code-plus construction standards go beyond minimum building codes to incorporate additional measures for resilience, safety and energy efficiency, i.e., incorporates specific features designed to mitigate construction risks beyond the minimum building standards.

The City's Emergency Response Center will be a collaborative location in Bonita Springs housing multiple government agencies that typically respond following an emergency such as a hurricane, wildfire or other natural event. Some of the early partnerships recognized by the City will be the Lee County Sheriff's Office, the City's Neighborhood Services

1

Department, city management staff and emergency management response staff. Additional space will be available for other emergency management staff during and following disaster events as an intake facility and distribution center as needed.

Proposal:

The City estimates the construction cost to be approximately \$10,000,000 with the City currently committing \$2,300,000 in General Funds in the FY25-26 City budget for design and permitting. The legislative appropriation request will provide \$4,800,000 or 48% of the project cost.

Benefits:

- Public Safety and Welfare o Emergency Management
- Improved Disaster Response

Paradise Road Bike Pedestrian Improvement Project

Funding Request: \$6,500,000

Background:

The focus of the project is to reduce/eliminate standing stormwater by converting the existing open swales to a closed drainage system along Paradise Road. The stormwater will be treated in a newly constructed stormwater treatment system that includes 56 acres of stormwater treatment ponds and conveyances. The closed stormwater system will allow for an enhanced multimodal transportation system and providing safety to pedestrians and cyclist along the roadway. Paradise Road is a local 60foot residential collector road with the project limits beginning at the intersection of Paradise Road and Shangri-La Road and running north to St. Patrick Lane, approximately 1.5 miles.



There is an existing five-foot sidewalk on the west side of the roadway that is beyond its carrying capacity. The width of the existing sidewalk creates daily usage conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrian. There are also potential conflicts between cyclists/pedestrian with traveling vehicles as the sidewalk is immediately adjacent to the travel lanes.

The City has previously invested \$1,232,206 of General Fund dollars to design the roadway improvements and the design and permitting are underway. The City has estimated the construction cost to be \$13,161,455 with the City committing \$6,661,455 to the project. Project components include, but not limited to, the installation of an enclosed stormwater drainage system in order to construct a 10-foot wide multi-use path on the west side and a new six-foot wide sidewalk on the east side of the roadway. Additional improvements will be the curb and gutter, irrigation and landscaping, street lights, along with the resurfacing of the roadway and a possible roundabout at the intersection of Shangri-La Road and Paradise Road.

Proposal:

The City currently has committed \$6,661,455 in General Funds in the FY25-26 City budget and represents 51 % of the project cost. The legislative appropriation request will provide the balance of \$6,500,000 or 49% of the project cost.

Benefits:

- Environmental and Flood Protection
- Public Safety and Welfare o Improved vehicle and multi-modal transportation networks

Bonita Beach Road/Imperial Parkway Gateway Aesthetic Improvement Project

Funding Request: \$1,200,000

Background:

The Bonita Beach Road/Imperial Parkway Gateway Aesthetic Improvement Project will be constructed in the Southwest quadrant of the intersection of Bonita Beach Road/Imperial Parkway. Both Bonita Beach Road and Imperial Parkway are major arterials that move traffic from Naples and Fort Myers, along with statewide traffic veering from Interstate 75. Bonita Beach Road is the City's gateway access point from Interstate 75 and eastern access point to the City's downtown area.

The Gateway Aesthetic Improvements will consist of a signature fountain with flagpoles. Flagpoles will feature the US Flag, the State flag and the City of Bonita Springs flag. Select landscaping will include mature canopy trees, signature palm trees with shrubs, hedges and ground cover and irrigation and accent lighting. The total project cost for the improvements

is \$2,038



Proposal:

The City currently has committed \$838,000 in General Funds in the FY25-26 City budget and represents 42% of the project cost. The legislative appropriation request will provide the balance of \$1,200,000 or 58% of the project cost.

Benefits:

- o Enhance Community Aesthetics



Community Aquatic Facility Expansion

Project Funding Request: \$5,000,000

Background:

Constructed more than thirty plus (30+) years ago the pool has reached its 'end of life' and has reached its maximum capacity. The City fields daily requests for usage that go unfulfilled. Local swim clubs, neighborhood schools and local non-profits have lined up to request availability of the existing facility. The needs and requests are greater than the existing capacity can fulfill. Swim times are limited in order to accommodate as many residents as possible. For example lap swim is only available from 7:30a to 8:45a and 12p to 4p, while water aerobics is only available from 10a to 10:45a and open swim is available from 11a to 4p.



The new improvements will include a children's interactive water feature element such as a zero entry kiddie pool with a water playground structure, new resort style pool with a lazy river and small water slide. Also due to the age of the current facility, a new expanded lap swim pool will be construction. The new facility will also include new locker rooms, pool office, storage area and family restroom facilities.

Proposal:

The City anticipates the total project cost to be \$20,625,128. The City's current FY25-26 General Fund budget has committed \$2,625,128 for design and permitting for the improvements. The legislative appropriation request will provide \$5,000,000 of the cost with the City providing the remaining \$13,200,000 for the project's implementation. The legislative appropriation represents only 24% of the project cost.

Benefits:

- Fitness and Wellness Opportunities o Increased Public Safety
- Water Accessibility

3. Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Council, Second District

A bill to be entitled An act relating to offices of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; amending s. 27.511, F.S.; authorizing appointments from the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel in other regions for certain cases in certain circumstances; requiring such counsel to provide certain documentation to the Justice Administrative Commission for reimbursement; requiring each regional office that accepts such appointments to annually submit a specified report to the commission; requiring the commission to submit copies of such reports to the Legislature; requiring the appointment of private counsel in certain circumstances; providing for expiration; amending s. 744.331, F.S.; conforming a cross reference; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (6) through (10) of section 27.511, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) through (11), respectively, and a new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

27.511 Offices of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; legislative intent; qualifications; appointment; duties.—

~~(6)(a) Notwithstanding ss. 27.40 and 27.5305, when the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, at any time during representation of a person determined to be indigent under s. 27.52 in a case in which the state has filed a notice of intent to seek the death penalty, determines that counsel can no longer be provided because of a conflict of interest or a lack of qualifications, the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel from another region may be appointed, provided such counsel is qualified to provide competent representation in death penalty cases, at the discretion of the chief judge of the circuit in which the case is being prosecuted.~~

~~(b) Subject to legislative appropriation, the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel appointed from another region under paragraph (a) shall provide documentation for all due process costs and services of representation to the Justice Administrative Commission for reimbursement.~~

~~(c) 1. By February 1 and August 1, each regional office of the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel that accepts an appointment under paragraph (a), in a case involving a person determined to be indigent under s. 27.52 in which the state has filed a notice of intent to seek the death penalty, must submit a report to the Justice Administrative Commission.~~

~~For each case, the report must contain all of the following information:~~

- a. ~~The office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel appointed and the date of appointment, including the name of counsel assigned.~~
- b. ~~How long the capital case has been pending.~~
- c. ~~The date the state filed a notice of intent to seek the death penalty.~~
- d. ~~The number of victims.~~
- e. ~~The status of any ongoing discovery, including any discovery deadline set by the court.~~
- f. ~~The number of outstanding motions.~~
- g. ~~Whether there is a mitigation specialist, and, if so, the date of his or her employment, as well as any mitigation work product.~~

~~2. The Justice Administrative Commission shall submit copies of the reports provided by each regional office under subparagraph 1. to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.~~

- (d) ~~If the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel from another region cannot accept an appointment under paragraph (a) because of a conflict of interest or a lack of qualified attorneys, private counsel shall be appointed.~~

- (e) ~~This subsection expires July 1, 2027.~~

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 744.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

744.331 Procedures to determine incapacity.— (2) ATTORNEY FOR THE ALLEGED INCAPACITATED PERSON.— (a) When a court appoints an attorney for an alleged incapacitated person, the court must appoint the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel or a private attorney as prescribed in s. 27.511(7) ~~s. 27.511(6)~~. A private attorney must be one who is included in the attorney registry compiled pursuant to s. 27.40. Appointments of private attorneys must be made on a rotating basis, taking into consideration conflicts arising under this chapter.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Regional Counsel, Second Region

Ita M. Neymotin, Esq., LL.M., M.P.A., LSS Black Belt
2026-2027 Legislative Priorities

Regional Counsels provide legal representation for indigent people with substantial cost savings. It has been estimated to date, the Regional Counsels have saved the State of Florida millions of dollars.

Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel Workload (Salary & Benefits)

The Regional Counsel Second Region (RC2) seeks to add ten more full-time attorneys. RC2's employees leave faster than they can be trained and replaced. Private law firms and other state agencies are paying significantly more than the starting salaries approved by the Florida legislature, and RC2 is finding it increasingly difficult to compete for competent and qualified candidates. Fewer filled FTE positions mean higher caseloads for remaining employees. These positions are essential to keep manageable caseloads and defense for our clients.

Increased Rent

The Regional Counsel Second Region (RC2) is requesting rent increases because the counties do not provide Regional Counsel with offices, so we must keep private office space. Unlike many state agencies that operate from state-owned facilities, RC2 leases privately-owned office spaces in each of its areas. This leasing model exposes the agency to marketdriven rent increases and relocation costs that are beyond its control. In total our rent impact is estimated to increase annually by \$165,000.

4. The Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida Inc.



2024 IMPACT REPORT



MISSION STATEMENT
Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida connects older adults and adults with disabilities to resources and assistance for living safely with independence and dignity.



As we reflect on 2024, the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL) remains focused on connecting older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers across all seven counties we serve –

Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Sarasota – to the resources they need. While we continue to support those facing urgent challenges like housing and rising costs, we are also committed to helping individuals plan for the future, live actively, and age with confidence.

Florida's population is growing rapidly, with nearly 1,000 new residents arriving each day – 20% of whom are older adults. Charlotte County remains one of the state's oldest counties, and Sarasota is a top destination for retirees. As our region changes, so do the needs of our aging population. That's why we are expanding our services beyond traditional state and federal programs, offering initiatives in advanced care planning, wellness, and long-term resource navigation.

Our vision for 2025 is clear: to strengthen advocacy efforts while ensuring all older adults – whether they need immediate support or are preparing for the future – have access to the tools and services they need to remain independent. We recognize the urgent challenges of housing and transportation across our seven-county region, and we celebrate opportunities for active aging, financial security, and community engagement. By fostering strong partnerships and forward-thinking solutions, we are working to make Southwest Florida a place where every individual can age on their own terms.

AAASWFL is not just a safety net – we are a trusted guide for every stage of aging. We are grateful for our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters who make this work possible. Together, we can build a future where every senior in Southwest Florida, regardless of their circumstances, has access to the support they need to thrive.

Maricela Morado
President and CEO,
Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida

2024 Board of Directors

Dr. Lesley Clack
Daniel Katz
Garrett Anderson
Susan Berger
Dana Begley

Dr. Denise McNulty
Jaha Cummings
Kara Helvey
Meriam Walker
Dr. Rob Sillevs

A client sought assistance from SHINE to prepare for a move from FL to MA. She received guidance about how to select new insurance coverage, apply for Medicaid related programs, and how to connect with the local Area Agency on Aging once she is relocated. SHINE counselor Roberta provided excellent customer service, going beyond the extent of her SHINE duties to help the client locate housing, due to homelessness, as well as to connect her with other critical needs.

Programs and Services

Elder Helpline

Home & Community-Based
Care Oversight

SHINE Medicare Counseling

Health and Wellness Workshops

Elder Abuse Prevention

Alzheimer Disease Initiative Oversight

Older American's ACT Oversight

Limited Crisis Funded Assistance

Veteran-Directed Home &
Community-Based Services

130,749

Congregate Meals

2,232

Congregate Clients

58,316.5

Personal Care Hours

288,153

Home-delivered Meals

1,487

HDM Clients

214,068

Respite Hours

81,036

Helpline Contacts

Veteran B.D. enrolled in the Veteran-Directed Care Program near the end of 2024. At enrollment, the Veteran and their spouse shared that they were living with a lot of financial strain. They struggled to maintain their cost of living without borrowing money from family members. The Veteran-Directed Care Program, a program which allows eligible veterans to appoint and fund their own care providers, has helped to alleviate the financial burden. The veteran shared, "This program was our miracle. We could barely afford to keep the light on without having to ask my brother for a loan".

2024 Impact



Served through the Community Care for the Elderly Program



Clients serviced through the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative Program



Caregivers provided a monthly subsidy under the Home Care for the Elderly Program

Client Counts

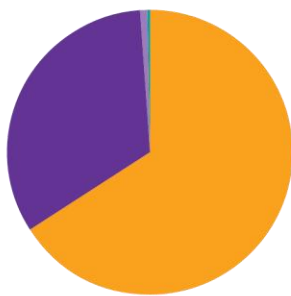
[349] Participants engaged among 46 FREE Health & Wellness classes.

[8,466] Hours volunteered by 62 volunteers

[5,992] Medicare beneficiaries assisted by SHINE staff and volunteers

[128] Veterans assisted with coordinating in-home care

[97] Professionals trained in recognizing, preventing, and reporting suspected cases of elder abuse.



Non Hispanic or Latino
66.03%

Hispanic or Latino
32.91%

Ethnicity Missing
0.92%

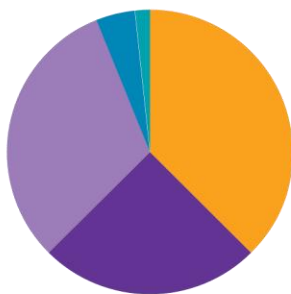
Hispanic/Latino
0.07%



Crisis Assistance / Hurricane Ian Recovery

In May 2024, AAASWFL assisted a survivor of Hurricane Ian who had recently relocated to Florida from South Carolina, and whose mobile home had received the final touches of a renovation only two weeks prior to Hurricane Ian's landfall. The front of the client's home was completely blown off and the living room was gone. At the time when AAASWFL assisted, the client had been living for nearly two years with a tarp covering the front of her home, as FEMA assistance was not comprehensive enough to repair all damage.

With assistance from the AAASWFL and generous grant funding from Volunteer Florida, the damaged living room was converted to an enclosed lanai, with a carpeted deck and additional railing. The client's daughter reached out once the repairs were completed, "We can't thank you and your crew enough for all the help you have given my mother to rebuild after Ian. It's been a long haul for her, and not only have you helped to restore her home, but you have also helped to restore her faith in humanity. From the moment you called us, she cried asking why you would want to help her? You guys are truly a blessing!"



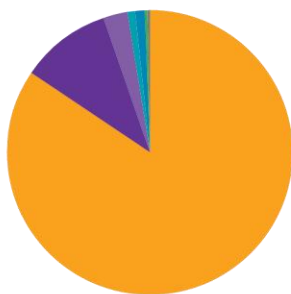
Alone
37.63%

With Other
24.95%

With Primary Caregiver
31.45%

With Other Caregiver
4.57%

Unknown
1.4%



White
84.59%

Black / African American
10.21%

Other
2.96%

Asian
0.82%

Unknown
0.91%

American Indian / Alaska Native
0.26%

Multiracial
0.21%

Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
0.05%



Ways to Help!

Make an impact on the lives of Seniors in Southwest Florida by supporting the Area Agency on Aging. There are so many unmet needs like the story above and your contribution allows AAASWFL to continue to provide a lifeline to seniors in need.



Housing



Transportation



Long-term care



Scan the QR code to support seniors with your gift today!

Area Agency on Aging
for Southwest Florida
2830 Winkler Ave.
Suite 112
Fort Myers, FL 33916
239.652.6900
Elder Helpline: 866.413.5337
aaaswfl.org



ELDER HELPLINE 2024 YR-END SUMMARY

Thousands of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers count on the Area Agency on Aging's Elder Helpline to provide information about government-funded, nonprofit and private-pay services available in our area. This report showcases the top Helpline concerns in our region.

