

## Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

**Date of Meeting:** May 7, 2024

**Date Submitted:** April 23, 2024

**To:** Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

**From:** Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
T.J. Lewis, Economic Development Director

**Subject:** Approval of the Florida Department of Commerce Agreement #P0478 Providing the County with State Funding for the reassessment and update of the Gadsden County Economic Development Plan

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item seeks Board approval of the Florida Department of Commerce Agreement #P0478 (the “Agreement”) (Attachment 1) providing County with \$59,475.50 in State funding to complete a review of existing economic development and resiliency documents, facilitate public participation efforts to undertake outreach and engagement with residents and prepare an action-oriented economic development and resiliency plan.

### **Background:**

These funds were awarded to the County pursuant to section 163.3168, Florida Statutes (“F.S.”), and Specific Appropriation 2341, Chapter 2023-239 Laws of Florida, the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant program which provides direct or indirect assistance to help Florida communities find create solutions to fostering vibrant, healthy communities while protecting the functions of important state resources and facilities. The agreement will be effective when signed by both parties and will expire June 30, 2024, unless otherwise amended or terminated pursuant to the Agreement’s terms and conditions.

The Agreement Scope of Work sets forth the deliverables and budget as follows:

### **Deliverable 1. Initial Needs Assessment - \$29,737.75:**

*Due: May 15, 2024*

1. Provide a copy of a subcontract, amendment to a subcontract, or notice.
2. Provide data on economic trends.
3. Conduct [at least] two BOCC meetings to gather stakeholder and community recommendations.

**Update:** As of April 19, 2024, the Department of Economic Development on behalf of the BOCC has conducted 4 of 5 stakeholder and community meetings to solicit plan recommendations. The 5<sup>th</sup> and final public meeting for this deliverable will be held May 1, 2024 at 6:00p at the Gadsden County Extension Center.

**Deliverable 2. Economic Development Plan - \$29,737.75:**

*Due: June 30, 2024*

1. Provide the final Economic Development Plan.

**Analysis:**

Gadsden County was awarded the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant to complete a review of existing economic development and resiliency documents, facilitate public participation efforts to undertake outreach and engagement with residents, and prepare an action-oriented economic development and resiliency plan on August 15, 2023 by the Florida Department of Commerce (Attachment 1). Program Staff with the Florida Department of Commerce provided the Final Scope of Work and Grant Agreement for County BOCC execution on April 22, 2024 (Attachment 2).

Gadsden County has selected *Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)* to:

- Lead Gadsden County with Planning activities required under the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant, including but not limited to research, outreach, workshops and creation of an Economic Development plan for Gadsden County.
- Provide Coordination and Administrative support services to Gadsden County as needed and requested, if relevant to the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant.

The ARPC shall be paid by Gadsden County a total fee of \$59,475.00 in the form of a fixed-fee contract for services rendered under an associated agreement between ARPC and the Gadsden County BOCC (Attachment 3).

**Fiscal Impact:**

+ \$59,475.00 (Grant Awarded)

**Options:**

1. Approve the Florida Department of Commerce Agreement #P0478 providing the County with State funding for the reassessment and update of the Gadsden County Economic Development Plan and associated agreements and authorize the Chairman to sign all related documents.
2. Do not approve.
3. Board direction.

**County Administrator's Recommendation:**

Option 1.

**Attachment(s):**

1. Award Letter
2. Final Scope of Work and Grant Agreement
3. Agreement Between the ARPC and Gadsden County

August 15, 2023

Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., Chairman  
Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
9-B East Jefferson Street  
Quincy, Florida 32353

Re: State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Competitive Florida Partnership Grant

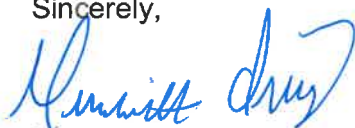
Dear Chairman NeSmith:

Thank you for your interest in the Florida Department of Commerce's Competitive Florida Partnership Grant Program through the Bureau of Community Planning and Growth.

I am pleased to inform you that your application was selected for funding in the amount of \$59,475.50. We look forward to working with you on the Competitive Florida Partnership grant program. Program staff will be in contact with you to finalize the scope of work and execute the grant agreement for your project. Invoices for any work specifically related to the grant project performed on and after July 1, 2023 (the beginning of the grant period), will be eligible for reimbursement after the grant agreement has been fully executed. If for any reason the grant agreement is not executed by both parties, cost reimbursement for work performed will not be available.

If you have any questions, please contact Joshua Askey, Competitive Florida Partnership Program Manager, by telephone at (850) 717-8506 or by email at [Joshua.Askey@Commerce.fl.gov](mailto:Joshua.Askey@Commerce.fl.gov).

Sincerely,



Meredith Ivey, Deputy Secretary  
Division of Community Development

MI/cb

cc: Cristin Beshears, Agreement Manager, Florida Department of Commerce  
Caroline Smith, Economic Development Manager, Apalachee Regional Planning Council

**COMPETITIVE FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP  
GRANT AGREEMENT  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**THIS GRANT AGREEMENT** (“Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between the State of Florida, Department of Commerce (“Commerce”), and **Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners** (“Grantee”). Commerce and Grantee are sometimes referred to herein individually as a “Party” and collectively as “the Parties.”

**WHEREAS**, Commerce has the authority to enter into this Agreement and distribute State of Florida funds (“Award Funds”) in the amount and manner set forth in this Agreement and in the following Attachments incorporated herein as an integral part of this Agreement:

- **Attachment 1:** Scope of Work
- **Attachment 1-A:** Grant Agreement Final Closeout Form
- **Attachment 2 and Exhibit 1 to Attachment 2:** Audit Requirements
- **Attachment 3:** Audit Compliance Certification
- **Attachment 4:** 15 Ways to Make Florida Communities More Competitive

**WHEREAS**, the Agreement and its aforementioned Attachments are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Agreement”, and if any inconsistencies or conflict between the language of this Agreement and its Attachments arise, then the language of the Attachments shall control, but only to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency;

**WHEREAS**, Grantee hereby represents and warrants that Grantee’s signatory to this Agreement has authority to bind Grantee to this Agreement as of the Effective Date and that Grantee, through its undersigned duly authorized representative in his or her official capacity, has the authority to request, accept, and expend Award Funds for Grantee’s purposes in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement;

**NOW THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the covenants and obligations set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties intending to be legally bound hereby agree to perform the duties described herein in this Agreement as follows:

**A. AGREEMENT PERIOD**

This Agreement is effective as of July 1, 2023, (the “Effective Date”) and shall continue until the earlier to occur of (a) June 30, 2024, (the “Expiration Date”) or (b) the date on which either Party terminates this Agreement (the “Termination Date”). The period of time between the Effective Date and the Expiration Date or Termination Date is the “Agreement Period”.

