



Apalachee • Central Florida  
East Central Florida • Emerald Coast  
North Central Florida • Northeast Florida • South Florida  
Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

## Florida Regional Planning Councils - SB 62 Fact Sheet

We oppose Senate Bill 62 because it removes authorization and all references to the 10 Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) from Florida Statutes. Senate Bill 62 will result in:

- **The loss of a regional convener** to guide community leaders in collaborative efforts to develop regional visions linking business development, job creation, infrastructure, environment, land use, and transportation.
- **The loss of a neutral platform and qualified technical staff** to address issues of regional impact that frequently involve multiple cities and counties, as well as the public and private sector on diverse challenges such as broadband, resiliency, rural mobility, and disaster recovery.
- **The loss of technical support and grant administration** for Florida's communities will decrease access to state and federal grant opportunities for smaller cities and counties.

As Florida's only multipurpose regional entities, RPCs have served the regions and citizens of the state of Florida for over five decades. Whether coastal or inland, urban or rural, north, central, or south each region has unique needs, and each RPC is attuned and positioned to serve these needs. Governed by local boards with comprehensive representation from member governments, RPCs are nimble and able to respond to emerging local and regional concerns and opportunities.

### **Some of the recent projects by Regional Planning Councils that are benefiting Florida and its communities include:**

- All 10 RPCs have joined together, led by the Northeast Florida RC, to conduct **Statewide Regional Evacuation planning**.
- Tampa Bay RPC researchers have been working to **eliminate racial equity gaps**, an effort which "could add up to 375,000 new jobs and \$50 billion to the regional economy."
- The Apalachee RPC is exploring hemp cultivation to **boost the regional agriculture sector diversification**.
- The Central Florida RPC manages a fleet of vehicles and administers over \$3 million annually in rural transit funds and provides **mobility coordination for six rural counties**.
- Governor Ron DeSantis recently awarded \$2 million in grants to three RPCs as part of an effort "to develop or enhance state, regional, or local plans which will enable the state of Florida to **withstand future disasters**."

### **2020-21 Financial Impact supporting Florida and its communities in the following areas:**

#### **Economic Development - \$4,767,840**

RPCs are designated as federal **Economic Development Districts** providing access to federal economic development funding, and technical assistance to local governments and private businesses for creation and expansion of infrastructure and jobs. Between 2016-2020 the E.D.A. invested **\$138,000,000** in Florida, funding more than **55 projects** in coordination with RPCs.

#### **COVID-19 Impacted Business Revolving Loan Fund - \$7,480,000**

The South Florida and Apalachee RPCs secured a **\$5.9 million** and a **\$1.58 million** respectively in revolving loan funds from E.D.A. to provide **capital to businesses impacted by COVID-19**.

#### **Resilience - \$6,354,570**

RPCs are partners in resilience efforts coordinating **regional resilience coalitions** and compacts bringing together regional and local governments with the private sector to address the **impacts of sea level rise** and climate change.

#### **Transportation - \$6,358,615**

RPCs provide planning for **Transportation Disadvantaged Programs** in half the counties in Florida; staff **Metropolitan or Transportation Planning Organizations**; administer **rural transit programs**; and coordinate **commuter services for employers**.

#### **Emergency Preparedness - \$3,618,806**

RPCs staff **Local Emergency Planning Committees**; support **training and site visits** related to hazardous waste sites; and prepare the award-winning **Statewide Regional Evacuation Study**,