TOTAL HELPLINE CALLS



81,036

Caller Demographics

By
County



47%

Lee

18%

Sarasota

15%

Collier

10%

Charlotte

5.7%

Unreported or
Out of Area

2.3%

Hendry

1.4%

DeSoto

0.6%

Glades

Gender



31%



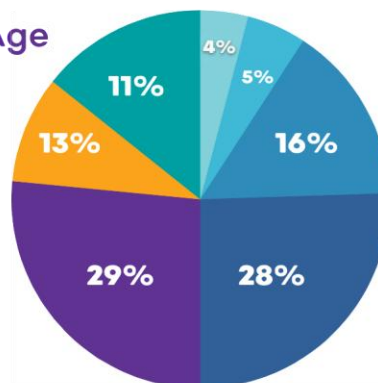
63%



6%

Undisclosed

Age



<49 Years
50-59 Years
60-69 Years
70-79 Years
80-89 Years
90+ Years
Unreported

Languages

English	71.99%
Spanish	26%
Creole	1%
Russian	0.01%
Other	1%

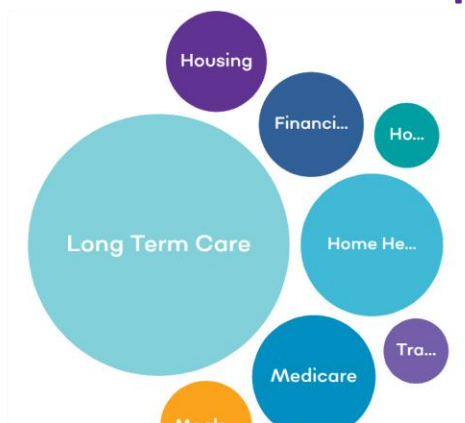
Veterans

By County	Number Served
Lee	57
Sarasota	31
Charlotte	26
Collier	12
Desoto	2
Glades/Hendry	0



59%
of calls involved
disability issues

Top Services Requested



81% Long Term Care

24% Home Health & Medical Needs

18% Insurance/SHINE Medicare

13% Financial Assistance

12% Housing

10% Meals & Nutrition

5% Homemaking Services

WHO WE ARE

The Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL) is a nonprofit organization.

Our mission is to connect older adults (age 60 and up) and adults with disabilities to resources and assistance for living safely with independence and dignity.

AAASWFL is the state's designated Aging and Disability Resource Center for Southwest Florida. That means we provide the information and resources you need to make informed decisions about your care.



Our region covers Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties.



OUR PARTNERS

Through a partnership with the State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Area Agency on Aging manages the state's system of home and community-based care in Southwest Florida.

We are responsible for administering federal and state funding for elder and disability services.

AAASWFL contracts with local service providers for the planning, coordination, development and evaluation of programs. These providers, or Lead Agencies, deliver services in our seven county area:

Senior Friendship Centers (DeSoto, Lee & Sarasota)
Hope Connections (Glades & Hendry)
Collier County Government (Collier)
Charlotte County Human Services (Charlotte)

Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization
2830 Winkler Avenue, Suite 112
Fort Myers, FL 33916
Phone: 239.652.6900
Fax: 239.652.6910



**Area
Agency
on Aging**

FOR SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

**Your Aging and Disability
Resource Center**

HELPLINE: 866-413-5337

www.AAASWFL.org
www.facebook.com/AAASWFL
www.twitter.com/AAASWFL



**Elder
Affairs**
FLORIDA

HELPLINE: 866-413-5337

**Charlotte Collier DeSoto
Glades Hendry Lee Sarasota**



HELPLINE: 866-413-5337

Our toll-free Helpline can help you find the services you need in our community, including:

- Adult Day Care
- Caregiver Training, Support and Respite
- Case Management
- Housing Assistance
- Meal Programs and Nutrition
- Medicare and Medigap
- Health Care
- Housekeeping
- Legal Assistance
- Personal Care
- Shopping Assistance
- Transportation
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Wellness Classes
- ... and more!

Call us Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ELDER & DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Call the Helpline at 866-413-5337 for information about these programs:

Assessments and Intake:

Want to know if you are eligible for government-funded services? Our Helpline specialists can screen applicants for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs' priority list for services.

EHEAP:

(Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program)

EHEAP assists low-income households facing a home energy crisis (heating or cooling). Eligible homes must have at least one resident aged 60 or older.

Home & Community Care:

Our agency oversees government-funded programs for older adults and adults with disabilities. We can also guide you to local providers to assist you with your needs.

Respite Care:

Caregiving for a loved one can be demanding. Our agency refers caregivers to private and publicly-funded programs that provide relief and respite.

Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Long-Term Care Program:

You may be eligible for assistance with the cost of an assisted living facility or other long-term in-home care services. Financial and clinical requirements apply.

Veteran-Directed Home & Community Based Services:

This Veterans Affairs program provides veterans with an opportunity to determine the care they need to live independently. The VA is responsible for referring clients to this program.



Community Outreach

SHINE:

(Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders)

SHINE counselors provide comprehensive, free, unbiased and personalized assistance to Medicare beneficiaries year-round.

Elder Abuse Prevention & Education:

Our Elder Abuse Prevention program helps increase awareness of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

If you suspect elder abuse, call the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE.

Health & Wellness:

Class options include fall prevention courses, exercise for arthritis, Tai Chi for seniors, chronic disease self-management, and stress relief for caregivers.

Scan here to
**DONATE a
GIFT to HELP
Elders in NEED**



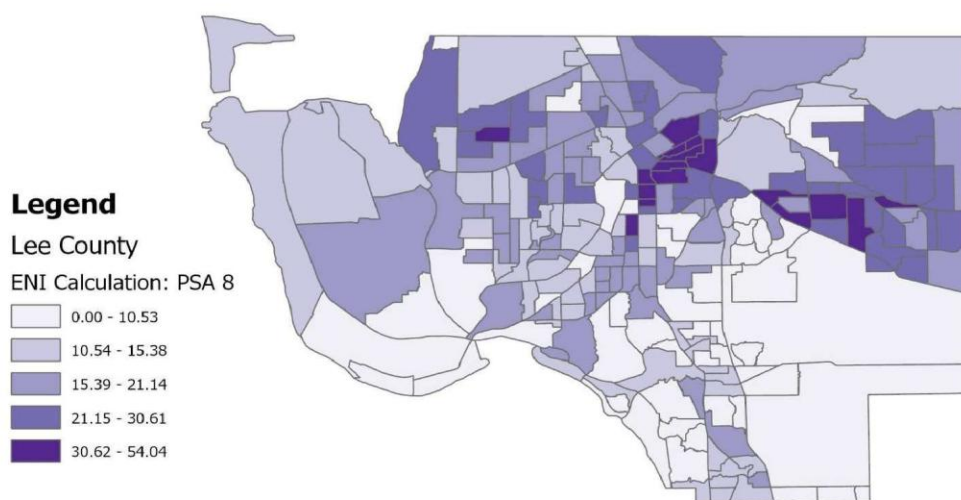
2025 Profile of Older Floridians

0 of Older Florida

Lee County

This profile of older Floridians is a source of current information related to seniors in the county. Topics include the current and future population of older adults, the prevalence of older adults who experience financial and housing issues, the array of health and medical resources, and information related to disasters. As Florida's older adult population grows, awareness of these issues is needed to ensure that elders continue to be vital participants in their communities.

Elder Needs Index



The Elder Needs Index (ENI) is a measure that includes: (1) the percentage of the 60 and older population that is age 85 and older; (2) the percentage of the 55 and older population that are members of racial or ethnic minority groups; (3) the percentage of the 65 and older population with one or more disability; and (4) the percentage of the 55 and older population living below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. ENI is an averaged score indicating older adults who may need social services within a geographic area. **It is not a percentage of the area's population.** Interactive maps, viewing software, and a detailed user's guide are available at http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/eni_home.php

The index cutpoints in the ENI is scaled at the PSA-level

Source: Florida Department of Elder Affairs using U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Useful Websites

Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)
U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA)
How to Become an Age Friendly Community

Florida Division of Emergency Management (Shelters)
Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse
County Chronic Disease Profile
Aging Integrated Database (AGID)
Florida DOEA ENI Maps

Lee County Demographic Profile

The demographics section presents the population characteristics of those age 60 and older and examines traits about older Floridians, such as the number of veterans, voters, and drivers.

Age Category	Value	Percent
All Ages	800,989	100%
Under 18	142,462	18%
Under 60	519,859	65%
18-59	377,397	47%
60+	281,130	35%
65+	219,576	27%
70+	157,761	20%
75+	101,955	13%
80+	55,548	7%
85+	25,170	3%

Source: BEBR, 2024

Gender	Value	Percent
Male	132,709	47%
Female	148,421	53%

Source: BEBR, 2024

Living Alone (65+)	Value	Percent
Male Living Alone	18,183	6%
Female Living Alone	31,285	11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Educational Attainment (65+)	Value	Percent
Less than High School	18,330	8%
High School Diploma	63,675	29%
Some College, No Degree	44,120	20%
Associates Degree or Higher	87,520	40%

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

Marital Status	Male	Female
Never Married	6,005	4,790
Percentage Never Married	5%	3%
Married	92,730	78,795
Percentage Married	72%	56%
Widowed	11,935	34,025
Percentage Widowed	9%	24%
Divorced	17,915	23,075
Percentage Divorced	14%	16%

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

Race and Ethnicity	Value	Percent
White	263,853	94%
Black	13,575	5%
Other Race	3,702	1%
Total Hispanic	25,079	9%
White Hispanic	23,165	8%
Non-White Hispanic	1,914	1%
Total Non-Hispanic	256,051	91%
Total Minority	40,442	14%

The minority population includes black, other, and Hispanic.

Source: BEBR, 2024

Driver License Holders	Value	Percent
Drivers	269,520	39%

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, 2024

Registered Voters	Value	Percent
Registered Voters	267,192	48%

Source: Florida Department of State, 2024

Percentage calculation is based on total registered voters.

Veterans	Value	Percent
Age 45-64	11,825	26%
Age 65-84	26,176	58%
Age 85+	7,272	16%

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2023

Grandparents	Value	Percent
Living With Grandchildren	8,715	3%
Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren	2,120	1%
Grandparent Not Responsible for Grandchildrer	6,595	2%
Not Living With Grandchildren	257,640	92%

Grandchildren are defined as being under the age of 18.

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

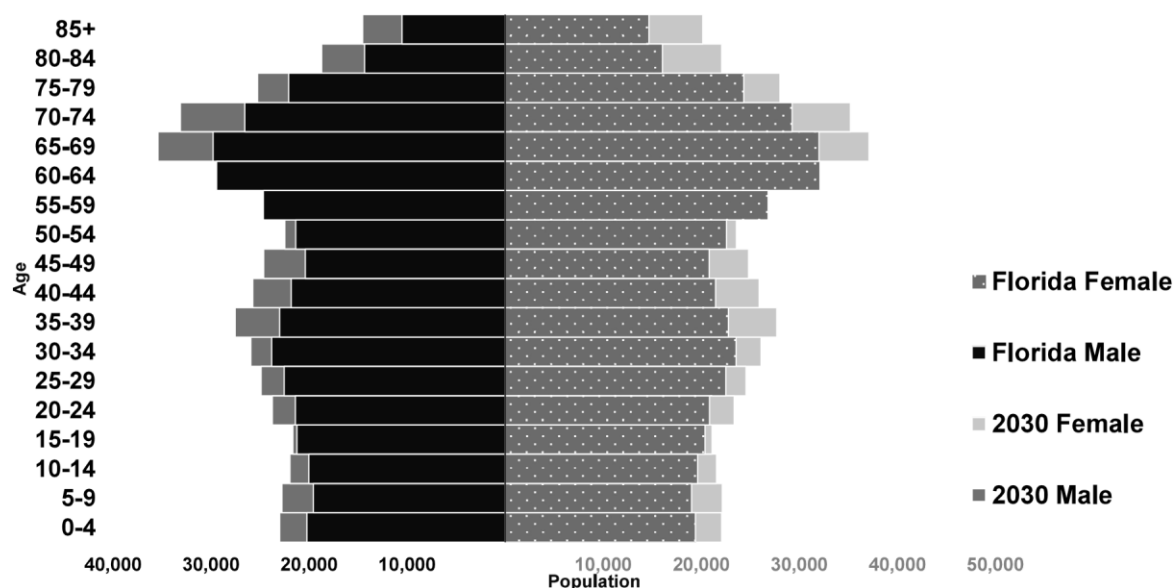
English Proficiency	Value	Percent
With Limited English Proficiency (65+)	8,241	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Note: The American Community Survey (ACS) requires a minimum of 50 cases in a geographic area and therefore a value of 0 may denote fewer than 50 seniors in a region.

Lee County Demographic Profile

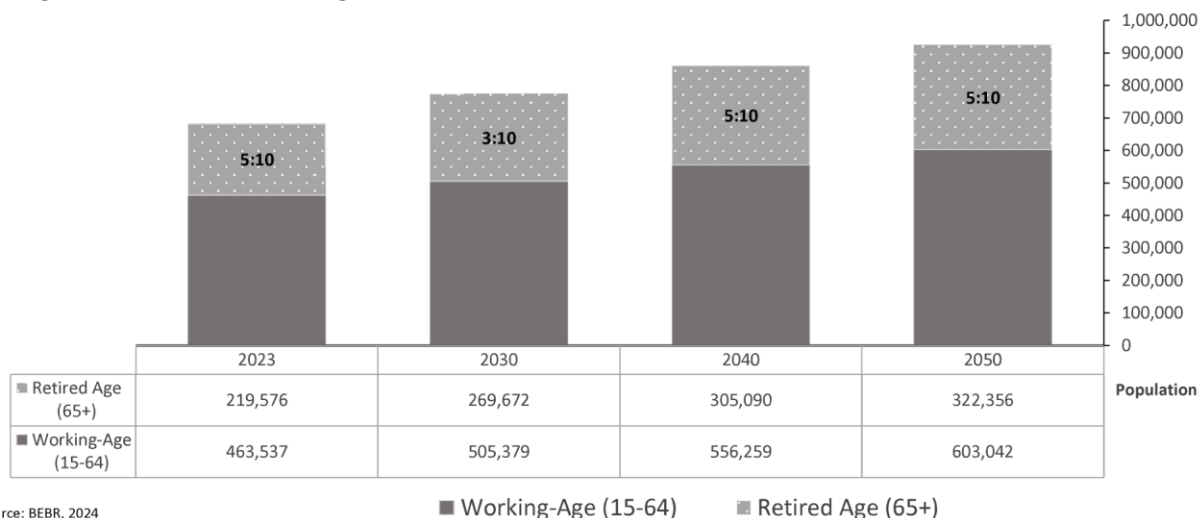
The population pyramid below compares the projected older adult population by gender between 2023 and 2030, demonstrating the changes expected in the next decade. As a whole, Florida is expected to experience population growth, with some areas expecting notable growth in the proportion of those age 65 and older.



Source: BEBR, 2024

Older Adult Dependency Ratio

The dependency ratio contrasts the number of working-age (15-64) individuals compared to the number of individuals age 65 and older who are likely retired from the workforce. This ratio reflects the ongoing contributions of taxes and wages to support the health care and retirement systems used by retirees, as well as the availability of younger individuals to serve as caregivers to older loved ones.



Source: BEBR, 2024

Lee County Financial Profile

This section examines financial conditions, poverty rates, and the cost of living for older Floridians. The ratio of income to poverty level graphic below shows the distribution of older adults relative to the poverty level to show the proportion of the senior population who fall below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The portrayal of the financial conditions of older adults is detailed in the final graphic, which includes information about income relative to rates of homeownership and partnership status in the consideration of cost of living.