**B. FUNDING**

This Agreement is a **cost reimbursement** Agreement. Commerce shall pay Grantee up to **Fifty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$59,475.50)** in consideration for Grantee’s performance under this Agreement. Commerce, in its sole and absolute discretion, may provide Grantee an advance of Award Funds under this Agreement. Travel expenses are authorized under this Agreement. Grantee shall submit bills for such travel expenses and shall be reimbursed only in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes (“F.S.”), and the Invoice Submittal

Procedures delineated in Attachment 1: Scope of Work. Commerce shall not pay Grantee's costs related to this Agreement incurred outside of the Agreement Period. In conformity with s. 287.0582, F.S., the State of Florida and Commerce's performance and obligation to pay any Award Funds under this Agreement is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature. Commerce shall have final unchallengeable authority as to both the availability of funds and what constitutes an "annual appropriation" of funds. Grantee shall not expend Award Funds for the purpose of lobbying the Legislature, the judicial branch, or a state agency. Grantee shall not expend Award Funds to pay any costs incurred in connection with any defense against any claim or appeal of the State of Florida or any agency or instrumentality thereof (including Commerce); or to pay any costs incurred in connection with the prosecution of any claim or appeal against the State of Florida or any agency or instrumentality thereof (including Commerce), which Grantee instituted or in which Grantee has joined as a claimant. Grantee shall either (i) maintain Award Funds in a separate bank account, or (ii) expressly designate in Grantee's business records and accounting system that the Award Funds originated from this Agreement. Grantee shall not commingle Award Funds with any other funds. Commerce may refuse to reimburse Grantee for purchases made with commingled funds. Grantee's costs must be in compliance with all laws, rules, and regulations applicable to expenditures of State funds, including the Reference Guide for State Expenditures ([https://myfloridacfo.com/docs-sf/accounting-and-auditing-libraries/state-agencies/reference-guide-for-state-expenditures.pdf?sfvrsn=b4cc3337\\_2](https://myfloridacfo.com/docs-sf/accounting-and-auditing-libraries/state-agencies/reference-guide-for-state-expenditures.pdf?sfvrsn=b4cc3337_2)).

#### C. ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

Within 30 calendar days of the date the last Party has signed this Agreement, Grantee shall enroll in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from the State's Chief Financial Officer. Copies of the Authorization form and a sample blank enrollment letter can be found on the vendor instruction page at: <https://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/AA/Vendors/>. Questions should be directed to the EFT Section at (850) 413-5517. Once enrolled, EFT shall make invoice payments.

#### D. RENEGOTIATION OR MODIFICATION

The Parties agree to renegotiate this Agreement if federal and/or state revisions of any applicable laws or regulations make changes to this Agreement necessary. In addition to changes necessitated by law, Commerce may at any time, with written notice to Grantee, make changes within the general scope and purpose of this Agreement, at Commerce's sole and absolute discretion. Such changes may include modifications of the requirements, changes to processing procedures, or other changes as decided by Commerce. Grantee shall be responsible for any due diligence necessary to determine the impact of each aforementioned modification or change. Any Grantee requests for modification of this Agreement must be in writing and duly signed and dated by all Parties in order to be valid and enforceable.

#### E. AUDITS REQUIREMENTS AND COMPLIANCE

**1. Section 215.97, Florida Statutes ("F.S."): Grantee shall comply with all applicable provisions of s. 215.97, F.S., and Attachment 2 and Exhibit 1 to Attachment 2: Audit Requirements.** Grantee shall perform the deliverables and tasks set forth in Attachment 1, Scope of Work. Grantee may only expend Award Funds for allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during the Agreement Period. Grantee shall refund to Commerce any: (1) balance of unobligated Award Funds which have been advanced or paid to Grantee; or (2) Award Funds paid in excess of the amount to which Grantee is entitled under the terms and conditions of this Agreement and Attachments hereto, upon expiration or termination of this Agreement.

2. **Audit Compliance.** Grantee understands and shall comply with the requirements of s. 20.055(5), F.S. Grantee agrees to reimburse the State for the reasonable costs of investigation the Inspector General or other authorized State official incurs for investigations of Grantee's compliance with the terms of this or any other agreement between the Grantee and the State which results in the suspension or debarment of Grantee. Grantee shall not be responsible for any costs of investigations that do not result in Grantee's suspension or debarment.

#### F. RECORDS AND INFORMATION RELEASE

1. **Records Compliance.** Commerce is subject to the provisions of chapter 119, F.S., relating to public records. Any document Grantee submits to Commerce under this Agreement may constitute public records under the Florida Statutes. Grantee shall cooperate with Commerce to comply with the requirements of chapter 119, F.S. Grantee shall respond to requests to inspect or copy such records in accordance with chapter 119, F.S. for records made or received by Grantee in connection with this Agreement. Grantee shall immediately notify Commerce of the receipt and content of any request by sending an e-mail to [PRRequest@commerce.fl.gov](mailto:PRRequest@commerce.fl.gov) within one (1) business day after receipt of such request. Grantee shall indemnify, defend, and hold Commerce harmless from any violation of Florida's public records laws wherein Commerce's disclosure or nondisclosure of any public record was predicated upon any act or omission of Grantee. As applicable, Grantee shall comply with Section 501.171, F.S. Commerce may terminate this Agreement if Grantee fails to comply with Florida's public records laws. Grantee shall allow public access to all records made or received by Grantee in connection with this Agreement, unless the records are exempt from s. 24(a) of Article I of the State Constitution or s. 119.07(1), F.S.
2. **Identification of Records.** Grantee shall clearly and conspicuously mark all records submitted to Commerce if such records are confidential and exempt from public disclosure. Grantee's failure to clearly mark each record and identify the legal basis for each exemption from the requirements of chapter 119, F.S., prior to delivery of the record to Commerce serves as Grantee's waiver of a claim of exemption. Grantee shall ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for as long as those records are confidential and exempt pursuant to Florida law. If Commerce's claim of exemption asserted in response to Grantee's assertion of confidentiality is challenged in any court of law, Grantee shall defend, assume, and be responsible for all fees, costs, and expenses in connection with such challenge.
3. **Keeping and Providing Records.** Commerce and the State have an absolute right to view, inspect, or make or request copies of any records arising out of or related to this Agreement. The Grantee has an absolute duty to keep and maintain all records arising out of or related to this Agreement. Commerce may request copies of any records made or received in connection with this Agreement, or arising out of Grantees use of Award Funds, and Grantee shall provide Commerce with copies of any records within 10 business days after Commerce's request at no cost to Commerce. Grantee shall maintain all books, records, and documents in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures and practices which sufficiently and properly reflect all expenditures of Award Funds. For avoidance of doubt, Grantee's duties to keep and provide records to Commerce includes all records generated in connection with or as a result of this Agreement. Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, the Grantee shall transfer, at no cost, to Commerce all public records in possession of Grantee or keep and maintain public records required by Commerce to perform the service. If the Grantee keeps and maintains public records upon completion of this Agreement, the Grantee shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored

electronically must be provided to Commerce, upon request from Commerce's custodian of records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of Commerce.