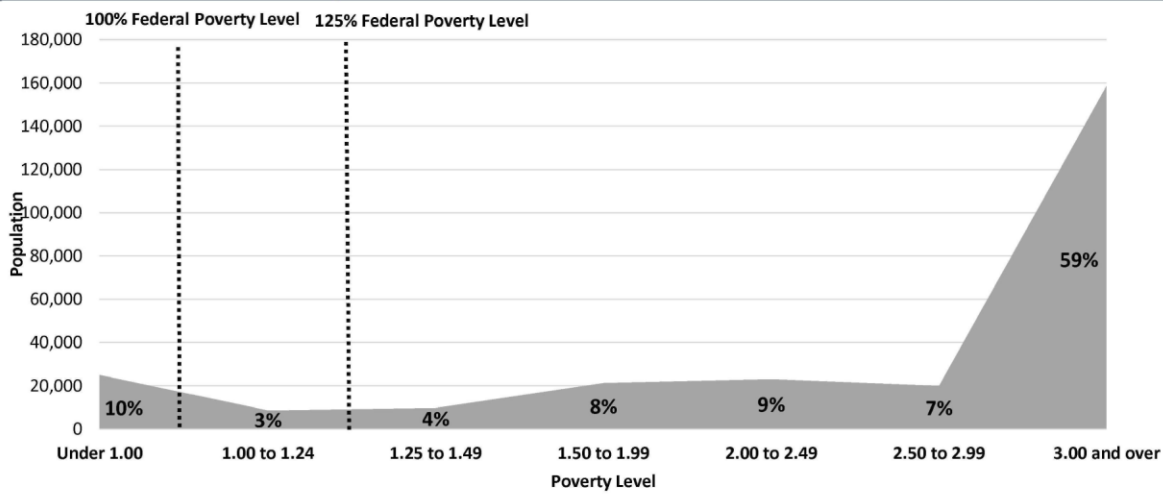
Federal Poverty Level	Value
Single-Person Household	\$15,650
Two-Person Household	\$21,150
125% Single-Person Household	\$19,563
125% Two-Person Household	\$26,438

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2025

Poverty (65+)	Value	Percent
At Poverty Level	21,456	10%
Below 125% of Poverty Level	27,768	13%
Minority At Poverty Level	2,454	1%
Minority Below 125% of Poverty Level	3,176	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

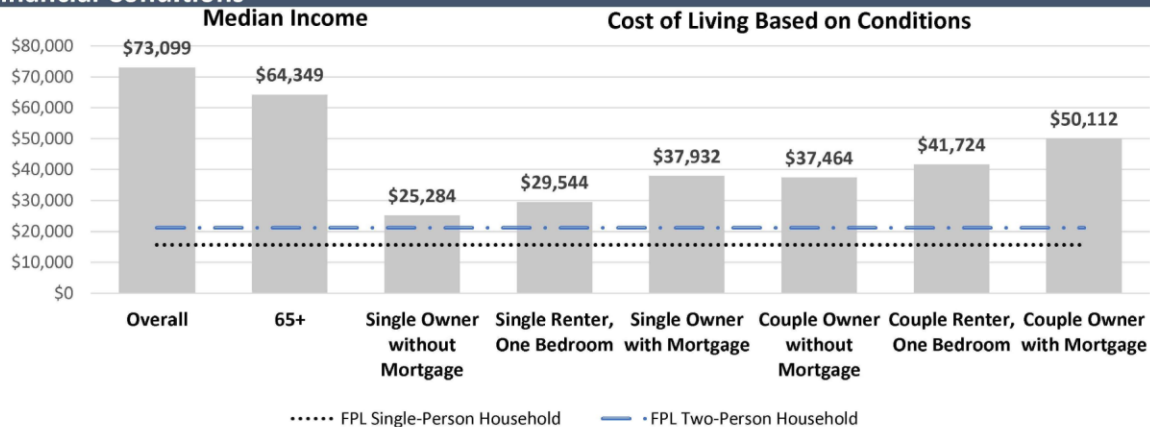
Ratio of Income to Poverty Level



Value is expressed as the percentage of the 60+ population, with the dotted lines representing the Federal Poverty Level.

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

Financial Conditions



Cost of living is an index of how much income retired older adults require to meet their basic needs to live in their community without assistance.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS, AGID 2017-21 ACS, and Elder Index. (2023). The Elder Index™ [Public Dataset]. Boston, MA: Gerontology Institute, University of Massachusetts

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Lee County Livability Profile

The livability section presents new elements, such as available affordable housing for older adults. Many essential community elements are also included below, such as sidewalk safety, the safety of roadways, and availability of green spaces. The rates of older Floridians who have access to a vehicle or public transportation, as well as the availability of internet access and various food resources, are also provided. These provide estimates of older adults' ability to access community resources.

Pedestrian Safety	Percent
Sidewalks with Barriers	39%
Physical barriers are those that separate motorized vehicle lanes from sidewalks or shared path (e.g. areas for parking lots, guardrail, trees, etc.).	
Source: Florida Department of Transportation, 2025	

Road Incidents	Value
Total Involved in Fatal Car Crashes per 100,000	17
This figure includes occupants and non-occupants involved in a crash.	
Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, 2024	

Internet Access (65+)	Percent
Have Internet Access	89%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS	

Food Resource Centers	Value
SNAP Access Sites	1
Fresh Access Bucks Outlet	7
Farmer's Market	10
Food Distribution (No Cost)	17
SNAP Retailers	539
Congregate Meal Sites	7
Food Distribution (No Cost) is the number of food pantries, soup kitchens, and food banks in the area.	
Source: Feeding Florida, USDA, Food-Banks, DCF, FDACS, 2025;	

Public Transportation Options	Value
Bus Operations at least at the County	1
Rail Operations at least at the County	0
Public Transit Service Area (sq. mi.)	1,173
Public Transit Service Area Population	1,592,723
Annual Unlinked Trips	1,542,671
Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service (VOMS)	114
Total Miles of Bike Lanes	411
Information on service area is not reported by rural and intercity public transit.	
VOMS are the number of vehicles operated to meet the annual max service, and unlinked trips are the number of passengers boarding public transit.	
Source: Federal Transit Administration, 2023, and FDOT, 2023-2024	

Green Space	Value
Number of Nearby State Parks	7
Nearby refers to the park that has the shortest distance from the center of the county.	
Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2025	

Rural-Urban Designation	Value
Census Tracts Rural	3%
Census Tracts Urban	97%
Number of Census Tracts	166
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2019	

Households With High Cost Burden (65+)	Value
Owner-Occupied Households	31,275
Percent of Owners with High Cost Burden	17%
Renter-Occupied Households	24,228
Percent of Renters with High Cost Burden	20%

Households with a high cost burden have occupants age 65+ paying more than 30% of income for housing costs and having an income below 50% of the area median income.
Source: The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, 2023, U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Affordable Housing Inventory	Value
Properties	25
Properties Ready for Occupancy	25
Total Units	2,460
Units with Rent and/or Income Restrictions	2,279
Units Receiving Monthly Rental Assistance	643

Affordable housing inventory receives funding from HUD, Florida Housing Financing Corp., and the USDA. The inventory above includes older adults as its target population.

Source: The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, 2022-2023

Housing Units by Occupancy (65+)	Percent
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	61%
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	29%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Vehicle Access (65+)	Percent
Owner-Occupied Households with Access to Vehicle(s)	97%
Renter-Occupied Households with Access to Vehicle(s)	75%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Employment Status (65+)	Value	Percent
Number of Seniors Employed	98,571	45%
Number of Seniors Unemployed	3,880	2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Retirement (65+)	Value	Percent
Social Security Beneficiaries	184,465	85%
SSI Recipients	4,848	41%

SSI stands for Supplemental Security Income. To qualify, a person must be at least age 65 OR be blind or disabled. Also, the person must have limited income and resources.

Source: U.S. Social Security Administration, 2023

SNAP or Food Stamps	Value
Potentially Eligible	27,768
Annual Participants	25,583
Current Beneficiaries as of Dec-24	20,515
Percent of Total Population Receiving Benefits	8%

Potentially Eligible are individuals below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, 2024

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Lee County Health Profile and Medical Resources

The health and medical section presents the variety and availability of different types of facilities, medical professionals, and treatment services in the community. This includes complex estimates based on probable usage by older adults. For example, the "Medically Underserved" are areas designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty, or a high elderly population. Medical access and health support services information is an important area for community planners to ensure that support is in place to accommodate an older population.

Ambulatory Surgical Centers	Value
Facilities	33
Operating Rooms	82
Recovery Beds	247

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Hospitals	Value
Hospitals	10
Hospitals with Skilled Nursing Units	2
Hospital Beds	2,248
Skilled Nursing Unit Beds	93

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Medical Professionals	Value
Medical Doctors	
Licensed	2,250
Limited License	8
Critical Need Area License	12
Restricted	0
Medical Faculty Certification	0
Public Health Certificate	0

Other Professionals	
Licensed Podiatric Physicians	70
Licensed Osteopathic Physicians	434
Dentists	439

Licensed Registered Nurses	12,301
Pharmacies	187

Source: Florida Department of Health, 2025

Assisted Living Facility	Value
Total ALF Beds	4,844
Optional State Supplementation (OSS) Beds	50
Non-OSS Beds	4,794
Total ALF Facilities	79
Facilities with Extended Congregate Care License	7
Facilities with Limited Mental Health License	3
Facilities with Limited Nursing Service License	26

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Medically Underserved	Value	Percent
Total Medically Underserved	0	0%
Living in Areas Defined as Having Medically Underserved Populations	0	0%
Living in Medically Underserved Areas	0	0%

Source: Calculated using U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration and U.S. Census Bureau

Health Insurance 65+	Value	Percent
Insured	225,114	99%
Uninsured	1,355	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Disability Status (65+)	Value	Percent
With One Type of Disability	36,449	---
With Two or More Disabilities	32,265	---
Total With Any Disability		

Hearing	28,058	13%
Vision	9,550	4%
Cognitive	13,949	6%
Ambulatory	35,570	16%
Self-Care	11,154	5%
Independent Living	21,266	10%
With No Disabilities	169,668	---
Probable Alzheimer's Cases (65+)	25,508	12%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS, 2023 One-Year Estimate

Medicaid & Medicare Beneficiaries	Value	Percent
60+ Medicaid Eligible	22,715	15%
60+ Dual Eligible	19,535	81%

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Adult Day Care (ADC)	Value
ADC Facilities	12
Capacity	642

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Home Health Agencies	Value
Agencies	109
Medicaid Certified Agencies	3
Medicare Certified Agencies	20
Homemaker and Companion Service Companies	53

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Lee County Health Profile and Medical Resources

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Use	Value
SNFs With Beds	19
Community Beds	18
Sheltered Beds	3
Veterans Administration Beds	0
Other Beds	0
SNF Beds	2,226
Community Beds	2,186
Sheltered Beds	284
Veterans Administration Beds	0
Other Beds	0
SNFs With Community Beds	18
Community Bed Days	754,692
Community Patient Days	624,032
Medicaid Patient Days	343,539
Occupancy Rate	83%
Percent Medicaid	55%

The day the patient is admitted is a patient day. A bed day is a day during which a person is confined to a bed and in which the patient stays overnight in a hospital.

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers	Value
--	-------

EMS providers include air ambulances and ambulances with Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Life Support (ALS).

Source: Florida Department of Health, 2025

Adult Family Care Homes	Value
Homes	15
Beds	68

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Memory Disorder Clinics	Value
Total	1

Source: Florida DOE's Department Overview, 2024

Dialysis	Value
End-Stage Renal Disease Centers	23

Source: Florida AHCA, 2024

Lee County Disaster Preparedness

The disaster preparedness section presents the count and percentage of people age 60 or older living in the legislative district that fall within particular storm surge evacuation zones, as well as the number of DOEA Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) clients who reside in these zones. The estimate of electricity-dependent individuals is presented by insurance type to show the number of people who use electricity-dependent medical equipment necessary for things such as survival or mobility. This information can also be used to evaluate the sufficiency of shelters, generators, and evacuation route roadways to handle the needs of seniors and medically fragile adults in emergencies.

Electricity-Dependent	Value
Medicare Beneficiary	7,168
Medicaid Beneficiary	120

Medicare beneficiary includes the entire Medicare population (65+ and SSI Recipients).

Medicaid beneficiaries are individuals age 60 to 64.

Source: Florida AHCA, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024, and U.S. Department of Health & Source: FDEM, 2024

Shelter Resources	Value
Number of General Shelters	27
General Shelter Max Capacity in People	16,223
Number of Special Needs Shelters	1
Special Needs Shelters Max Capacity in People	1,972

Evacuation Zones	Value	Percent
DOEA HCBS Clients	676	100%
Zone A	144	21%
Zone B	161	24%
Zone C	79	12%
Zone D	143	21%
Zone E	10	1%
Lives in an Evac Zone and Has Memory Problems*	125	18%
Lives in an Evac Zone and Lives Alone*	239	35%

Zones are associated with the following surge heights: Zone A up to 11 feet, Zone B up to 15 feet, Zone C up to 20 feet, Zone D up to 28 feet, and Zone E up to 35 feet.

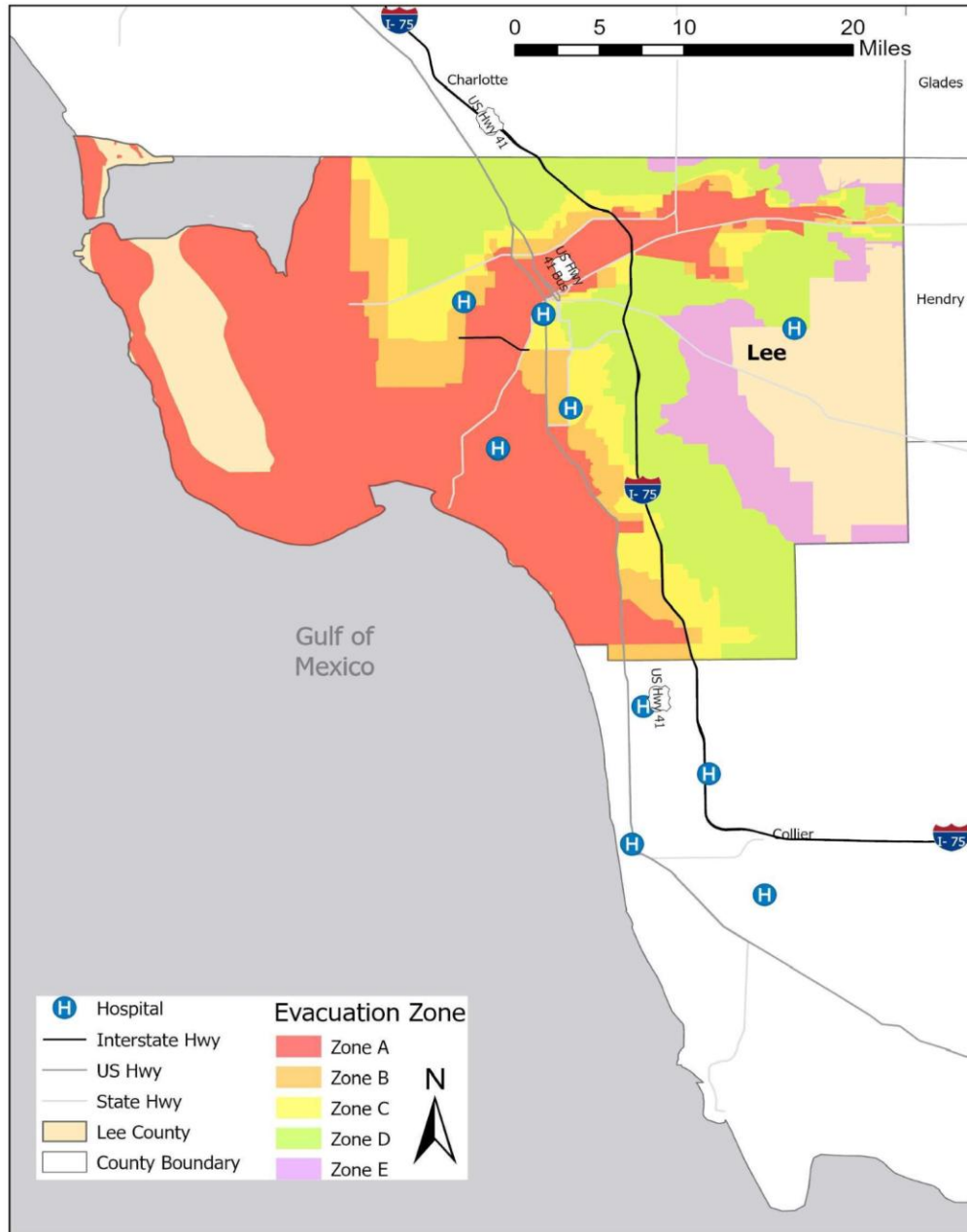
*Note: There are additional county-specific evacuation zones not listed on this table.

Source: Florida DOE eCIRTS, 2025; Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), 2024

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Lee County Disaster Preparedness

Evacuation Zones



Zones are associated with the following surge heights: Zone A up to 11 feet, Zone B up to 15 feet, Zone C up to 20 feet, Zone D up to 28 feet, and Zone E up to 35 feet.
Source: FDEM, 2024

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

I a

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8

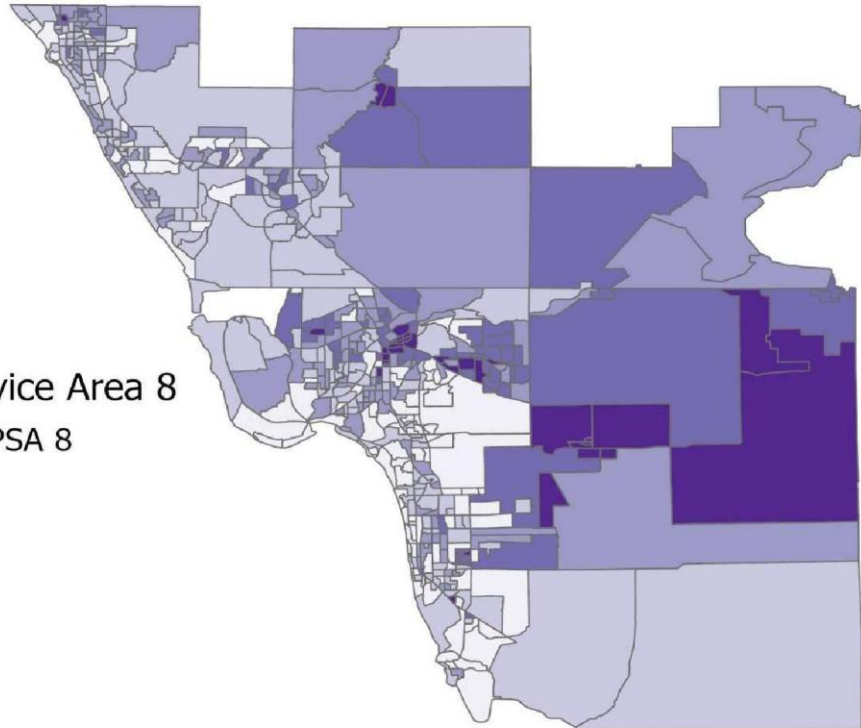
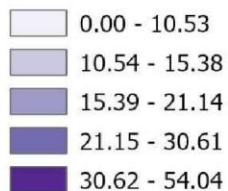
This profile of older Floridians is a source of current information related to older adults in the Planning and Service Area. Topics include the current and future population of older adults, the prevalence of older adults who experience financial and housing issues, the array of health and medical resources, and information related to disasters. As Florida's older adult population grows, awareness of these issues is needed to ensure that older people continue to be vital participants in their communities.

Elder Needs Index

Legend

Planning & Service Area 8

ENI Calculation: PSA 8



The Elder Needs Index (ENI) is a measure that includes: (1) the percentage of the 60 and older population that is age 85 and older; (2) the percentage of the 55 and older population that are members of racial or ethnic minority groups; (3) the percentage of the 65 and older population with one or more disability; and (4) the percentage of the 55 and older population living below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. ENI is an averaged score indicating older adults who may need social services within a geographic area. **It is not a percentage of the area's population.** The green areas of the map represent bodies of land such as national parks, state forests, wildlife management areas, and local and private preserves. The blue areas of the map represent bodies of water such as lakes, streams, rivers, and coastlines.

Interactive maps, viewing software, and a detailed user's guide are available at http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/eni_home.php

Source: Florida Department of Elder Affairs using U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Useful Websites

Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)
U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA)
How to Become an Age Friendly Community

Florida Division of Emergency Management (Shelters)
Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse
County Chronic Disease Profile
Aging Integrated Database (AGID)
Florida DOEA ENI Maps

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8 Demographic Profile

The demographics section presents the population characteristics of those age 60 and older and examines traits about older Floridians, such as the number of veterans, voters, and drivers.

Age Category	Value	Percent
All Ages	1,957,278	100%
Under 18	320,911	16%
Under 60	1,186,299	61%
18-59	865,388	44%
60+	770,979	39%
65+	613,784	31%
70+	452,428	23%
75+	304,820	16%
80+	176,597	9%
85+	86,050	4%

Source: BEBR, 2024

Gender	Value	Percent
Male	357,460	46%
Female	413,519	54%

Source: BEBR, 2024

	Value	Percent
Living Alone (65+)		
Male Living Alone	48,438	35%
Female Living Alone	89,109	65%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Educational Attainment (65+)	Value	Percent
Less than High School	46,564	8%
High School Diploma	160,610	26%
Some College, No Degree	118,670	19%
Associates Degree or Higher	253,659	41%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Marital Status	Male	Female
Never Married	15,910	13,025
Percentage Never Married	5%	3%
Married	249,705	218,845
Percentage Married	73%	58%
Widowed	29,670	89,800
Percentage Widowed	9%	24%
Divorced	45,055	57,115
Percentage Divorced	13%	15%

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

Race and Ethnicity	Value	Percent
White	730,296	95%
Black	31,542	4%
Other Race	9,141	1%
Total Hispanic	54,064	7%
White Hispanic	50,462	7%
Non-White Hispanic	3,602	0%
Total Non-Hispanic	716,915	93%
Total Minority	91,145	12%

The minority population includes black, other, and Hispanic.

Source: BEBR, 2024

Driver License Holders	Value	Percent
Drivers	737,864	43%

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, 2024

Registered Voters	Value	Percent
Registered Voters	743,168	51%

Source: Florida Department of State, 2024

Percentage calculation is based on total registered voters.

Veterans	Value	Percent
Age 45-64	26,749	23%
Age 65-84	68,299	60%
Age 85+	19,416	17%

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2023

Grandparents	Value	Percent
Living With Grandchildren	19,650	3%
	5,313	
Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren		1%
Grandparent Not Responsible for Grandchildren	14,345	2%
Not Living With Grandchildren	690,625	90%

Grandchildren are defined as being under the age of 18.

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

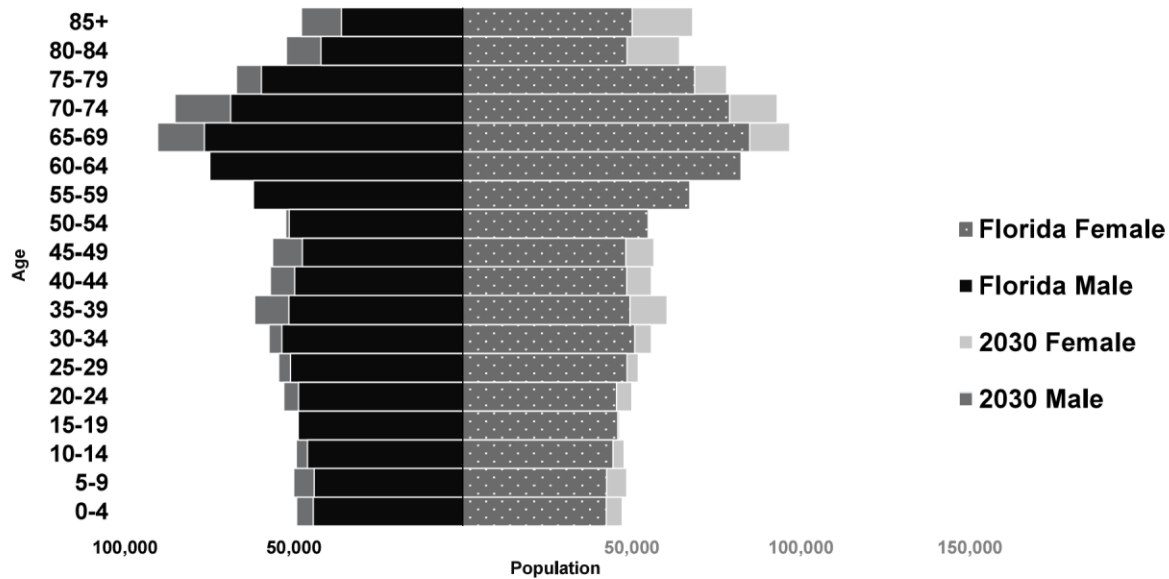
English Proficiency	Value	Percent
With Limited English Proficiency (65+)	17,849	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8 Demographic Profile

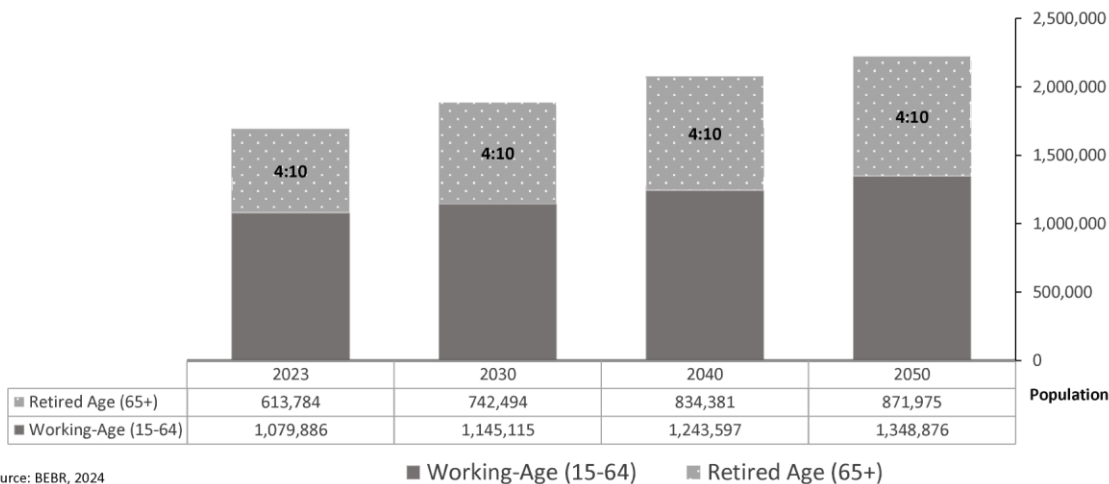
The population pyramid below compares the projected older adult population by gender between 2023 and 2030, demonstrating the changes expected in the next decade. As a whole, Florida is expected to experience population growth, with some areas expecting notable growth in the proportion of those age 65 and older.



Source: BEBR, 2024

Older Adult Dependency Ratio

The dependency ratio contrasts the number of working-age (15-64) individuals compared to the number of individuals age 65 and older who are likely retired from the workforce. This ratio reflects the ongoing contributions of taxes and wages to support the health care and retirement systems used by retirees, as well as the availability of younger individuals to serve as caregivers to older loved ones.



Source: BEBR, 2024

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8 Financial Profile

This section examines financial conditions, poverty rates, and the cost of living for older Floridians. The ratio of income to poverty level graphic below shows the distribution of older adults relative to the poverty level to show the proportion of the senior population who fall below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The portrayal of the financial conditions of older adults is detailed in the final graphic, which includes information about income relative to rates of homeownership and partnership status in the consideration of cost of living.

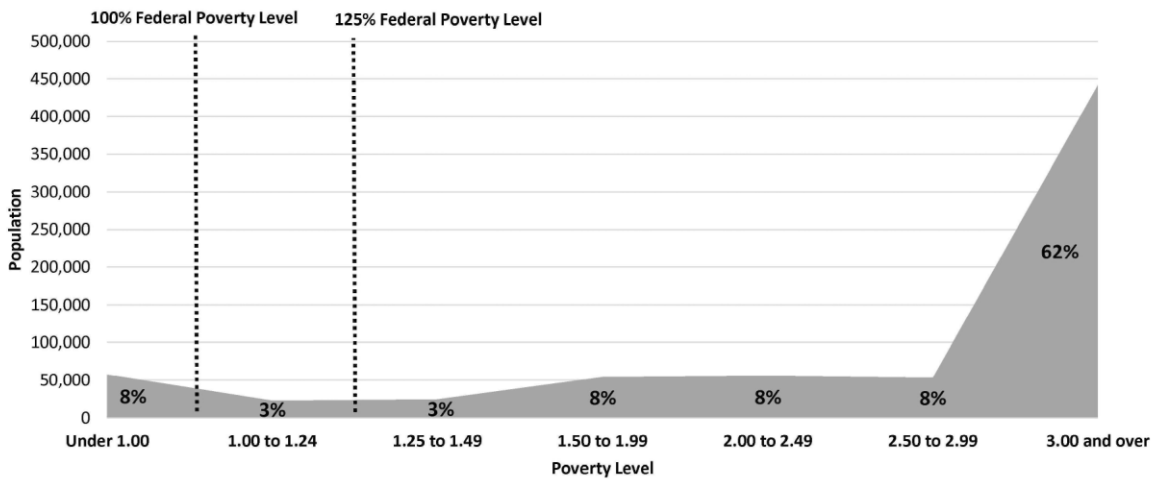
Federal Poverty Level	Value
Single-Person Household	\$15,650
Two-Person Household	\$21,150
125% Single-Person Household	\$19,563
125% Two-Person Household	\$26,438

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2025

Poverty (65+)	Value	Percent
At Poverty Level	50,940	8%
Below 125% of Poverty Level	68,860	11%
Minority At Poverty Level	5,279	1%
Minority Below 125% of Poverty Level	7,072	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

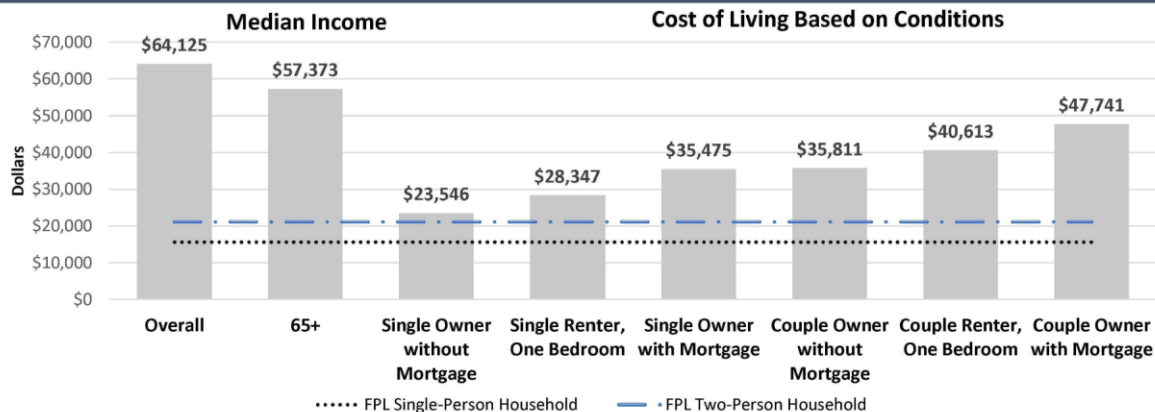
Ratio of Income to Poverty Level



Value is expressed as the percentage of the 60+ population, with the dotted lines representing the Federal Poverty Level.

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

Financial Conditions



Cost of living is an index of how much income retired older adults require to meet their basic needs to live in their community without assistance.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS and Elder Index, (2024). The Elder Index™ [Public Dataset]. Boston, MA: Gerontology Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston. Retrieved from F

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8 Livability Profile

The livability section presents new elements, such as available affordable housing for older adults. Many essential community elements are also included below, such as sidewalk safety, the safety of roadways, and availability of green spaces. The rates of older Floridians who have access to a vehicle or public transportation, as well as the availability of internet access and various food resources, are also provided. These provide estimates of older adults' ability to access community resources.

Pedestrian Safety Percent

Sidewalks with Barriers 41%

Physical barriers are those that separate motorized vehicle lanes from sidewalks or shared path (e.g. areas for parking lots, guardrail, trees, etc.).

Source: Florida Department of Transportation, 2025

Road Incidents Value

Total Involved in Fatal Car Crashes per 100,000 16

This figure includes occupants and non-occupants involved in a crash.

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, 2024

Age Friendly Designation Value

Age Friendly 2

Number of Counties 7

The following counties have received the designation: Collier, Sarasota

Source: Florida DOEA Livable Communities, 2021

Food Resource Centers Value

SNAP Access Sites 3

Fresh Access Bucks Outlet 13

Farmer's Market 17

Food Distribution (No Cost) 42

SNAP Retailers 1,239

Congregate Meal Sites 21

Food Distribution (No Cost) is the number of food pantries, soup kitchens, and food banks in the area.

Source: Feeding Florida, USDA, Food-Banks, DCF, FDACS, 2025;

Public Transportation Options Value

Bus Operations at least at the County 3

Rail Operations at least at the County 0

Public Transit Service Area (sq. mi.) 4,172

Public Transit Service Area Population 3,357,163

Annual Unlinked Trips 3,321,366

Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service (VOMS) 324

Total Miles of Bike Lanes 1,233

Information on service area is not reported by rural and intercity public transit.

VOMS are the number of vehicles operated to meet the annual max service, and unlinked trips are the number of passengers boarding public transit.

Source: Federal Transit Administration, 2023, and FDOT, 2023-2024

Green Space Value

Number of Nearby State Parks 15

Nearby refers to the park that has the shortest distance from the center of the county.

Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2025

Rural-Urban Designation Value

Census Tracts Rural 25%

Census Tracts Urban 75%

Number of Census Tracts 338

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2019

Households With High Cost Burden (65+) Value

Owner-Occupied Households 79,608

Percent of Owners with High Cost Burden 17%

Renter-Occupied Households 53,571

Percent of Renters with High Cost Burden 21%

Households with a high cost burden have occupants age 65+ paying more than 30% of income for housing costs and having an income below 50% of the area median income.

Source: The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, 2023, U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Affordable Housing Inventory Value

Properties 69

Properties Ready for Occupancy 69

Total Units 6,025

Units with Rent and/or Income Restrictions 5,447

Units Receiving Monthly Rental Assistance 2,018

Affordable housing inventory receives funding from HUD, Florida Housing Financing Corp., and the USDA. The inventory above includes older adults as its target population.

Source: The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, 2022-2023

Housing Units by Occupancy (65+) Percent

Owner-Occupied Housing Units 64%

Renter-Occupied Housing Units 34%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Vehicle Access (65+) Percent

Owner-Occupied Households with Access to Vehicle(s) 97%

Renter-Occupied Households with Access to Vehicle(s) 75%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Employment Status (65+) Value Percent

Number of Seniors Employed 251,046 41%

Number of Seniors Unemployed 9,551 2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Retirement (65+) Value Percent

Social Security Beneficiaries 505,945 87%

SSI Recipients 10,109 39%

SSI stands for Supplemental Security Income. To qualify, a person must be at least age 65 OR be blind or disabled. Also, the person must have limited income and resources.