4. **Audit Rights.** Representatives of the State of Florida, Commerce, the State Chief Financial Officer, the State Auditor General, the Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability or representatives of the federal government and their duly authorized representatives shall have access to any of Grantee's books, documents, papers, and records, including electronic storage media, as they may relate to this Agreement, for the purposes of conducting audits or examinations or making excerpts or transcriptions.
5. **Single Audit Compliance Certification.** Annually within 60 calendar days of the close of Grantee's fiscal year, Grantee shall electronically submit a completed Audit Compliance Certification (a version of this certification is attached hereto as Attachment 3) to [Audit@commerce.fl.gov](mailto:Audit@commerce.fl.gov). Grantee's timely submittal of one completed Audit Compliance Certification for each applicable fiscal year will fulfill this requirement for all agreements between Commerce and Grantee.
6. **Ensure Compliance.** Grantee shall ensure that any entity which is paid from, or for which Grantee's expenditures will be reimbursed by, Award Funds, is aware of and will comply with the aforementioned audit and record keeping requirements.
7. **Contact Custodian of Public Records for Questions. IF THE GRANTEE HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE GRANTEE'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS by telephone at (850) 245-7140, via e-mail at [PRRequest@commerce.fl.gov](mailto:PRRequest@commerce.fl.gov), or by mail at Florida Department of Commerce, Public Records Coordinator, 107 East Madison Street, Caldwell Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4128.**

#### G. TERMINATION

1. **Termination due to Lack of Funds:** In the event funds to finance this Agreement become unavailable or if federal or state funds upon which this Agreement is dependent are withdrawn or redirected, Commerce may terminate this Agreement upon no less than twenty-four (24) hour written notice to Grantee. Commerce shall be the final authority as to the availability of funds and will not reallocate funds earmarked for this Agreement to another program thus causing "lack of funds." In the event of termination of this Agreement under this provision, Grantee will be paid for any work satisfactorily completed prior to notification of termination. The lack of funds shall not constitute Commerce's default under this Agreement.
2. **Termination for Cause:** Commerce may terminate the Agreement if Grantee fails to: (1) deliver the services within the time specified in the Agreement or any extension; (2) maintain adequate progress, thus endangering performance of the Agreement; (3) honor any term of the Agreement; or (4) abide by any statutory, regulatory, or licensing requirement. The rights and remedies of Commerce in this clause are in addition to any other rights and remedies



provided by law or under the Agreement. Grantee shall not be entitled to recover any cancellation charges or lost profits.

3. **Termination for Convenience:** Commerce, by written notice to Grantee, may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part when Commerce determines in Commerce's sole and absolute discretion that it is in Commerce's interest to do so. Grantee shall not provide any deliverable pursuant to Attachment 1: Scope of Work after it receives the notice of termination, except as Commerce otherwise specifically instructs Grantee in writing. Grantee shall not be entitled to recover any cancellation charges or lost profits.
4. **Grantee's Responsibilities Upon Termination:** If Commerce issues a Notice of Termination to Grantee, except as Commerce otherwise specifies in that Notice, Grantee shall: (1) Stop work under this Agreement on the date and to the extent specified in the notice; (2) complete performance of such part of the work Commerce does not terminate; (3) take such action as may be necessary, or as Commerce may specify, to protect and preserve any property which is in the possession of Grantee and in which Commerce has or may acquire an interest; and (4) upon the effective date of termination, Grantee shall transfer, assign, and make available to Commerce all property and materials belonging to Commerce pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and all Attachments hereto. Grantee shall not receive additional compensation for Grantee's services in connection with such transfers or assignments.
5. **Force Majeure and Notice of Delay from Force Majeure.** Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any delay or failure to perform under this Agreement if such delay or failure is neither the fault nor the negligence of the Party or its employees or agents and the delay is due directly to acts of God, wars, acts of public enemies, strikes, fires, floods, or other similar cause wholly beyond the Party's control, or for any of the foregoing that affects subcontractors or suppliers if no alternate source of supply is available. However, in the event of delay from the foregoing causes, the Party shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate any and all resulting delay or disruption in the Party's performance obligation under this Agreement. If the delay is excusable under this FORCE MAJEURE AND NOTICE OF DELAY FROM FORCE MAJEURE section, the delay will not result in any additional charge or cost under the Agreement to either Party. In the case of any delay Grantee believes is excusable under this FORCE MAJEURE AND NOTICE OF DELAY FROM FORCE MAJEURE section, Grantee shall notify Commerce in writing of the delay or potential delay and describe the cause of the delay either: (1) within ten (10) calendar days after the cause that creates or will create the delay first arose, if Grantee could reasonably foresee that a delay could occur as a result; or (2) within five (5) calendar days after the date Grantee first had reason to believe that a delay could result, if the delay is not reasonably foreseeable. THE FOREGOING SHALL CONSTITUTE GRANTEE'S SOLE REMEDY OR EXCUSE WITH RESPECT TO DELAY. Providing notice in strict accordance with this FORCE MAJEURE AND NOTICE OF DELAY FROM FORCE MAJEURE section is a condition precedent to such remedy. Commerce, in its sole discretion, will determine if the delay is excusable under this FORCE MAJEURE AND NOTICE OF DELAY FROM FORCE MAJEURE section and will notify Grantee of its decision in writing. No claim for damages, other than for an extension of time, shall be asserted against Commerce. Grantee shall not be entitled to an increase in the Agreement price or payment of any kind from Commerce for direct, indirect, consequential, impact, or other costs, expenses or damages, including but not limited to costs of acceleration or inefficiency arising because of delay, disruption, interference, or hindrance from any cause whatsoever. If performance is suspended or delayed, in whole or in part, due to any of the causes described in this FORCE MAJEURE AND NOTICE OF DELAY FROM FORCE MAJEURE section, after the causes have ceased to exist, Grantee shall perform at no increased cost, unless Commerce determines, in its sole

discretion, that the delay will significantly impair the value of the Agreement to Commerce or the State, in which case, Commerce may terminate the Agreement in whole or in part.

#### H. BUSINESS WITH PUBLIC ENTITIES

Grantee is aware of and understands the provisions of s. 287.133(2)(a), F.S., and s. 287.134(2)(a), F.S. As required by s. 287.135(5), Grantee certifies that it is not: (1) listed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, created pursuant to s. 215.4725, F.S.; (2) engaged in a boycott of Israel; (3) listed on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, created pursuant to s. 215.473, F.S.; or (4) engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria. Commerce may immediately terminate this Agreement if Grantee submits a false certification as to the above, or if Grantee is placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, engages in a boycott of Israel, is placed on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, or has engaged in business operations in Cuba, or Syria.

#### I. CONTINUING DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Prior to execution of this Agreement, Grantee must disclose in a written statement to Commerce's Agreement Manager all prior or on-going civil or criminal litigation, investigations, arbitration or administrative proceedings (collectively "Proceedings") involving Grantee (and each subcontractor). Thereafter, Grantee has a continuing duty to promptly disclose all Proceedings upon occurrence. This duty of disclosure applies to Grantee's or subcontractor's officers and directors when any Proceeding relates to the officer or director's business or financial activities. Details of settlements that are prevented from disclosure by the terms of the settlement may be annotated as such. Grantee shall promptly notify Commerce's Agreement Manager of any Proceeding relating to or affecting the Grantee's or subcontractor's business. If the existence of such Proceeding causes the State concern about Grantee's ability or willingness to perform the Agreement, then upon Commerce's request, Grantee shall provide to Commerce's Agreement Manager all reasonable assurances that: (i) Grantee will be able to perform the Agreement in accordance with its terms and conditions; and (ii) Grantee and/or its employees, agents, or subcontractor(s) have not and will not engage in conduct in performing services for Commerce which is similar in nature to the conduct alleged in such Proceeding.