Source: U.S. Social Security Administration, 2023

SNAP or Food Stamps Value

Potentially Eligible 68,860

Annual Participants 51,061

Current Beneficiaries as of Dec-24 39,640

Percent of Total Population Receiving Benefits 4%

Potentially Eligible are individuals below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, 2024

Internet Access (65+) Percent

Have Internet Access 83%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8 Health Profile and Medical Resources

The health and medical section presents the variety and availability of different types of facilities, medical professionals, and treatment services in the community. This includes complex estimates based on probable usage by older adults. For example, the "Medically Underserved" are areas designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty, or a high elderly population. Medical access and health support services information is an important area for community planners to ensure that support is in place to accommodate an older population.

Ambulatory Surgical Centers	Value
Facilities	74
Operating Rooms	180
Recovery Beds	524

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Hospitals	Value
Hospitals	29
Hospitals with Skilled Nursing Units	2
Hospital Beds	5,699
Skilled Nursing Unit Beds	93

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Medical Professionals	Value
Medical Doctors	
Licensed	5,369
Limited License	21
Critical Need Area License	28
Restricted	0
Medical Faculty Certification	3
Public Health Certificate	0
Other Professionals	
Licensed Podiatric Physicians	167
Licensed Osteopathic Physicians	953
Dentists	1,280
Licensed Registered Nurses	27,974
Pharmacies	486

Source: Florida Department of Health, 2025

Assisted Living Facility	Value
	15,652
Total ALF Beds	
Optional State Supplementation (OSS) Beds	459
Non-OSS Beds	15,193
Total ALF Facilities	225
Facilities with Extended Congregate Care License	30
Facilities with Limited Mental Health License	12
Facilities with Limited Nursing Service License	63

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Medically Underserved	Value	Percent
Total Medically Underserved	2,715	0%
Living in Areas Defined as Having Medically Underserved Populations	2,715	0%
Living in Medically Underserved Areas	0	0%

Source: Calculated using U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration and U.S. Census Bureau

Health Insurance 65+	Value	Percent
Insured	608,972	99%
Uninsured	3,949	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Disability Status (65+)	Value	Percent
With One Type of Disability	94,763	15%
With Two or More Disabilities	78,627	13%
Total With Any Disability		
Hearing	75,181	12%
Vision	25,364	4%
Cognitive	34,424	6%
Ambulatory	93,642	15%
Self-Care	27,053	4%
Independent Living	55,603	9%
With No Disabilities	459,255	75%
Probable Alzheimer's Cases, 2023 Projection (65+)	71,157	12%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS, 2023 One-Year Estimate

Medicaid & Medicare Beneficiaries	Value	Percent
60+ Medicaid Eligible	50,981	17%
60+ Dual Eligible	44,587	81%

Source: Florida AHCA, 2024

Adult Day Care (ADC)	Value
ADC Facilities	23
Capacity	1,334

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Home Health Agencies	Value
Agencies	255
Medicaid Certified Agencies	5
Medicare Certified Agencies	53
Homemaker and Companion Service Companies	133

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8 Health Profile and Medical Resources

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Use	Value
SNFs With Beds	71
Community Beds	68
Sheltered Beds	9
Veterans Administration Beds	1
Other Beds	0
SNF Beds	7,806
Community Beds	7,662
Sheltered Beds	697
Veterans Administration Beds	120
Other Beds	0
SNFs With Community Beds	68
Community Bed Days	2,660,956
Community Patient Days	2,133,382
Medicaid Patient Days	1,191,053
Occupancy Rate	80%
Percent Medicaid	56%

The day the patient is admitted is a patient day. A bed day is a day during which a person is confined to a bed and in which the patient stays overnight in a hospital.

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	Value
Providers	35

EMS providers include air ambulances and ambulances with Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Life Support (ALS).

Source: Florida Department of Health, 2025

Adult Family Care Homes	Value
Homes	26
Beds	119

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Memory Disorder Clinics	Value
Total	2

Source: Florida DOEA's Department Overview, 2024

Dialysis	Value
End-Stage Renal Disease Centers	49

Source: Florida AHCA, 2024

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8 Disaster Preparedness

The disaster preparedness section presents the count and percentage of people age 60 or older living in the legislative district that fall within particular storm surge evacuation zones, as well as the number of DOEA Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) clients who reside in these zones. The estimate of electricity-dependent individuals is presented by insurance type to show the number of people who use electricity-dependent medical equipment necessary for things such as survival or mobility. This information can also be used to evaluate the sufficiency of shelters, generators, and evacuation route roadways to handle the needs of seniors and medically fragile adults in emergencies.

Electricity-Dependent	Value
Medicare Beneficiary	18,894
Medicaid Beneficiary	299

Medicare beneficiary includes the entire Medicare population (65+ and SSI Recipients).

Medicaid beneficiaries are individuals age 60 to 64.

Source: Florida AHCA, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024, and U.S. Department of Health

Shelter Resources	Value
Number of General Shelters	81
General Shelter Max Capacity in People	42,957
Number of Special Needs Shelters	6
Special Needs Shelters Max Capacity in People	3,024

Source: FDEM, 2024

Evacuation Zones	Value	Percent
DOEA HCBS Clients	2,190	100%
Zone A	390	18%
Zone B	404	18%
Zone C	335	15%
Zone D	345	16%
Zone E	144	7%
Lives in an Evac Zone and Has Memory Problems*	323	15%
Lives in an Evac Zone and Lives Alone*	762	35%

Zones are associated with the following surge heights: Zone A up to 11 feet, Zone B up to 15 feet, Zone C up to 20 feet, Zone D up to 28 feet, and Zone E up to 35 feet.

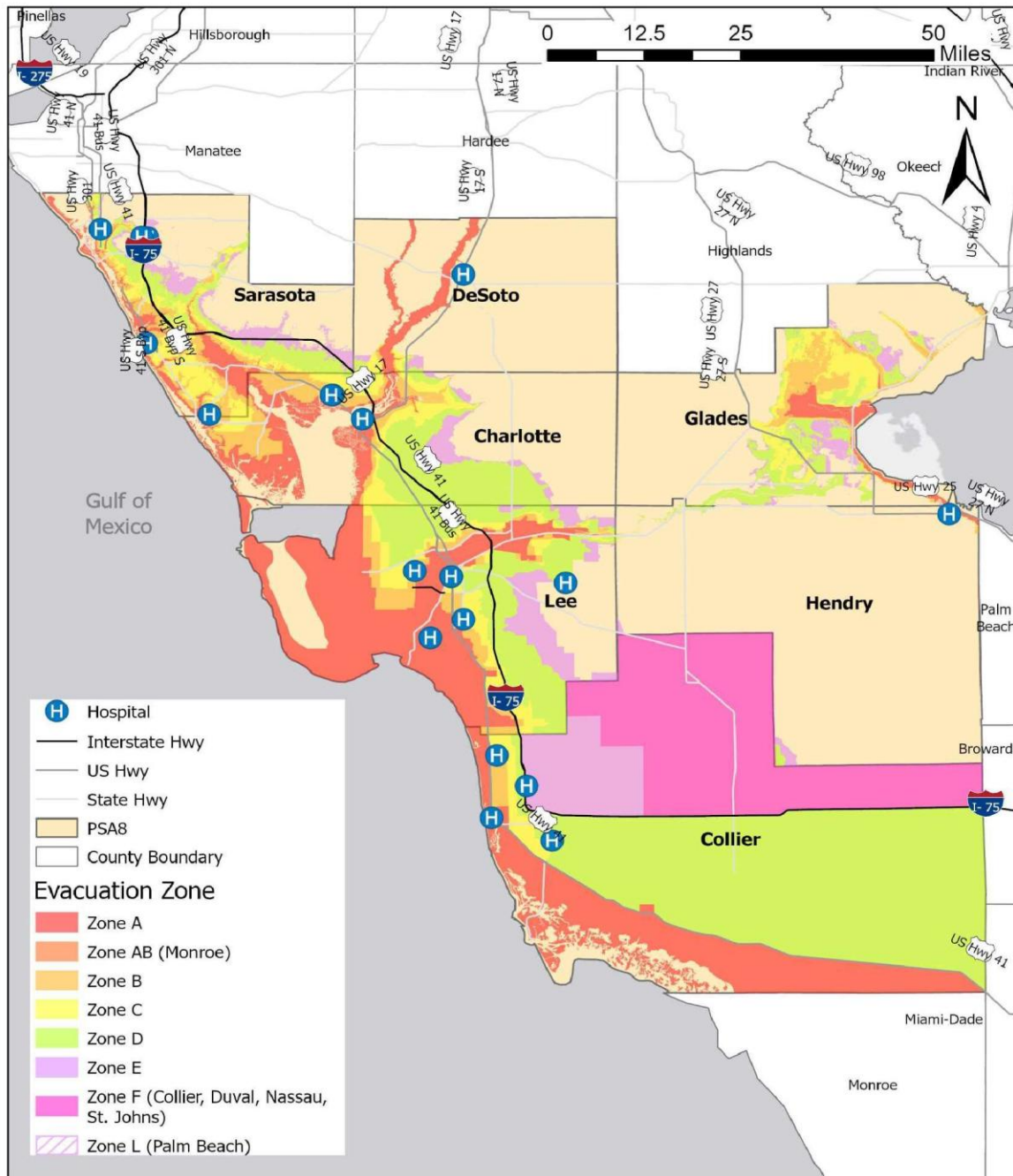
*Note: There are additional county-specific evacuation zones not listed on this table.

Source: Florida DOEA eCIRTS, 2025; ACS, Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), 2024

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 8 Disaster Preparedness

Evacuation Zones



Zones are associated with the following surge heights: Zone A up to 11 feet, Zone B up to 15 feet, Zone C up to 20 feet, Zone D up to 28 feet, and Zone E up to 35 feet.

Source: FDEM, 2024

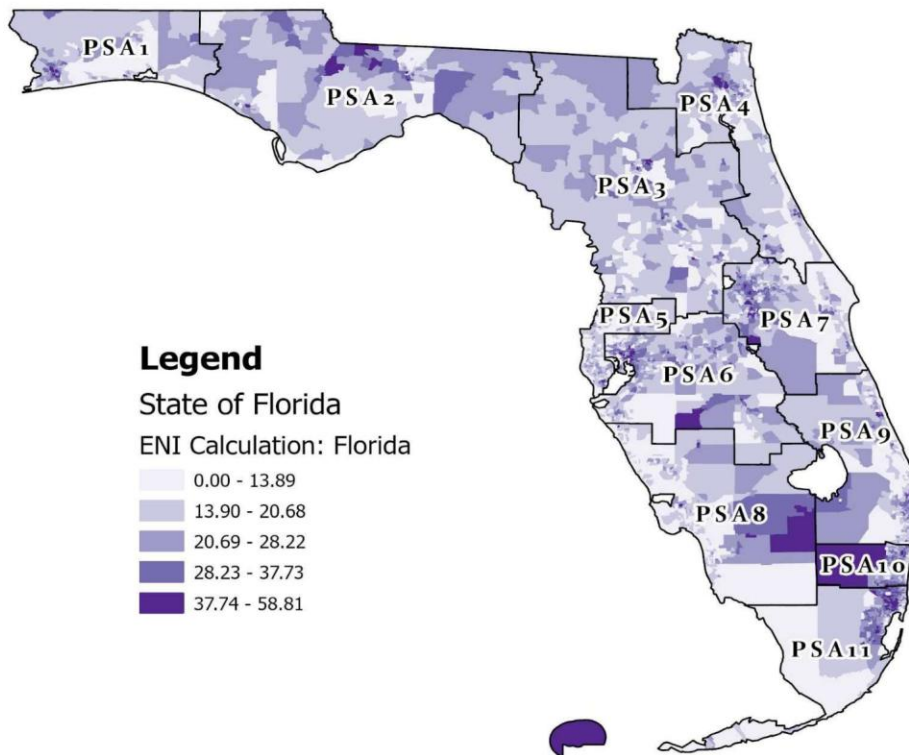
2025 Profile of Older Floridians

ri i

Florida

This profile of older Floridians is a source of current information related to older adults in the State of Florida. Topics include the current and future population of older adults, the prevalence of older adults who experience financial and housing issues, the array of health and medical resources, and information related to disasters. As Florida's older adult population grows, awareness of these issues is needed to ensure that older people continue to be vital participants in their communities.

Elder Needs Index



The Elder Needs Index (ENI) is a measure that includes: (1) the percentage of the 60 and older population that is age 85 and older; (2) the percentage of the 55 and older population that are members of racial or ethnic minority groups; (3) the percentage of the 65 and older population with one or more disability; and (4) the percentage of the 55 and older population living below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. ENI is an averaged score indicating older adults who may need social services within a geographic area. **It is not a percentage of the area's population.** The green areas of the map represent bodies of land such as national parks, state forests, wildlife management areas, and local and private preserves. The blue areas of the map represent bodies of water such as lakes, streams, rivers, and coastlines. Interactive maps, viewing software, and a detailed user's guide are available at http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/eni_home.php

Source: Florida Department of Elder Affairs using U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Useful Websites

Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)
U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA)
How to Become an Age Friendly Community

Florida Division of Emergency Management (Shelters)
Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse
County Chronic Disease Profile
Aging Integrated Database (AGID)
Florida DOEA ENI Maps

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Florida Demographic Profile

The demographics section presents the population characteristics of those age 60 and older and examines traits about older Floridians, such as the number of veterans, voters, and drivers.

Age Category	Value	Percent
All Ages	22,634,867	100%
Under 18	4,433,950	20%
Under 60	16,104,652	71%
18-59	11,670,702	52%
60+	6,530,215	29%
65+	4,964,356	22%
70+	3,509,507	16%
75+	2,289,064	10%
80+	1,314,248	6%
85+	660,123	3%

Source: BEBR, 2024

Gender	Value	Percent
Male	2,978,610	46%
Female	3,551,605	54%

Source: BEBR, 2024

Living Alone (65+)	Value	Percent
Male Living Alone	384,034	34%
Female Living Alone	730,478	66%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Educational Attainment (65+)	Value	Percent
Less than High School	568,032	11%
High School Diploma	1,293,290	26%
Some College, No Degree	853,244	17%
Associates Degree or Higher	1,632,291	33%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Marital Status	Male	Female
Never Married	182,345	174,684
Percentage Never Married	7%	6%
Married	1,831,430	1,546,440
Percentage Married	69%	50%
Widowed	233,465	802,175
Percentage Widowed	9%	26%
Divorced	406,575	585,660
Percentage Divorced	15%	19%

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

Race and Ethnicity	Value	Percent
White	5,622,958	86%
Black	746,192	11%
Other Race	161,065	2%
Total Hispanic	1,123,921	17%
White Hispanic	1,045,557	16%
Non-White Hispanic	78,364	1%
Total Non-Hispanic	5,406,294	83%
Total Minority	1,952,814	30%

The minority population includes black, other, and Hispanic.

Source: BEBR, 2024

Driver License Holders	Value	Percent
Drivers	6,014,868	32%

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, 2024

Registered Voters	Value	Percent
Registered Voters	6,098,678	39%

Source: Florida Department of State, 2024

Percentage calculation is based on total registered voters.

Veterans	Value	Percent
Age 45-64	435,484	39%
Age 65-84	573,594	51%
Age 85+	117,949	10%

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2023

Grandparents	Value	Percent
Living With Grandchildren	300,623	5%
Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren	73,947	1%
Grandparent Not Responsible for Grandchildren	226,685	3%
Not Living With Grandchildren	5,367,165	82%

Grandchildren are defined as being under the age of 18.