#### J. ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP DISCLOSURE

- 1. Limitations on Advertising of Agreement.** Commerce does not endorse any Grantee, commodity, or service. Subject to chapter 119, F.S., Grantee shall not publicly disseminate any information concerning this Agreement without prior written approval from Commerce, including, but not limited to mentioning this Agreement in a press release or other promotional material, identifying Commerce or the State as a reference, or otherwise linking Grantee's name and either a description of the Agreement or the name of Commerce or the State in any material published, either in print or electronically, to any entity that is not a Party to this Agreement, except potential or actual employees, agents, representatives, or subcontractors with the professional skills necessary to perform the work services required by the Agreement.
- 2. Disclosure of Sponsorship.** As required by Section 286.25, F.S., if Grantee is a nongovernmental organization which sponsors a program financed wholly or in part by state funds, including any funds obtained through this Agreement, it shall, in publicizing,

advertising, or describing the sponsorship of the program, state: "Sponsored by (Grantee's name) and the State of Florida, Department of Commerce." If the sponsorship reference is in written material, the words "State of Florida, Department of Commerce" shall appear in the same size letters or type as the name of the organization.

## K. INVOICES AND PAYMENTS

1. Grantee will provide Commerce's Agreement Manager invoices in accordance with the requirements of the State of Florida Reference Guide for State Expenditures ([https://myfloridacfo.com/docs-sf/accounting-and-auditing-libraries/state-agencies/reference-guide-for-state-expenditures.pdf?sfvrsn=b4cc3337\\_2](https://myfloridacfo.com/docs-sf/accounting-and-auditing-libraries/state-agencies/reference-guide-for-state-expenditures.pdf?sfvrsn=b4cc3337_2)), with detail sufficient for a proper pre-audit and post-audit thereof. Grantee shall comply with the Invoice Submittal and Payment provisions of Section 10 of Attachment 1, Scope of Work, and with the following requirements:
  - a. Invoices must be legible and must clearly reflect the goods/services that were provided in accordance with the terms of the Agreement for the invoice period. Payment does not become due under the Agreement until the invoiced deliverable(s) and any required report(s) are approved and accepted by Commerce.
  - b. Invoices must contain the Grantee's name, address, federal employer identification number or other applicable Grantee identification number, the Agreement number, the Grantee's invoice number, an invoice date, the dates of service, the deliverable number, a description of the deliverable, a statement that the deliverable has been completed, and the amount being requested. Commerce or the State may require any additional information from Grantee that Commerce or the State deems necessary to process an invoice.
  - c. Invoices must be submitted in accordance with the time requirements specified in the Scope of Work.
2. At Commerce's or the State's option, Grantee may be required to invoice electronically pursuant to guidelines of the Department of Management Services.
3. Payment shall be made in accordance with section 215.422, F.S., Rule 69I-24, F.A.C., and section 287.0585, F.S., which govern time limits for payment of invoices. Section 215.422, F.S., provides that agencies have five (5) working days to inspect and approve goods and services unless the Scope of Work specifies otherwise. Commerce has twenty (20) days to deliver a request for payment (voucher) to the Department of Financial Services. The twenty (20) days are measured from the latter of the date the invoice is received or the goods or services are received, inspected and approved. The Scope of Work may specify conditions for retainage. Invoices returned to a Grantee due to preparation errors will result in a delay of payment. Invoice payment requirements do not start until a properly completed invoice is provided to Commerce. Commerce is responsible for all payments under the Agreement.
4. Section 55.03(1), F.S., identifies the process applicable to the determination of the rate of interest payable on judgments and decrees, and pursuant to section 215.422(3)(b), F.S., this same process applies to the determination of the rate of interest applicable to late payments to vendors for goods and services purchased by the State and for contracts which do not specify a rate of interest. The applicable rate of interest is published at: <https://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/AA/LocalGovernments/Current.htm>

5. Grantee shall submit the final invoice for payment to Commerce no later than **60** days after the Agreement ends or is terminated. If Grantee fails to do so, Commerce, in its sole discretion, may refuse to honor any requests submitted after this time period and may consider Grantee to have forfeited any and all rights to payment under this Agreement.

#### L. RETURN OR RECOUPMENT OF FUNDS

1. **Recoupment.** Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, Commerce has an absolute right to recoup Award Funds. Commerce may refuse to reimburse Grantee for any cost if Commerce determines that such cost was not incurred in compliance with the terms of this Agreement. Commerce may demand a return of Award Funds if Commerce terminates this Agreement. The application of financial consequences as set forth in the Scope of Work is cumulative to any of Commerce's rights to recoup Award Funds. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, in no event shall the application of any financial consequences or recoupment of Award Funds exceed the amount of Award Funds, plus interest.
2. **Overpayments.** If Grantee's (a) noncompliance with this Agreement or any applicable federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation or ordinance, or (b) Grantee's performance or nonperformance of any term or condition of this Agreement results in (i) an unlawful use of Award Funds; (ii) a use of Award Funds that doesn't comply with the terms of this Agreement; or (iii) a use which constitutes a receipt of Award Funds to which Grantee is not entitled (each such event an "Overpayment"), then Grantee shall return such Overpayment of Award Funds to Commerce.
3. **Discovery of Overpayments.** Grantee shall refund any Overpayment of Award Funds to Commerce within 30 days of Grantee's discovery of an Overpayment, or receipt of notification from Commerce that an Overpayment has occurred. Commerce is the final authority as to what may constitute an Overpayment of Award Funds. Refunds should be sent to Commerce's Agreement Manager, and made payable to the "Department of Commerce". Should repayment not be made in a timely manner, Commerce may charge interest at the lawful rate of interest on the outstanding balance beginning 30 days after the date of notification or discovery.
4. **Right of Set-Off.** Commerce and the State shall have all of its common law, equitable and statutory rights of set-off, including, without limitation, the State's option to withhold for the purposes of set-off any moneys due to Grantee under this Agreement up to any amounts due and owing to Commerce with respect to this Agreement, any other contract with any State department or agency, including any contract for a term commencing prior to the term of this Agreement, plus any amounts due and owing to the State for any other reason. The State shall exercise its set-off rights in accordance with normal State practices including, in cases of set-off pursuant to an audit, the finalization of such audits by the State or its representatives.

#### M. INSURANCE

Unless Grantee is a state agency or subdivision, as defined by s. 768.28(2), F.S., Grantee shall provide and maintain at all times during this Agreement adequate commercial general liability

insurance coverage. A self-insurance program established and operating under the laws of the State of Florida may provide such coverage.

Grantee, at all times during the Agreement, at Grantee's sole expense, shall provide commercial insurance of such a type and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with this Agreement, which, as a minimum, shall be: workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance in accordance with chapter 440, F.S., with minimum employer's liability limits of \$100,000 per accident, \$100,000 per person, and \$500,000 policy aggregate. Such policy shall cover all employees engaged in any Agreement work.

Grantee shall maintain insurance coverage of such types and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with this Agreement, as required by law, and as otherwise necessary and prudent for the Grantee's performance of its operations in the regular course of business. The limits of coverage under each policy maintained by Grantee shall not be interpreted as limiting Grantee's liability and obligations under this Agreement. All insurance policies shall be through insurers licensed and authorized to write policies in Florida, and such policies shall cover all employees engaged in any Agreement work. Grantee shall maintain any other insurance required in the Scope of Work. Upon request, Grantee shall produce evidence of insurance to Commerce.