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

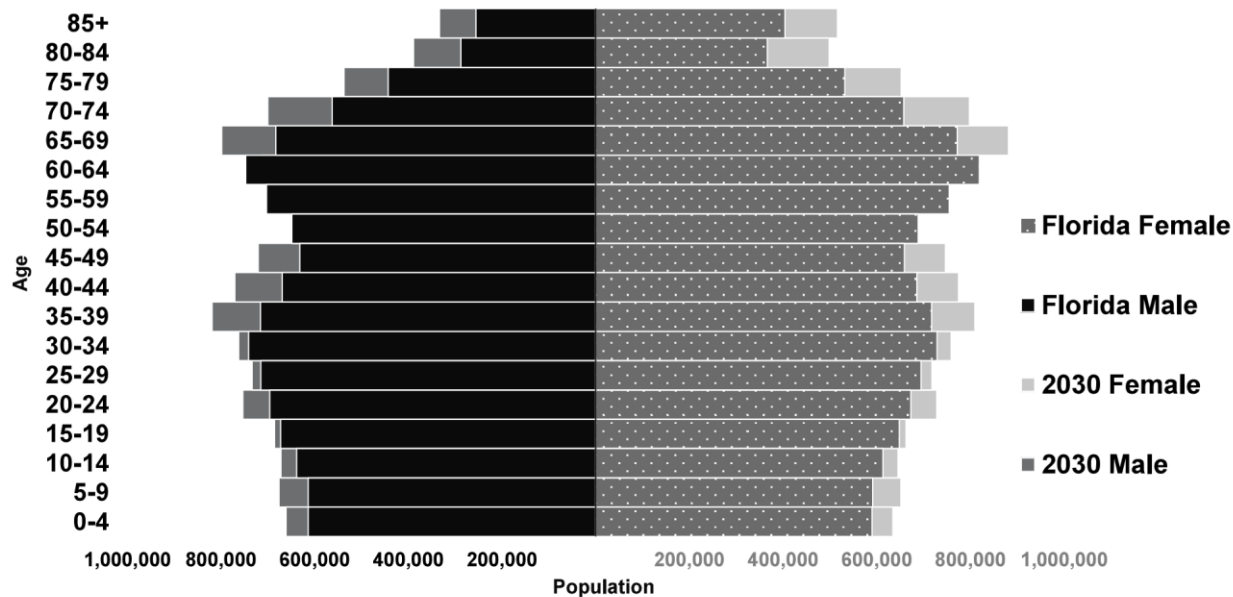
English Proficiency	Value	Percent
With Limited English Proficiency (65+)	368,940	7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Florida Demographic Profile

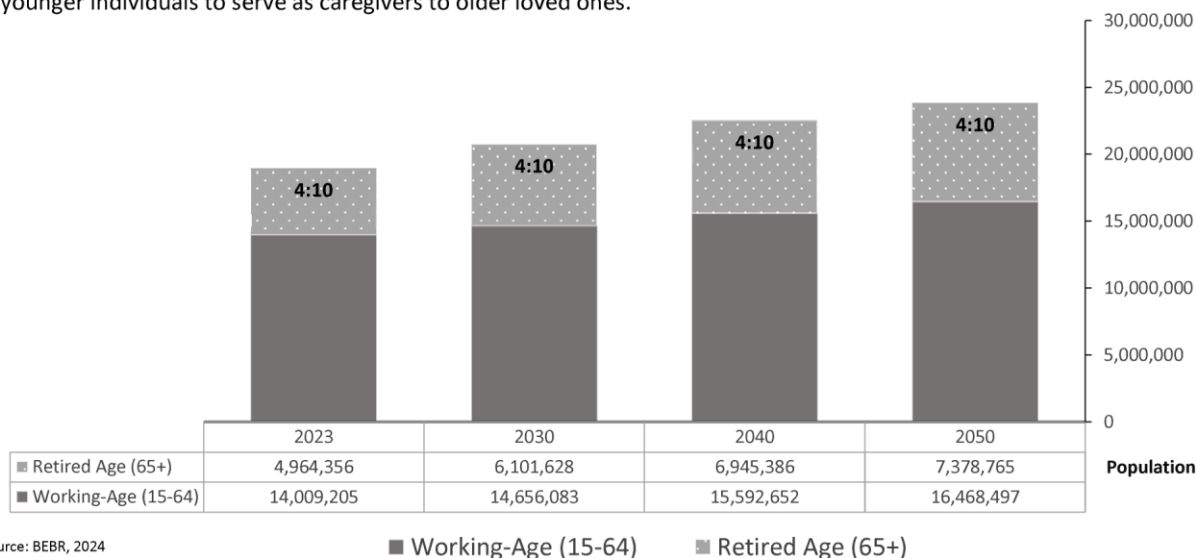
The population pyramid below compares the projected older adult population by gender between 2023 and 2030, demonstrating the changes expected in the next decade. As a whole, Florida is expected to experience population growth, with some areas expecting notable growth in the proportion of those age 65 and older.



Source: BEBR, 2024

Older Adult Dependency Ratio

The dependency ratio contrasts the number of working-age (15-64) individuals compared to the number of individuals age 65 and older who are likely retired from the workforce. This ratio reflects the ongoing contributions of taxes and wages to support the health care and retirement systems used by retirees, as well as the availability of younger individuals to serve as caregivers to older loved ones.



Source: BEBR, 2024

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Florida Financial Profile

This section examines financial conditions, poverty rates, and the cost of living for older Floridians. The ratio of income to poverty level graphic below shows the distribution of older adults relative to the poverty level to show the proportion of the senior population who fall below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The portrayal of the financial conditions of older adults is detailed in the final graphic, which includes information about income relative to rates of homeownership and partnership status in the consideration of cost of living.

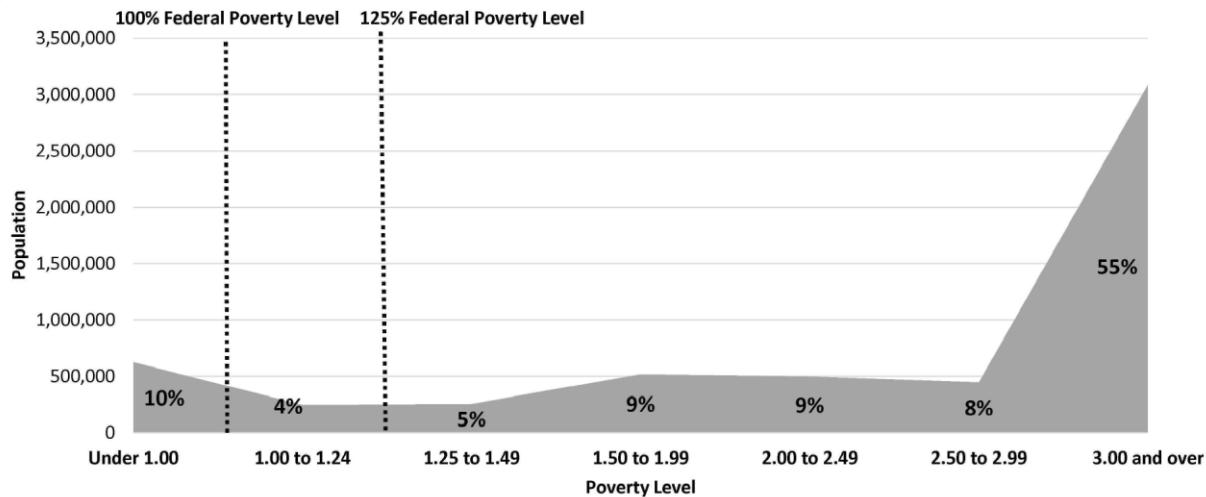
Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Value
Single-Person Household	\$15,650
Two-Person Household	\$21,150
125% Single-Person Household	\$19,563
125% Two-Person Household	\$26,438

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2025

Poverty (65+)	Value	Percent
At Poverty Level	514,775	10%
Below 125% of Poverty Level	707,244	14%
Minority At Poverty Level	151,149	3%
Minority Below 125% of Poverty Level	204,783	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

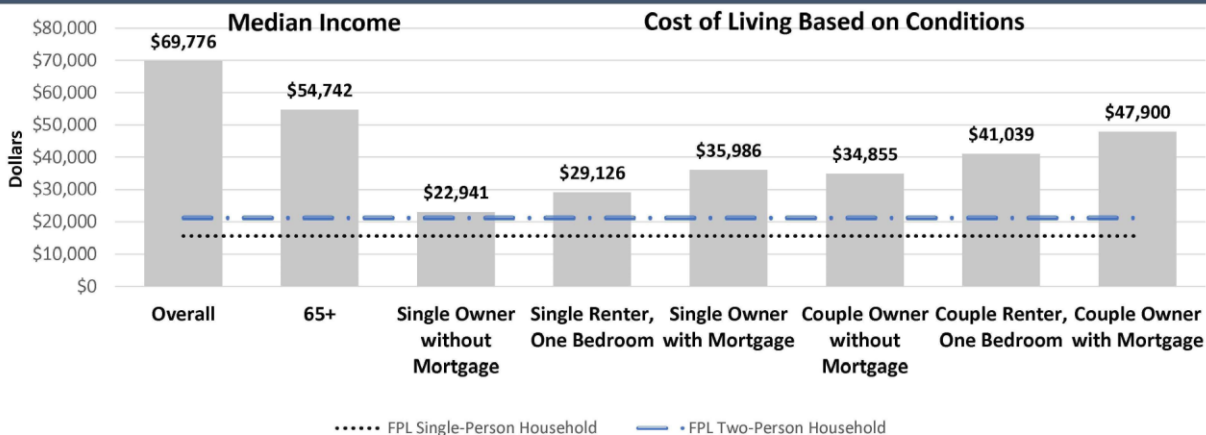
Ratio of Income to Poverty Level



Value is expressed as the percentage of the 60+ population, with the dotted lines representing the Federal Poverty Level.

Source: AGID 2017-21 ACS

Financial Conditions



Cost of living is an index of how much income retired older adults require to meet their basic needs to live in their community without assistance.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS, AGID 2017-21 ACS, and Elder Index, (2024). The Elder Index™ [Public Dataset]. Boston, MA: Gerontology Institute, University of Massachusetts

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Florida Livability Profile

The livability section presents new elements, such as available affordable housing for older adults. Many essential community elements are also included below, such as sidewalk safety, the safety of roadways, and availability of green spaces. The rates of older Floridians who have access to a vehicle or public transportation, as well as the availability of internet access and various food resources, are also provided. These provide estimates of older adults' ability to access community resources.

Pedestrian Safety Percent

Sidewalks with Barriers 29%

Physical barriers are those that separate motorized vehicle lanes from sidewalks or shared path (e.g. areas for parking lots, guardrail, trees, etc.).

Source: Florida Department of Transportation, 2025

Road Incidents Value

Total Involved in Fatal Car Crashes per 100,000 14

This figure includes occupants and non-occupants involved in a crash.

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, 2024

Volunteering Value

Number of Volunteers 1,297,439

Total Hours 111,747,802

Average Number of Hours per Volunteer 86

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023. CPS-Volunteer Supplemental and Civic Life

Food Resource Centers Value

SNAP Access Sites 41

Fresh Access Bucks Outlet 115

Farmer's Market 147

Food Distribution (No Cost) 393

SNAP Retailers 15,106

Congregate Meal Sites 382

Food Distribution (No Cost) is the number of food pantries, soup kitchens, and food banks in the area.

Source: Feeding Florida, USDA, Food-Banks, DCF, FDACS, 2025;

Public Transportation Options Value

Bus Operations at least at the County 33

Rail Operations at least at the County 11

Public Transit Service Area (sq. mi.) 22,048

Public Transit Service Area Population 25,523,397

Annual Unlinked Trips 184,421,497

Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service (VOMS) 10,483

Total Miles of Bike Lanes 10,444

Information on service area is not reported by rural and intercity public transit.

VOMS are the number of vehicles operated to meet the annual max service, and unlinked trips are the number of passengers boarding public transit.

Source: Federal Transit Administration, 2023, and FDOT, 2023-2024

Green Space Value

Number of Nearby State Parks 226

Nearby refers to the park that has the shortest distance from the center of the county.

Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2025

Rural-Urban Designation Value

Census Tracts Rural 19%

Census Tracts Urban 81%

Number of Census Tracts 4,209

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2019

Households With High Cost Burden (65+) Value

Owner-Occupied Households 775,326

Percent of Owners with High Cost Burden 18%

Renter-Occupied Households 802,429

Percent of Renters with High Cost Burden 23%

Households with a high cost burden have occupants age 65+ paying more than 30% of income for housing costs and having an income below 50% of the area median income.

Source: The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, 2022, U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Affordable Housing Inventory Value

Properties 918

Properties Ready for Occupancy 918

Total Units 99,351

Units with Rent and/or Income Restrictions 94,803

Units Receiving Monthly Rental Assistance 35,310

Affordable housing inventory receives funding from HUD, Florida Housing Financing Corp., and the USDA. The inventory above includes older adults as its target population.

Source: The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, 2022-2023

Housing Units by Occupancy (65+) Percent

Owner-Occupied Housing Units 51%

Renter-Occupied Housing Units 24%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Vehicle Access (65+) Percent

Owner-Occupied Households with Access to Vehicle(s) 95%

Renter-Occupied Households with Access to Vehicle(s) 72%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Employment Status (65+) Value Percent

Number of Seniors Employed 2,593,166 52%

Number of Seniors Unemployed 98,969 2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Retirement (65+) Value Percent

Social Security Beneficiaries 4,149,920 82%

SSI Recipients 230,876 43%

SSI stands for Supplemental Security Income. To qualify, a person must be at least age 65

OR be blind or disabled. Also, the person must have limited income and resources.

Source: U.S. Social Security Administration, 2023

SNAP or Food Stamps Value

Potentially Eligible 707,244

Annual Participants 891,151

Current Beneficiaries as of Dec-24 720,398

Percent of Total Population Receiving Benefits 11%

Potentially Eligible are individuals below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, 2024

Internet Access (65+) Percent

Have Internet Access 84%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Florida Health Profile and Medical Resources

The health and medical section presents the variety and availability of different types of facilities, medical professionals, and treatment services in the community. This includes complex estimates based on probable usage by older adults. For example, the "Medically Underserved" are areas designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty, or a high elderly population. Likewise, the number of Silver Alerts is provided, which is the number of reported missing persons 60 and older, with a verified cognitive impairment known to law enforcement, such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Medical access and health support services information is an important area for community planners to ensure that support is in place to accommodate an older population.

Silver Alerts	Value
Number of Silver Alerts	8

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2024

Ambulatory Surgical Centers	Value
Facilities	540
Operating Rooms	1,412
Recovery Beds	4,640

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Hospitals	Value
Hospitals	341
Hospitals with Skilled Nursing Units	7
Hospital Beds	72,607
Skilled Nursing Unit Beds	356

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Medical Professionals	Value
Medical Doctors	
Licensed	61,659
Limited License	83
Critical Need Area License	1,027
Restricted	0
Medical Faculty Certification	70
Public Health Certificate	0
Other Professionals	
Licensed Podiatric Physicians	1,577
Licensed Osteopathic Physicians	9,419
Dentists	14,675
Licensed Registered Nurses	345,064
Pharmacies	6,646

Source: Florida Department of Health, 2025

Assisted Living Facility	Value
Total ALF Beds	117,147
Optional State Supplementation (OSS) Beds	16,161
Non-OSS Beds	100,986
Total ALF Facilities	2,965
Facilities with Extended Congregate Care License	170
Facilities with Limited Mental Health License	702
Facilities with Limited Nursing Service License	415

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Medically Underserved	Value	Percent
Total Medically Underserved	56,628	1%
Living in Areas Defined as Having Medically Underserved Populations	44,205	1%
Living in Medically Underserved Areas	12,423	0%

Source: Calculated using U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration and U.S. Census Bureau

Health Insurance 65+	Value	Percent
Insured	4,479,733	99%
Uninsured	49,110	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS

Disability Status (65+)	Value	Percent
With One Type of Disability	718,210	14%
With Two or More Disabilities	739,722	15%
Total With Any Disability		
Hearing	569,772	11%
Vision	261,694	5%
Cognitive	349,385	7%
Ambulatory	891,177	18%
Self-Care	292,622	6%
Independent Living	545,211	11%
With No Disabilities	3,229,335	65%
Probable Alzheimer's Cases, 2023 Projection (65+)	512,725	10%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS, 2023 One-Year Estimate

Medicaid & Medicare Beneficiaries	Value	Percent
60+ Medicaid Eligible	875,614	20%
60+ Dual Eligible	777,801	83%

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Adult Day Care (ADC)	Value
ADC Facilities	448
Capacity	27,616

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Home Health Agencies	Value
Agencies	2,637
Medicaid Certified Agencies	54
Medicare Certified Agencies	566
Homemaker and Companion Service Companies	2,349

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Florida Medical Resources

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Use	Value
SNFs With Beds	696
Community Beds	683
Sheltered Beds	48
Veterans Administration Beds	8
Other Beds	3
SNF Beds	85,646
Community Beds	84,749
Sheltered Beds	4,026
Veterans Administration Beds	952
Other Beds	432
SNFs With Community Beds	683
Community Bed Days	30,219,754
Community Patient Days	25,922,372
Medicaid Patient Days	16,060,768
Occupancy Rate	86%
Percent Medicaid	62%

The day the patient is admitted is a patient day. A bed day is a day during which a person is confined to a bed and in which the patient stays overnight in a hospital.

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers	Value
	324

EMS providers include air ambulances and ambulances with Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Life Support (ALS).