Commerce shall not pay for any costs of any insurance or policy deductible, and payment of any insurance costs shall be Grantee's sole responsibility. Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of Grantee, and failure to maintain such coverage may void the Agreement, at Commerce's sole and absolute discretion, after Commerce's review of Grantee's insurance coverage when Grantee is unable to comply with Commerce's requests concerning additional appropriate and necessary insurance coverage. Upon execution of this Agreement, Grantee shall provide Commerce written verification of the existence and amount for each type of applicable insurance coverage. Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Agreement, Grantee shall furnish Commerce proof of applicable insurance coverage by standard ACORD form certificates of insurance. In the event that an insurer cancels any applicable coverage for any reason, Grantee shall immediately notify Commerce of such cancellation and shall obtain adequate replacement coverage conforming to the requirements herein and provide proof of such replacement coverage within 15 business days after the cancellation of coverage. Copies of new insurance certificates must be provided to Commerce's Agreement Manager with each insurance renewal.

#### **N. CONFIDENTIALITY AND SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION**

Each Party may have access to confidential information made available by the other. The provisions of the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119, F.S., and other applicable state and federal laws will govern disclosure of any confidential information received by the State of Florida.

Grantee must implement procedures to ensure the appropriate protection and confidentiality of all data, files, and records involved with this Agreement.

Except as necessary to fulfill the terms of this Agreement and with the permission of Commerce, Grantee shall not divulge to third parties any confidential information obtained by Grantee or its agents, distributors, resellers, subcontractors, officers, or employees in the course of performing Agreement work, including, but not limited to, security procedures, business operations information, or commercial proprietary information in the possession of the State or Commerce.

Grantee shall not use or disclose any information concerning a recipient of services under this Agreement for any purpose in conformity with state and federal law or regulations except upon written consent of the recipient, or recipients' responsible parent or guardian when authorized by law, if applicable.

When Grantee has access to Commerce's network and/or applications, in order to fulfill Grantee's obligations under this Agreement, Grantee shall abide by all applicable Commerce Information Technology Security procedures and policies. Grantee (including its employees, subcontractors, agents, or any other individuals to whom Grantee exposes confidential information obtained under this Agreement), shall not store, or allow to be stored, any confidential information on any portable storage media (e.g., laptops, thumb drives, hard drives, etc.) or peripheral device with the capacity to hold information. Failure to strictly comply with this provision shall constitute a breach of Agreement.

Grantee shall immediately notify Commerce in writing when Grantee, its employees, agents, or representatives become aware of an inadvertent disclosure of Commerce's unsecured confidential information in violation of the terms of this Agreement. Grantee shall report to Commerce any Security Incidents of which it becomes aware, including incidents sub-contractors or agents reported to Grantee. For purposes of this Agreement, "Security Incident" means the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of Commerce information in Grantee's possession or electronic interference with Commerce operations; provided, however, that random attempts at access shall not be considered a security incident. Grantee shall make a report to Commerce not more than seven business days after Grantee learns of such use or disclosure. Grantee's report shall identify, to the extent known: (i) the nature of the unauthorized use or disclosure, (ii) the confidential information used or disclosed, (iii) who made the unauthorized use or received the unauthorized disclosure, (iv) what Grantee has done or shall do to mitigate any detrimental effect of the unauthorized use or disclosure, and (v) what corrective action Grantee has taken or shall take to prevent future similar unauthorized use or disclosure. Grantee shall provide such other information, including a written report, as Commerce's Information Security Manager requests.

In the event of a breach of security concerning confidential personal information involved with this Agreement, Grantee shall comply with Section 501.171, F.S., as applicable. When notification to affected persons is required under this section of the statute, Grantee shall provide that notification, but only after receipt of Commerce's written approval of the contents of the notice. Defined statutorily, and for purposes of this Agreement, "breach of security" or "breach" means the unauthorized access of data in electronic form containing personal information. Good faith acquisition of personal information by an employee or agent of the Grantee is not a breach, provided the information is not used for a purpose unrelated to the Grantee's obligations under this Agreement or is not subject to further unauthorized use.

## **O. PATENTS, COPYRIGHTS, AND ROYALTIES**

1. All legal title and every right, interest, claim or demand of any kind, in and to any patent, trademark or copyright, or application for the same, or any other intellectual property right to, the work developed or produced under or in connection with this Agreement, is the exclusive property of Commerce to be granted to and vested in the Florida Department of State for the use and benefit of the state; and no person, firm or corporation shall be entitled to use the same without the written consent of the Florida Department of State. Any contribution by the Grantee or its employees, agents or contractors to the creation of such works shall be considered works made for hire by the Grantee for Commerce and, upon

- creation, shall be owned exclusively by Commerce. To the extent that any such works may not be considered works made for hire for Commerce under applicable law, Grantee agrees, upon creation of such works, to automatically assign to Commerce ownership, including copyright interests and any other intellectual property rights therein, without the necessity of any further consideration.
2. If any discovery or invention arises or is developed in the course or as a result of work or services performed with funds from this Agreement, Grantee shall refer the discovery or invention to Commerce who will refer it to the Department of State to determine whether patent protection will be sought in the name of the State of Florida.
  3. Where activities supported by this Agreement produce original writings, sound recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings or other graphic representations and works of any similar nature, Commerce has the right to use, duplicate, and disclose such materials in whole or in part, in any manner, for any purpose whatsoever and to allow others acting on behalf of Commerce to do so. Grantee shall give Commerce written notice when any books, manuals, films, websites, web elements, electronic information, or other copyrightable materials are produced.
  4. Notwithstanding any other provisions herein, in accordance with s. 1004.23, F.S., a State University is authorized in its own name to perform all things necessary to secure letters of patent, copyrights, and trademarks on any works it produces. Within 30 calendar days of same, the president of a State University shall report to the Department of State any such university's action taken to secure or exploit such trademarks, copyrights, or patents in accordance with s. 1004.23(6), F.S.

#### **P. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE**

Grantee shall obtain prior written approval from the appropriate Commerce authority before purchasing any Information Technology Resource (ITR) or conducting any activity that will impact Commerce's electronic information technology equipment or software, as both terms are defined in Commerce Policy Number 5.01, in any way. ITR includes computer hardware, software, networks, devices, connections, applications, and data. Grantee shall contact the Commerce Agreement Manager listed herein in writing for the contact information of the appropriate Commerce authority for any such ITR purchase approval.

#### **Q. NONEXPENDABLE PROPERTY**

1. For the requirements of this Nonexpendable Property section of the Agreement, "nonexpendable property" is the same as "property" as defined in s. 273.02, F.S. (equipment, fixtures, and other tangible personal property of a nonconsumable and nonexpendable nature).
2. All nonexpendable property, purchased under this Agreement, shall be listed on the property records of Grantee. Grantee shall inventory annually and maintain accounting records for all nonexpendable property purchased and submit an inventory report to Commerce with the final expenditure report. The records shall include, at a minimum, the following information: property tag identification number, description of the item(s), physical location, name, make or manufacturer, year, and/or model, manufacturer's serial number(s), date of acquisition, and the current condition of the item.

3. At no time shall Grantee dispose of nonexpendable property purchased under this Agreement without the written permission of and in accordance with instructions from Commerce.
4. Immediately upon discovery, Grantee shall notify Commerce, in writing, of any property loss with the date and reason(s) for the loss.
5. Grantee shall be responsible for the correct use of all nonexpendable property Grantee purchases or Commerce furnishes under this Agreement.
6. A formal Agreement amendment is required prior to the purchase of any item of nonexpendable property not specifically listed in Attachment 1: Scope of Work.
7. Upon the Expiration Date of this Agreement Grantee is authorized to retain ownership of any nonexpendable property purchased under this Agreement; however, Grantee hereby grants to Commerce a right of first refusal in all such property prior to disposition of any such property during its depreciable life, in accordance with the depreciation schedule in use by Grantee, Grantee shall provide written notice of any such planned disposition and await Commerce's response prior to disposing of the property. "Disposition" as used herein, shall include, but is not limited to, Grantee no longer using the nonexpendable property for the uses authorized herein; the sale, exchange, transfer, trade-in, or disposal of any such nonexpendable property. Commerce, in its sole discretion, may require Grantee to refund to Commerce the fair market value of the nonexpendable property at the time of disposition rather than taking possession of the nonexpendable property.

#### **R. REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE PURCHASE OF OR IMPROVEMENTS TO REAL PROPERTY**

In accordance with s. 287.05805, F.S., if funding provided under this Agreement is used for the purchase of or improvements to real property, Grantee shall grant Commerce a security interest in the property in the amount of the funding provided by this Agreement for the purchase of or improvements to the real property for five (5) years from the date of purchase or the completion of the improvements or as further required by law.

Upon the Expiration Date of the Agreement, Grantee shall be authorized to retain ownership of the improvements to real property set forth in this Agreement in accordance with the following: Grantee is authorized to retain ownership of the improvements to real property so long as: (1) Grantee is not sold, merged or acquired; (2) the real property subject to the improvements is owned by Grantee; and (3) the real property subject to the improvements is used for the purposes provided in this Agreement. If within five (5) years of the termination of this Agreement, Grantee is unable to satisfy the requirements stated in the immediately preceding sentence, Grantee shall notify Commerce in writing of the circumstances that will result in the deficiency upon learning of it, but no later than 30 calendar days prior to the deficiency occurring. In such event, Commerce shall have the right, within its sole discretion, to demand reimbursement of part or all of the funding provided to Grantee under this Agreement.

#### **S. CONSTRUCTION AND INTERPRETATION**

The title of and the section and paragraph headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not govern or affect the interpretation of any of the terms or provisions of this Agreement. The term "this Agreement" means this Agreement together with all attachments and exhibits hereto, as the same may from time to time be amended, modified, supplemented, or restated in accordance with the terms hereof. The use in this Agreement of the



term “including” and other words of similar import mean “including, without limitation” and where specific language is used to clarify by example a general statement contained herein, such specific language shall not be deemed to modify, limit, or restrict in any manner the construction of the general statement to which it relates. The word “or” is not exclusive and the words “herein,” “hereof,” “hereunder,” and other words of similar import refer to this Agreement, including any Exhibits and Attachments, and not to any particular section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, or clause contained in this Agreement. As appropriate, the use herein of terms importing the singular shall also include the plural, and vice versa. The reference to an agreement, instrument, or other document means such agreement, instrument, or other document as amended, supplemented, and modified from time to time to the extent permitted by the provisions thereof and the reference to a statute means such statute as amended from time to time and includes any successor legislation thereto and any regulations promulgated thereunder. All references to “\$” shall mean United States dollars. The term “Grantee” includes any person or entity which has been duly authorized to and has the actual authority to act or perform on Grantee’s behalf. The term “Commerce” includes the State of Florida and any successor office, department, or agency of Commerce, and any person or entity which has been duly authorized to and has the actual authority to act or perform on Commerce’s behalf. The recitals of this Agreement are incorporated herein by reference and shall apply to the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Parties. Time is of the essence with respect to the performance of all obligations under this Agreement. The Parties have participated jointly in the negotiation and drafting of this Agreement, and each Party has read and understands this Agreement. In the event an ambiguity or question of intent or interpretation arises, this Agreement shall be construed as if drafted jointly by the Parties, and no presumption or burden of proof shall arise favoring or disfavoring any Party by virtue of the authorship of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

#### **T. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

This Agreement is subject to chapter 112, F.S. Grantee shall disclose the name of any officer, director, employee, or other agent who is also an employee of the State. Grantee shall also disclose the name of any State employee who owns, directly or indirectly, more than a 5% interest in Grantee or its affiliates.

#### **U. GRANTEE AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

Grantee is at all times acting and performing as an independent contractor. Commerce has no ability to exercise any control or direction over the methods by which Grantee may perform its work and functions, except as provided herein. Nothing in this Agreement may be understood to constitute a partnership or joint venture between the Parties.

#### **V. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION – E-VERIFY**

1. E-Verify is an Internet-based system that allows an employer, using information reported on an employee’s Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, to determine the eligibility of all new employees hired to work in the United States. There is no charge to employers to use E-Verify. The Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify system can be found at: <https://www.e-verify.gov/>.
2. Section 448.095, F.S., requires the following:

- a. Every public agency and its contractors and subcontractors shall register with and use the E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees. A public agency or a contractor or subcontractor thereof may not enter into a contract unless each party to the contract registers with and uses the E-Verify system.
  - b. An employer shall verify each new employee's employment eligibility within three (3) business days after the first day that the new employee begins working for pay as required under 8 C.F.R. 274a. Beginning July 1, 2023, a private employer with 25 or more employees shall use the E-Verify system to verify a new employee's employment eligibility.
3. If an entity does not use E-Verify, the entity shall enroll in the E-Verify system prior to hiring any new employee or retaining any contract employee after the effective date of this Agreement.

#### **W. NOTIFICATIONS OF INSTANCES OF FRAUD**

Upon discovery, Grantee shall report all known or suspected instances of Grantee, or Grantee's agents, contractors or employees, operational fraud or criminal activities to Commerce's Agreement Manager in writing within 24 chronological hours.

#### **X. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Grantee shall not discriminate unlawfully against any individual employed in the performance of this Agreement because of race, religion, color, sex, physical handicap unrelated to such person's ability to engage in this work, national origin, ancestry, or age. Grantee shall provide a harassment-free workplace, with any allegation of harassment to be given priority attention and action.

#### **Y. ASSIGNMENTS AND SUBCONTRACTS**

1. Grantee shall not assign, subcontract, or otherwise transfer its rights, duties, or obligations under this Agreement, by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of Commerce, which consent may be withheld in Commerce's sole and absolute discretion. Commerce is at all times entitled to assign or transfer its rights, duties, or obligations under this Agreement to another governmental entity in the State of Florida. Any attempted assignment of this Agreement or any of the rights hereunder by Grantee in violation of this provision shall be void *ab initio*.
2. Grantee agrees to be responsible for all work performed and all expenses incurred in fulfilling the obligations of this Agreement. If Commerce permits Grantee to subcontract all or part of the work contemplated under this Agreement, including entering into subcontracts with vendors for services, it is understood by Grantee that all such subcontract arrangements shall be evidenced by a written document containing all provisions necessary to ensure subcontractor's compliance with applicable state and federal law. Grantee further agrees that Commerce shall not be liable to the subcontractor for any expenses or liabilities incurred under the subcontract and Grantee shall be solely liable to the subcontractor for all expenses and liabilities incurred under the subcontract. Grantee, at its expense, will defend Commerce against such claims.