Source: Florida Department of Health, 2025

Adult Family Care Homes	Value
Homes	215
Beds	1,004

Source: Florida AHCA, 2025

Memory Disorder Clinics	Value
Total	17

Source: Florida DOE's Department Overview, 2024

Dialysis	Value
End-Stage Renal Disease Centers	543

Source: Florida AHCA, 2024

Florida Disaster Preparedness

The disaster preparedness section presents the count and percentage of people age 60 or older living in the legislative district that fall within particular storm surge evacuation zones, as well as the number of DOEA Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) clients who reside in these zones. The estimate of electricity-dependent individuals is presented by insurance type to show the number of people who use electricity-dependent medical equipment necessary for things such as survival or mobility. This information can also be used to evaluate the sufficiency of shelters, generators, and evacuation route roadways to handle the needs of seniors and medically fragile adults in emergencies.

Electricity-Dependent	Value
Medicare Beneficiary	194,686
Medicaid Beneficiary	4,804

Medicare beneficiary includes the entire Medicare population (65+ and SSI Recipients).

Medicaid beneficiaries are individuals age 60 to 64.

Source: Florida AHCA, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024, and U.S. Department of Health

Shelter Resources	Value
Number of General Shelters	1,991
General Shelter Max Capacity in People	977,070
Number of Special Needs Shelters	189
Special Needs Shelters Max Capacity in People	45,171

Source: FDEM, 2024

Evacuation Zones	Value	Percent
DOEA HCBS Clients	69,914	100%
Zone A	3,637	5%
Zone B	5,116	7%
Zone C	4,458	6%
Zone D	5,773	8%
Zone E	5,475	8%
Lives in an Evac Zone and Has Memory Problems*	4,261	6%
Lives in an Evac Zone and Lives Alone*	10,666	15%

Zones are associated with the following surge heights: Zone A up to 11 feet, Zone B up to 15 feet,

Zone C up to 20 feet, Zone D up to 28 feet, and Zone E up to 35 feet.

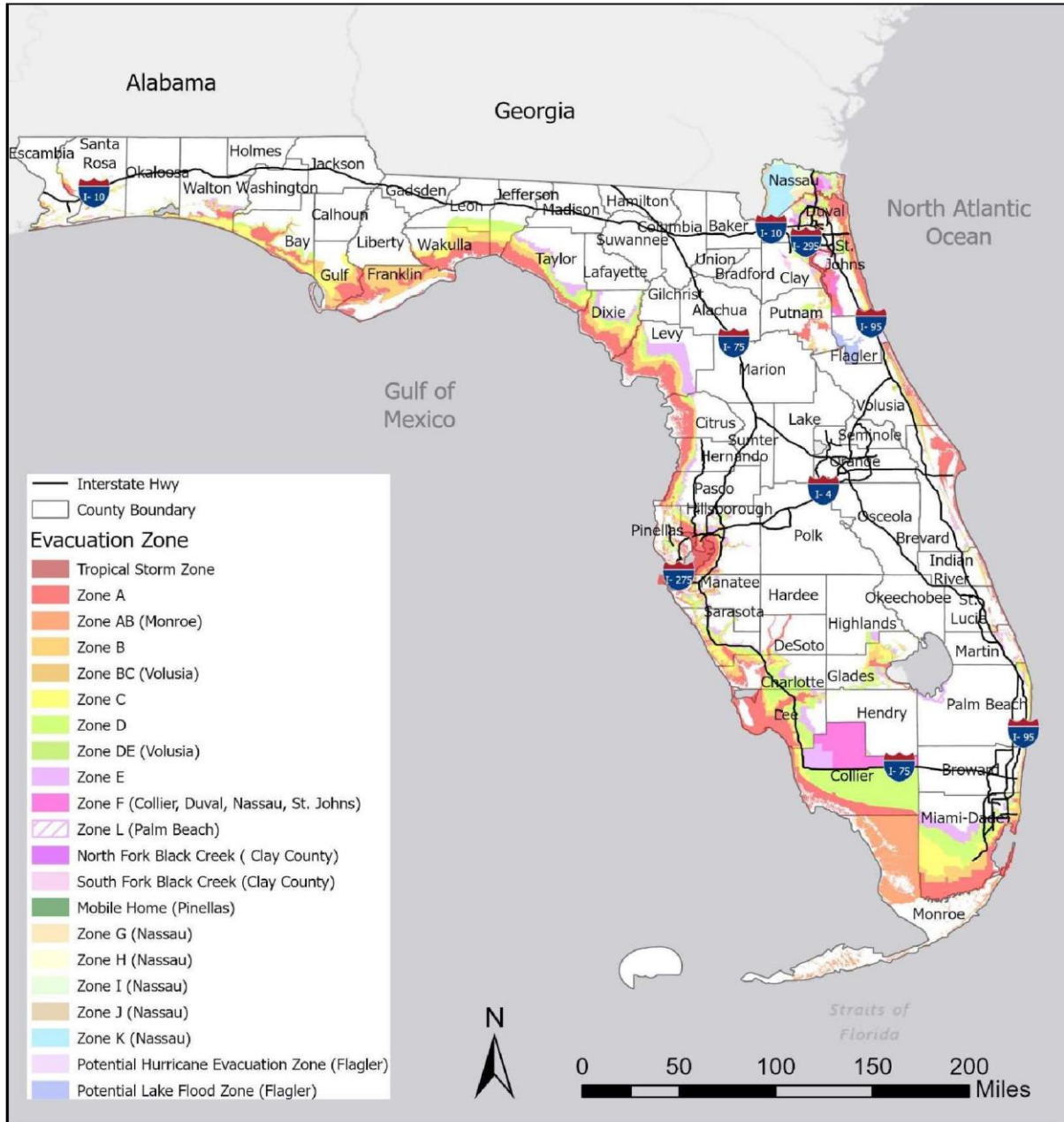
*Note: There are additional county-specific evacuation zones not listed on this table.

Source: Florida DOE eCIRTS, 2025; Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), 2024

2025 Profile of Older Floridians

Florida Disaster Preparedness

Evacuation Zones



Zones are associated with the following surge heights: Zone A up to 11 feet, Zone B up to 15 feet, Zone C up to 20 feet, Zone D up to 28 feet, and Zone E up to 35 feet.

Source: FDEM, 2024

Volunteering with SHINE

SHINE volunteers make a difference in the lives of Florida families every day.

As a SHINE volunteer, you serve your community by providing Medicare and health insurance information, counseling, and assistance in person or over the phone. Our volunteers provide program support by delivering educational presentations and distributing promotional materials in their local communities. SHINE volunteers also work to strengthen our network by recruiting, training, and serving as leaders to other volunteers.

SHINE volunteers receive professional training from the Department of Elder Affairs and the local Aging and Disability Resource Center. Volunteering with SHINE provides an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people, and gain knowledge about Medicare. Our volunteers experience the pride of being part of an award-winning team and the personal fulfillment of helping others.

To begin volunteering with SHINE, you will need to complete an application, participate in SHINE training, and agree to uphold the integrity of the SHINE Program.



Contacting SHINE

4040 Esplanade Way, Suite 270
Tallahassee, FL 32399-7000

1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337)
Se Habla Español

TDD/TTY: 1-800-955-8770
Fax: 850-414-2150

Email: information@elderaffairs.org

ELDERAFFAIRS.ORG



 Like us on
Facebook

Visit SHINE Online

Like us on Facebook to keep up with the latest news. On the SHINE website, you can submit a volunteer application; complete orientation; and find counseling sites, upcoming events, and Program fact sheets.

FLORIDASHINE.ORG



**KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS**

Serving Health
Insurance
Needs Of Elders

MEDICARE



CONFIDENTIAL

TRUSTED

Contact us for free, unbiased health
insurance counseling.

The SHINE Program

The SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Program provides Medicare and health insurance counseling and information from an unbiased source. SHINE's services are available to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers.

SHINE counselors can do the following:

- Help you understand your Medicare benefits;
- Help you choose the Medicare Prescription Drug plan that best fits your needs;
- Answer your questions about Medigap, long-term care insurance policies, and other health insurance programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities;
- Assist you with your Medicare claims and appeals and other Medicare issues;
- Give you details about benefits available in your area and refer you to other helpful programs; and
- Offer educational presentations.

SHINE counselors are committed to helping you make informed choices regarding your Medicare benefits. Counselors are not affiliated with any insurance company and will not attempt to sell you insurance. All counseling records are strictly confidential.

Senior Medicare Patrol

The SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) Program empowers seniors to prevent Medicare fraud.

Protect, Detect, and Report

PROTECT Protect yourself from Medicare errors, fraud, and abuse. Protecting your personal information is the best defense.

DETECT Learn to detect potential errors, fraud, and abuse. Even when you do everything right, there is a chance that you could be a target of Medicare fraud.

REPORT If you suspect that you have been a victim of Medicare fraud, report it immediately. Contact a SHINE SMP volunteer at 1-800-96-ELDER.

MIPPA Program

Paying for Medicare can be costly, but it doesn't have to be. The MIPPA (Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers Act) Program may be able to help you. Benefits are available for qualified Medicare beneficiaries to help them save money on the following:

- Monthly Part D Drug Plan premiums;
- Co-pays for prescriptions;
- Monthly Medicare Part B premiums;
- Co-pays for Medicare services and visits; and
- Medicare deductibles.

Partnership Opportunities

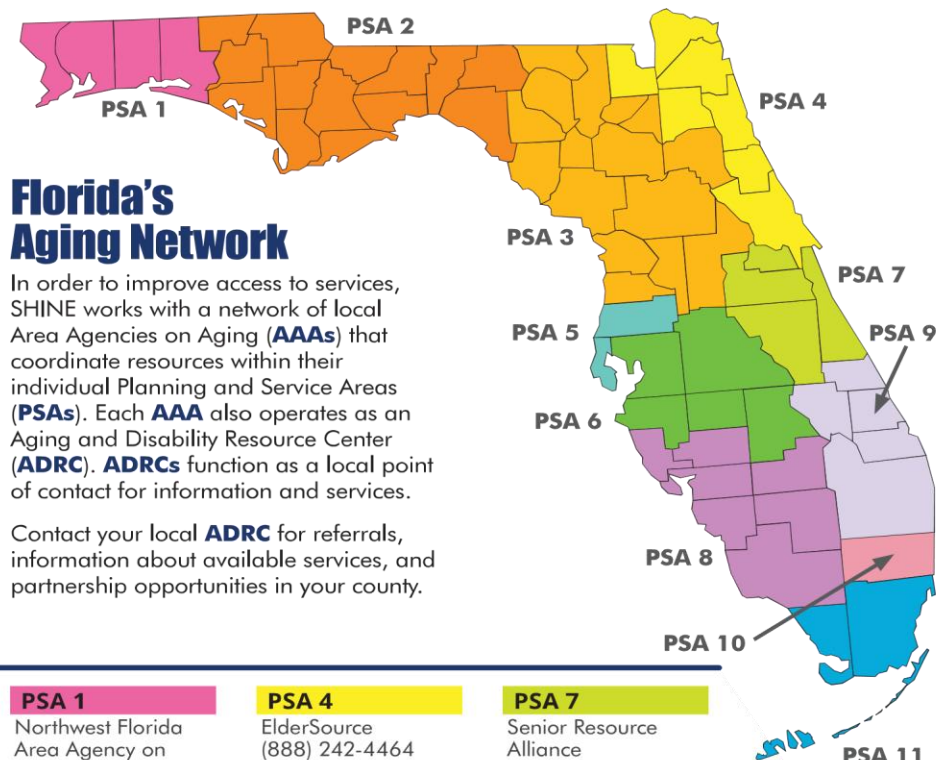
SHINE partners with a wide variety of organizations, including state and municipal agencies, senior centers, and libraries.

As a SHINE partner, you can support program outreach by distributing educational materials or displaying informative fliers at your location. Partners also assist by connecting their own clients or consumers who may benefit from SHINE services to the Program and may even complete the training to provide counseling services. SHINE partners can host presentations, trainings, and counseling sessions. Partners can also help to grow our SHINE network by recruiting SHINE volunteers and other partners.

In return, SHINE will publicize its partnership with your organization and provide education for your staff about SHINE, Medicare, and other benefit programs. SHINE counselors will provide your clients or consumers with Medicare and health insurance information in person or over the phone. SHINE can also offer your organization public presentations on a variety of Medicare topics.

PSA

Planning & Service Area



Florida's Aging Network

In order to improve access to services, SHINE works with a network of local Area Agencies on Aging (**AAAs**) that coordinate resources within their individual Planning and Service Areas (**PSAs**). Each **AAA** also operates as an Aging and Disability Resource Center (**ADRC**). **ADRCs** function as a local point of contact for information and services.

Contact your local **ADRC** for referrals, information about available services, and partnership opportunities in your county.

PSA 1

Northwest Florida Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
(866) 531-8011

PSA 2

Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc.
(866) 467-4624

PSA 3

Elder Options
(800) 262-2243

PSA 4

ElderSource
(888) 242-4464

PSA 5

Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc.
(727) 217-8111

PSA 6

Senior Connection Center, Inc.
(800) 336-2226

PSA 7

Senior Resource Alliance
(800) 936-2372

PSA 8

Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida
(866) 413-5337

PSA 9

Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast
(866) 684-5885

PSA 10

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County, Inc.
(954) 745-9779

PSA 11

Alliance for Aging, Inc.
(305) 671-6356

Health & Wellness

Free Programs with the
Area Agency on Aging
for SWFL



workshops@aaaswfl.org

Helpline: 866-413-5337





Register for a **FREE** Health & Wellness Workshop to:

- **Ease stress**
- **Reduce pain**
- **Build strength**
- **Improve balance**
- **Self-Manage Chronic Conditions**

Contact us today to register
for a class in your area!

866-413-5337

239.652.6914

workshops@aaaswfl.org



Workshops in Charlotte, Collier,
DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee, &
Sarasota Counties



**Area
Agency
on Aging**

FOR SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Workshops Led by Certified Volunteers



Contact us to
get involved!

For information about
how to become a
certified volunteer:
239.652.6914

Evidence-based Programs to Support Healthy Living



- ◊ Build community
- ◊ Increase mobility
- ◊ Decrease fear of falls
- ◊ Engage in self-care

LOW IMPACT EXERCISE

- ◆ Tai Chi for Arthritis & for Falls Prevention
- ◆ Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program
- ◆ Walk with Ease
- ◆ Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance

CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS

- ◆ Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- ◆ Savvy Caregivers

SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

- ◆ Chronic Disease Self-Management
- ◆ A Matter of Balance



Better care starts with self care.

Are you a family member, friend or neighbor that helps someone with things like bathing, dressing, errands, taking medication, or even getting to appointments?

If you help at all, YOU are a caregiver!

We use TCARE (TAILORED CAREGIVER ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL), a caregiver assessment tool that focuses on the needs of the family caregiver. Through a series of questions, we can find those areas of stress that can lead to caregiver burnout. An individualized care plan is then created to help the family caregiver manage their role and identify as a caregiver. Our staff will help you get connected to services such as support groups, counseling, caregiver support and education, financial assistance, benefits counseling, and respite to reduce those stressors.

TCARE has helped more than 100,000 people just like YOU!



Improved overall health of caregiver and care receiver by 84%

Reduced nursing home/assisted living facility placement by 18-24 months



Reduced clinical depression, stress burdens, and financial concerns

We know that being a family caregiver can be very demanding and stressful.

We are here to help. You are not alone! Please contact us to get connected to a Caregiver Specialist, or take a brief [online screening](#) to begin the enrollment process for TCARE.

To get started, visit:
aaaswfl.org
Helpline: 866-413-5337



Elder 
Affairs
FLORIDA

5. Healthy Start Coalition of SWFL

Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to reducing infant deaths and premature births as well as promoting healthy developmental outcomes for babies and young children. We have served families in Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades counties since 1992.

Our system of care includes several critical programs:

Connect – Coordinated Intake & Referral

CAPTA home visiting for substance-exposed newborns

Help Me Grow developmental screenings and care coordination Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

TEAM Dad fatherhood home visiting
Bank

Healthy Start home visiting

Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting

Southwest Florida Regional Diaper

1. Thank you for the additional \$3.4 million in recurring funds for Florida Healthy Start statewide!
 - a. Additional funds will impact Lee County families by enabling us to hire more home visitors who can each serve an additional 35-40 families.
2. SWFL successes from FY 2024/2025
 - a. Local infant mortality and premature birth outcomes for families who received the full home visiting intervention were 0 per 1,000 live births and 7.3% of all live births compared to the Florida rate of 6 per 1,000 live births and 10.7% of all live births.
 - b. 15,500 families served in Connect, Healthy Start home visiting, and TEAM Dad in FY 24/25
 - c. 1.1 million diapers distributed in 2024 to home visiting clients and community partner sites
 - d. \$5.63 million leveraged funds above and beyond your legislative funds (additional home visiting and care coordinating on contracts for services, private & local funding, and donated in-kind goods)
3. Challenges
 - a. Local prenatal care access in Lee
 - i. Only 58% of all births had access to first-trimester prenatal care (3-year rolling average)
4. Looking ahead

- a. Supporting clinics in the move from paper to the electronic universal prenatal screen that is offered at the first prenatal appointment

Thank you again for your consistent support for Florida mothers, fathers, and babies!