3. Grantee agrees that all Grantee employees, subcontractors, or agents performing work under the Agreement shall be properly trained technicians who meet or exceed any specified training qualifications. Upon request, Grantee shall furnish a copy of technical certification or other proof of qualification. All Grantee employees, subcontractors, or agents performing work under the Agreement must comply with all Commerce security and administrative requirements identified herein. Commerce may conduct, and Grantee shall cooperate in, a security background check or otherwise assess any employee, subcontractor, or agent furnished by Grantee. Commerce may refuse access to, or require replacement of, any of Grantee's employees, subcontractors, or agents for cause, including, but not limited to, technical or training qualifications, quality of work, change in security status, or non-compliance with Commerce's security or administrative requirements identified herein. Such refusal shall not relieve Grantee of its obligation to perform all work in compliance with the Agreement. Commerce may reject and bar from any facility for cause any of Grantee's employees, subcontractors, or agents.
4. Grantee agrees that the State of Florida shall at all times be entitled to assign or transfer its rights, duties, or obligations under this Agreement to another governmental agency in the State of Florida, upon giving prior written notice to Grantee. In the event the State of Florida approves transfer of Grantee's obligations, Grantee remains responsible for all work performed and all expenses incurred in connection with the Agreement. In addition, this Agreement shall bind the successors, assigns, and legal representatives of Grantee and of any legal entity that succeeds to the obligations of the State of Florida.
5. Grantee agrees to make payments to the subcontractor within seven (7) working days after receipt of full or partial payments from Commerce in accordance with section 287.0585, F.S., unless otherwise stated in the Agreement between Grantee and subcontractor. Grantee's failure to pay its subcontractors within seven (7) working days will result in a penalty charged against Grantee and paid to the subcontractor in the amount of one-half of one (1) percent of the amount due per day from the expiration of the period allowed herein for payment. Such penalty shall be in addition to actual payments owed and shall not exceed fifteen (15) percent of the outstanding balance due.
6. Grantee shall provide a monthly Minority and Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Report for each invoice period summarizing the participation of certified and non-certified minority and service-disabled veteran subcontractors/material suppliers for that period, and project to date. The report shall include the names, addresses and dollar amount of each certified and non-certified Minority Business Enterprise and Service-Disabled Veteran Enterprise participant and a copy must be forwarded to Commerce's Agreement Manager. The Office of Supplier Diversity at (850) 487-0915 will assist in furnishing names of qualified minorities. Commerce's Minority Coordinator at (850) 245-7471 will assist with questions and answers.
7. Commerce shall retain the right to reject any of Grantee's or subcontractor's employees whose qualifications or performance, in Commerce's judgment, are insufficient.

## **Z. ENTIRE AGREEMENT; SEVERABILITY**

This Agreement, and the attachments and exhibits hereto, embodies the entire agreement of the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. There are no provisions, terms, conditions, or obligations other than those contained in this Agreement; and this Agreement supersedes all previous communications, representations, or agreements, either verbal or written, between the

Parties. If a court of competent jurisdiction voids or holds unenforceable any provision of this Agreement, then that provision shall be enforced only to the extent that it is not in violation of law or is not otherwise unenforceable, and all other provisions shall remain in full force and effect. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument. If any inconsistencies or conflict between the language of this Agreement and its Attachments arise, then the language of the attachments shall control, but only to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency.

#### **AA. WAIVER; GOVERNING LAW; ATTORNEYS' FEES, DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- 1. Waiver.** No waiver by Commerce of any of provision herein shall be effective unless explicitly set forth in writing and signed by Commerce. No waiver by Commerce may be construed as a waiver of any failure, breach, or default not expressly identified by such written waiver, whether of a similar or different character, and whether occurring before or after that waiver. No failure by Commerce to exercise, or delay in exercising, any right, remedy, power or privilege under this Agreement may be construed as a waiver thereof; nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, remedy, power or privilege hereunder preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right, remedy, power or privilege. The rights and remedies set forth herein are cumulative and not exclusive.
- 2. Governing Law.** The laws of the State of Florida shall govern the construction, enforcement, and interpretation of this Agreement, regardless of and without reference to whether any applicable conflicts of laws principles may point to the application of the laws of another jurisdiction. The Parties expressly consent to exclusive jurisdiction and venue in any state court located in Leon County, Florida, and waive any defense of forum non conveniens, lack of personal jurisdiction, or like defense. IN ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE ACTION BETWEEN THE PARTIES, THE PARTIES HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVE TRIAL BY JURY TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.
- 3. Attorneys' Fees, Expenses.** Except as set forth otherwise herein, each of the Parties shall pay its own attorneys' fees and costs in connection with the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby.
- 4. Dispute Resolution.** Commerce shall decide disputes concerning the performance of the Agreement, and Commerce shall serve written notice of same to Grantee. Commerce's decision shall be final and conclusive unless, within 21 calendar days from the date of receipt, Grantee submits a petition for an administrative hearing to Commerce's Agency Clerk. Commerce's final order on the petition shall be final, subject to any right of Grantee to judicial review pursuant to chapter 120.68, F.S. Exhaustion of administrative remedies is an absolute condition precedent to Grantee's ability to pursue any other form of dispute resolution; provided however, that the Parties may employ the alternative dispute resolution procedures outlined in chapter 120, F.S.

#### **BB. INDEMNIFICATION**

- 1.** If Grantee is a state agency or subdivision, as defined in s. 768.28(2), F.S., pursuant to s. 768.28(19), F.S., neither Party indemnifies nor insures or assumes any liability for the other Party for the other Party's negligence.
- 2.** Grantee shall be fully liable for the actions of its agents, employees, partners, or subcontractors and shall fully indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State and

Commerce, and their officers, agents, and employees, from suits, actions, damages, and costs of every name and description, including attorneys' fees, arising from or relating to personal injury and damage to real or personal tangible property alleged to be caused in whole or in part by Grantee, its agents, employees, partners, or subcontractors; provided, however, that Grantee shall not indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State and Commerce, and their officers, agents, and employees for that portion of any loss or damages the negligent act or omission of Commerce or the State proximately caused.

3. Further, Grantee shall fully indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State and Commerce from any suits, actions, damages, and costs of every name and description, including attorneys' fees, arising from or relating to violation or infringement of a trademark, copyright, patent, trade secret or intellectual property right; provided, however, that the foregoing obligation shall not apply to Commerce's misuse or modification of Grantee's products or Commerce's operation or use of Grantee's products in a manner not contemplated by this Agreement. If any product is the subject of an infringement suit, or in Grantee's opinion is likely to become the subject of such a suit, Grantee may, at Grantee's sole expense, procure for Commerce the right to continue using the product or to modify it to become non-infringing. If Grantee is not reasonably able to modify or otherwise secure for Commerce the right to continue using the product, Grantee shall remove the product and refund Commerce the amounts paid in excess of a reasonable fee, as determined by Commerce in its sole and absolute discretion, for past use. Commerce shall not be liable for any royalties.
4. Grantee's obligations under the two immediately preceding paragraphs above, with respect to any legal action are contingent upon the State or Commerce giving Grantee (1) written notice of any action or threatened action, (2) the opportunity to take over and settle or defend any such action at Grantee's sole expense, and (3) assistance in defending the action at Grantee's sole expense. Grantee shall not be liable for any cost, expense, or compromise incurred or made by the State or Commerce in any legal action without Grantee's prior written consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.
5. The State and Commerce may, in addition to other remedies available to them at law or equity and upon notice to Grantee, retain such monies from amounts due Grantee as may be necessary to satisfy any claim for damages, penalties, costs and the like asserted by or against them. The State may set off any liability or other obligation of Grantee or its affiliates to the State against any payments due Grantee under any Agreement with the State.