Meredith Narayanan – Executive Director

Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida 1921 Jefferson Avenue, Fort Myers,
FL 33901

Phone: 239-425-6920 www.HealthyStartBaby.org

6. Children's

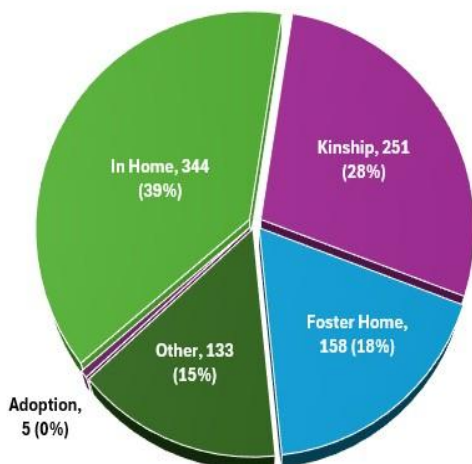


Network of SWFL
Lee County
Legislative
Delegation

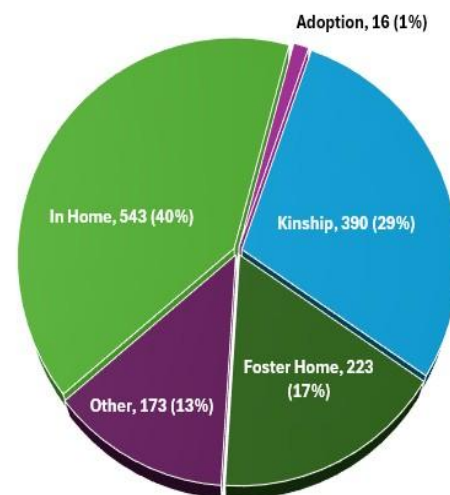
Nadereh Salim, MBA

October 28, 2025

Lee County Children Served by Programs
Total: 891



C20 Children Served by Programs
Total: 1345



Data Source: FSFN BOE Extracts Repository (Correctional Placement, Missing Child, Medical-Mental

Hospital, Group

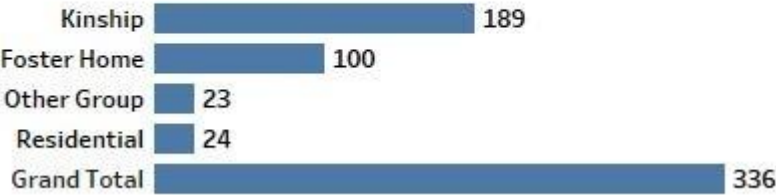
FY 2024-25

Home, Residential Treatment, EFC Placement) as of June 30, 2025



What placement setting do youth go to?

Lee County - July 2024- June 2025 Total: 336



Least Restrictive

↓

Most Restrictive

(Other Group: Medical-Mental Hospitalization, Missing Child)

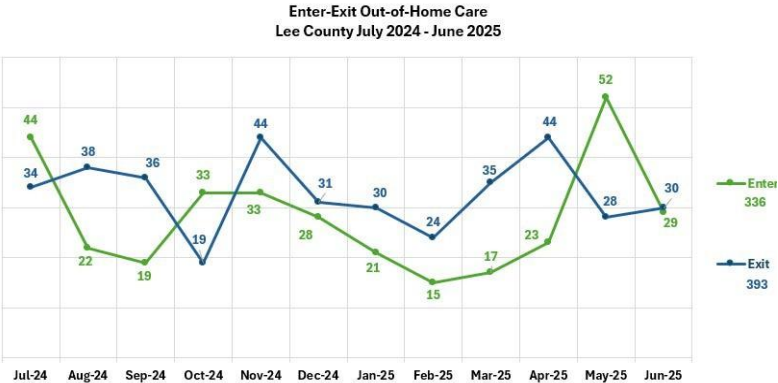
Why do youth enter Out of Home Care?

Top 5 Reasons for Entry into Out of Home Care

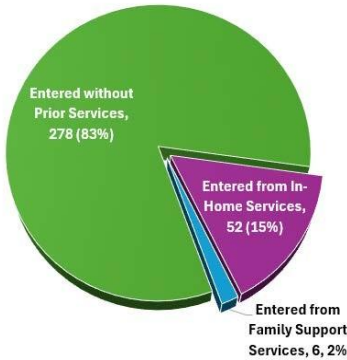
Lee County July 2024 - June 2025

1	Drug Abuse Parent	144
2	Inadequate Supervision	186
3	Domestic Violence	144
4	Inadequate Housing	84
5	Caretakers Inability to Cope	49

(Note: Youth may have more than one)

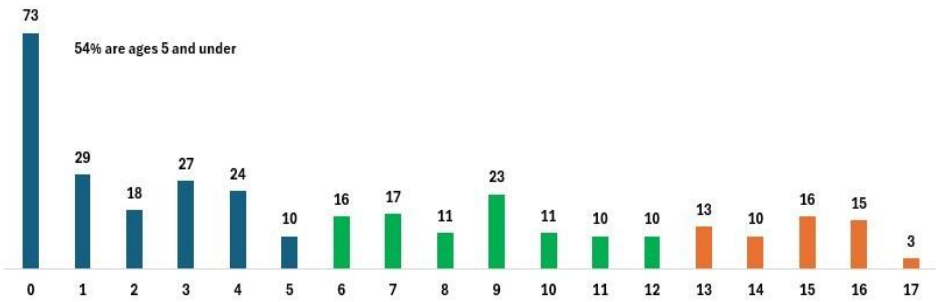


Entered without Prior Services with In-Home or Family Support Services: 83%



Who are the youth that enter Out-of-Home care?

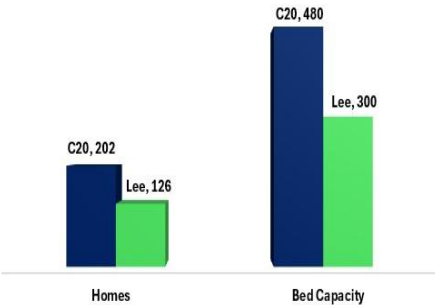
Lee County July 2024 - June 2025 Total: 336



Dually Served Youth				
County	DJJ MOST SERIOUS REFERRAL	Felony	Misdemeanor	Grand Total
Lee	Agg Assault and-or Battery	12		12
	Armed Robbery	1		1
	Arson	1		1
	Assault and or Battery (not aggravated)		6	6
	Auto Theft	1		1
	Burglary	4		4
	Fel Drug Laws	2		2
	Fel Vandalism	1		1
	Grand Larceny(excluding auto theft)	1		1
	Loitering and Prowling		1	1
	Other Fel Sex Offenses	2		2
	Sexual Battery	2		2
	Weapon or Firearm Offenses	1		1
	Lee Total	28	7	35
85% of the most serious referral types were Felons				

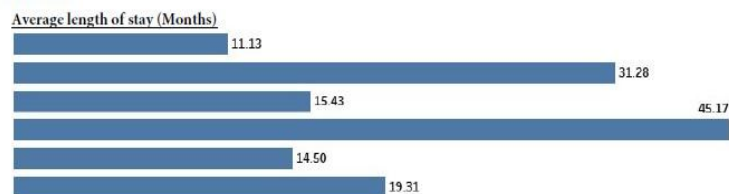
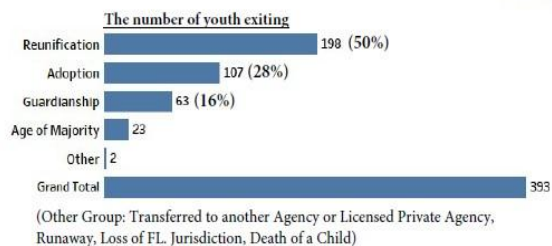
(Data Source: DCF DJJ Joint listing as of September 2024)

Foster Homes & Bed Capacity

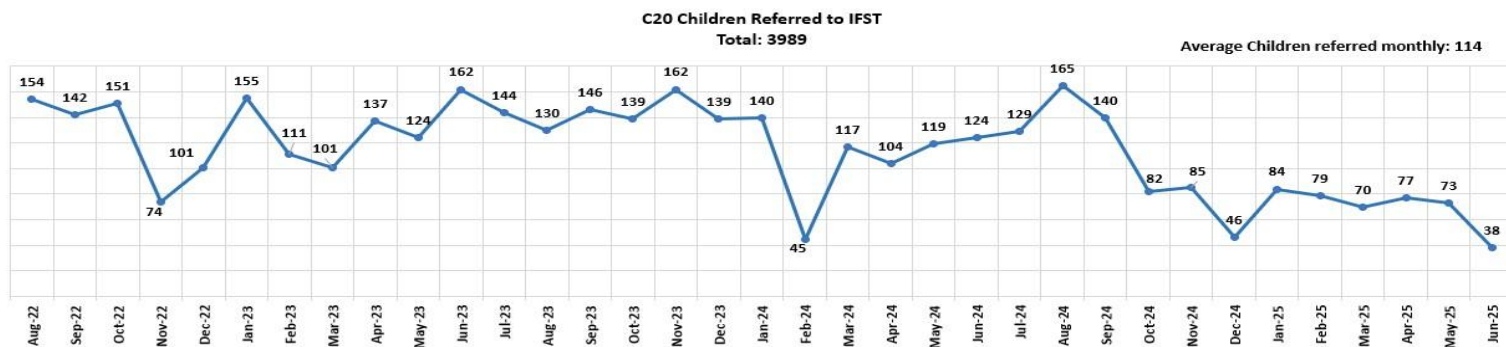




Exits from Out of Home Care 94% exit the system to a Permanent Family
 Lee County- July 2024 to June 2025 Total: 393



Adoptions Finalized 2004 to date: 3245



Children's Network of Southwest Florida developed IFST in 2018 to address the number of children being removed and entering the foster care system. An intensive approach to services and supervision for non-judicial, in-home cases to stabilizing families with support of a multi-disciplinary team.

CNSWFL Case Management Scorecard Performance

Score Card Metrics	Measure Description	Standard	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
M1	Children with no recurrence of verified maltreatment within 12 months of a prior verified maltreatment.	≥90.3%	93.55%	95.95%	98.84%	94.74%	90.41%	97.42%	95.65%	94.17%	97.62%	97.27%	96.18%	92.59%
M2	Children achieving permanency within 12 months of entering care.	≥35.2%	32.73%	40.35%	51.92%	41.03%	42.86%	65.52%	44.68%	62.00%	34.38%	52.00%	29.55%	27.27%
M3	Children achieving permanency within 12 months for children in Out-of-home care between 12 and 23 months.	≥43.8%	59.04%	59.94%	61.88%	64.83%	65.31%	65.27%	63.25%	63.16%	64.26%	64.52%	66.19%	64.42%
M4	Children achieving permanency within 12 months for children in Out-of-home care for 24 months or more.	≥30%	53.22%	55.46%	55.32%	56.96%	55.84%	57.51%	55.41%	53.39%	51.87%	50.67%	53.56%	51.09%
M5	Children who do not re-enter foster care within 12 months of moving to a permanent home.	≥94.4%	92.52%	92.49%	94.76%	94.76%	94.76%	95.24%	95.24%	95.24%	94.74%	94.74%	94.74%	94.88%
M6	Percent of children not abused or neglected while in out-of-home care.	≤9.07	0.00	0.00	6.33	0.00	0.00	6.74	3.65	10.43	7.42	7.30	0.00	0.00
M7	Percent of children not abused or neglected while receiving in-home services.	≥98%	99.25%	99.41%	99.72%	99.73%	99.87%	99.37%	99.74%	99.24%	99.62%	99.72%	99.05%	99.72%
M8	Percent of children under supervision who are seen every 30 days.	≥99.5%	99.55%	99.95%	99.85%	99.95%	100.00%	99.50%	99.90%	99.89%	99.84%	99.84%	99.95%	99.88%
M9	Percent of cases with caseworker visits with parents monthly.	≥80%	42.45%	47.45%	53.00%	54.55%	52.36%	50.70%	56.84%	52.03%	44.64%	53.18%	51.14%	54.61%
M10	Children's placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care.	≤4.5	6.78	6.14	6.14	5.57	5.4	5.46	5.55	5.85	6.21	6.18	6.10	5.67
M11	Percent of children placed with relatives or nonrelatives.	≥60%	54.55%	55.53%	54.27%	52.60%	52.03%	50.98%	52.32%	52.64%	49.82%	50.12%	50.25%	48.85%
M12	Percent of sibling groups where all siblings are placed together.	≥65%	60.96%	60.73%	59.45%	57.87%	56.94%	58.71%	58.46%	58.73%	56.08%	54.97%	56.68%	55.38%
M13	Number of children with finalized adoptions during each state fiscal year.	189 yearly goal	87	108	126	138	149	173	188	200	14	32	48	52
M14	Percent of children in out-of-home care who received medical services in the last twelve months.	≥95.0%	97.64%	98.51%	98.19%	96.79%	97.85%	98.52%	98.60%	98.24%	97.87%	97.00%	95.69%	95.81%
M15	Percent of children in out-of-home care who received dental services in the last seven months.	≥95.0%	95.18%	97.75%	95.49%	96.58%	97.81%	97.55%	96.61%	97.96%	97.59%	96.89%	96.11%	95.81%
M16	Percent of Young Adults Exiting Foster Care at Age 18 Completed/Enrolled in Secondary/Vocational/Adult Education.	≥80.0%	94.87%	95.00%	93.94%	94.44%	95.12%	97.06%	97.14%	97.14%	93.75%	94.29%	91.89%	90.32%

7. Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation



To protect and care for Southwest Florida's coastal ecosystems.

18

State Legislative Priorities

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) is a non-profit, science-based organization that is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of Sanibel and Captiva islands, our watersheds, and surrounding waters.

Community Self-Governance

- SCCF supports **Home Rule** and opposes any statewide pre-emption policies that would restrict the ability of local governments ability to protect our natural resources.
- SCCF supports a legislative fix to undue the burdensome restrictions from **SB 180** that prevent local leaders from protecting their communities.
- SCCF supports maintaining the public's ability to meaningfully participate in agency permitting decisions and opposes automatically awarding prevailing parties attorney's fees in such cases.
- SCCF supports protecting the ability of the public to participate in self-governance.

Conservation

- SCCF supports statutorily increased dedicated funding for the **Florida Forever** conservation and recreation lands program. Land conservation is critical for supporting Florida's tourism and nature-based economy.
- SCCF supports the protection of existing conservation lands and aquatic preserves.

Ecosystem Restoration

- SCCF supports prioritizing funding and expediting the **Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area**. The EAA Reservoir Project is critical for reducing the damaging high-volume discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries and rehydrating the Everglades.
- SCCF supports **full funding for Everglades restoration** to keep projects on track with the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS). Everglades restoration is essential to improve the health of the Caloosahatchee.
- SCCF will strongly oppose any effort to limit, weaken or rollback wetland protection efforts defined in the Federal 404 program.
- SCCF will strongly **oppose introduction or expansion of mitigation programs** that allow for the destruction of wetlands, mangroves, seagrass, or other fragile ecosystems.

Water Quality

3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel FL 33957 • (239) 472-2329

- SCCF opposes weakening permitting requirements for development in wetlands, coastal high-hazard areas and other sensitive locations to ensure that adequate protections remain in place for natural resources.
- SCCF continues to support the passage of the **Safe Waterways Act** and will work with legislative sponsors and statewide partners to reintroduce legislation to keep Floridians informed about the health of their waterways.
- SCCF supports further improvements to **statewide stormwater standards** for development to meaningfully reduce runoff of pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended solids to protect water quality.

Harmful Algal Blooms

- SCCF supports the reduction of manmade nutrients into our waterways through voluntary programs such as **BMPs** and **Septic to Sewer Conversions**, as well as enhanced regulatory protections for our waters, and increased enforcement of current regulations.
- SCCF supports implementation and funding of the **Blue-Green Algae Taskforce** recommendations to address nutrient sources and innovative technologies to mitigate blooms.
- SCCF supports **FWC's Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force** and funding for research and monitoring of red tide and other harmful algal blooms in Florida's coastal waters.

Resiliency

- SCCF supports **protections to net metering** and other incentives to the implementation of roof-top solar for individuals
- SCCF supports the monitoring of the implementation of the **Resilient Florida Program** to ensure that grant funding is being spent thoughtfully on solutions to climate change
- SCCF continues to support a **ban on oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico** and a transition to energy sources that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- SCCF will support incentivizing diverse energy sources to make our state more resilient.

3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel FL 33957 • (239) 472-2329