#### CC. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GRANTEE AND Commerce

##### Grantee's Agreement Manager:

T.J. Lewis, Director of Economic Development

9 B East Jefferson Street; P.O. Box 1799

Quincy, Florida 32351

Telephone: 850-815-0480

[TJLewis@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:TJLewis@gadsdencountyfl.gov)

##### Commerce's Agreement Manager:

Paige Lay

Florida Department of Commerce

107 East Madison Street, MSC 160

Tallahassee, FL 32399-4120

Telephone: (850) 921- 3250

Facsimile: (850) 717-8522

Email: [paige.lay@commerce.fl.gov](mailto:paige.lay@commerce.fl.gov)

**DD. NOTICES**

The Parties' respective contact information is set forth in the immediately preceding paragraph and may be subject to change at the Parties' discretion. If the contact information changes, the Party making such change will notify the other Party in writing. Where the term "written notice" is used to specify a notice requirement herein, said notice shall be deemed to have been given (i) when personally delivered; (ii) when transmitted via email, if the sender on the same day sends a confirming copy of such notice by certified or registered mail; (iii) the next business day following the day on which the same has been delivered prepaid to a recognized overnight delivery service; or (iv) the third business day following the day on which the same is sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, with return receipt.

**EE. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS**

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instruments.

**Rest of page left intentionally blank; Attachments to follow after signature page**

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, and in consideration of the mutual covenants set forth above and in the attachments hereto, the Parties, through their duly-authorized representatives, sign this Agreement and represent and warrant that they understand the Agreement and Attachments' terms and conditions as of the Effective Date.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**By** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
**J. Alex Kelly**

**By** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
**Ronterious Green**

**Title** **Secretary**

**Title** **Chairman**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to form and legal sufficiency, subject only to full and proper execution by the Parties.**

**OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment 1**  
**SCOPE OF WORK**

**1. GRANT AUTHORITY:** Pursuant to section 163.3168, Florida Statutes (“F.S.”), and Specific Appropriation 2341, Chapter 2023-239 Laws of Florida, the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant Program provides direct or indirect technical assistance to help Florida communities find creative solutions to fostering vibrant, healthy communities while protecting the functions of important state resources and facilities.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners (“Grantee” or “County”) has been awarded funds under the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant Program to complete a review of existing economic development and resiliency documents, facilitate public participation efforts to undertake outreach and engagement with residents, and prepare an action-oriented economic development and resiliency plan.

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Grantee is seeking funding to reassess and update the previous Economic Development Plan.**

**3. GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:** Grantee shall timely perform the Deliverables and Tasks described in this section and in Section 5 below, and in doing so, Grantee shall comply with all the terms and conditions of this Agreement. **All deliverables and tasks under this Agreement must be completed on or before the end of the agreement period in Section A. of this Agreement, unless extended by an amendment to this Agreement signed by both parties.**

**A. Deliverable 1. *Initial Needs Assessment;***

**Grantee shall:**

1. Coordinate two (2) meetings with Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners’ and ARPC staff to plan project timeline, including meeting dates and locations, and assign tasks
2. Conduct research on the current and projected economic trends in the County and compilation of existing economic development data that will be used to inform both the community engagement strategy and economic development plan.
3. Host a presentation of the project scope of work with requests for Board of County Commissioners (“BOCC”) input on the community engagement strategy.
4. Host public workshop series for input from stakeholders and community members.
5. If Grantee enters into a subcontract or an amendment to an existing subcontract for work to be performed under this Agreement, provide a copy of the subcontract or amendment to Commerce or notify Commerce in writing by email or other document that Grantee has not entered into such a subcontract or amendment as of the Deliverable Due Date for this Deliverable 1.

**B. Deliverable 2. *Economic Development Plan;***

**Grantee shall:**

1. **Create a draft outline of Economic Development Plan.**
2. The County shall create a community economic development plan based on its review of any existing economic development strategies, and the information gathered during the community/stakeholder engagement meetings.



**4. COMMERCE'S RESPONSIBILITIES:** Commerce shall receive and review the Deliverables and, upon Commerce's acceptance of the Deliverables and receipt of Grantee's pertinent invoices in compliance with the invoice procedures of Section K of this Agreement and of Section 10 of this Scope of Work, Commerce shall process payment to Grantee in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**5. DELIVERABLES:** The specific deliverables, tasks, minimum levels of service, due dates, and payment amounts are set forth in the following table:

**Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank**

Deliverables and Tasks	Minimum Level of Service	Payment Amount Not to Exceed	Financial Consequences
<p><b>Deliverable 1. Initial Needs Assessment;</b></p> <p>Grantee shall in accordance with Section 3.A. of this Scope of Work:</p> <p>(1) provide a copy of a subcontract, amendment to a subcontract, or notice.;  (2) provide data on economic trends; (3) Conduct two BOCC meetings.</p> <p><b>Deliverable due date:  March 15, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Completion of Deliverable 1 as evidenced by submission of all of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of a subcontract or amendment to a subcontract entered into by the Grantee, if any, or an email or other document notifying Commerce that no such subcontract or amendment was entered into as of the Deliverable Due Date for this Deliverable.</li> <li>• Copy of data and analysis from background research on the current and projected economic trends in the county and compilation of existing economic development data.</li> <li>• A summary of recommendations from the BOCC meetings that captures feedback from all attendees.</li> <li>• A summary of findings from the Community and Stakeholder Engagement meetings.</li> <li>• Copy of agendas</li> <li>• Copy of sign-in sheets</li> <li>• Copy of Public Notices</li> </ul> <p>Grantee shall submit copies of all required documentation identified above on paper or electronically in MS Word or PDF format. If maps are required, they shall be uploaded to SERA system or provided on a compact disc in PDF format with ArcGIS 10.3.1 compatible shapefiles if they are available.</p>	<p>\$29,737.75</p>	<p>As provided in Section 12 of this Scope of Work, below.</p>

<p>Deliverable 2. Economic Development Plan;</p> <p>Grantee shall in accordance with Section 3.B. of this Scope of Work: Provide the final Economic Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Deliverable due date:</b> <b>May 31, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Completion of Deliverable 1 as evidenced by submission of all of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of final Economic Development Plan</li> </ul> <p>Grantee shall submit copies of all required documentation identified above on paper or electronically in MS Word or PDF format. If maps are required, they shall be uploaded to SERA system or provided on a compact disc in PDF format with ArcGIS 10.3.1 compatible shapefiles if they are available.</p>	<p><b>\$29,737.75</b></p>	<p>As provided in Section 12 of this Scope of Work, below.</p>
<p>Total Amount Not to Exceed: \$59,475.50</p>			

## 6. Reporting.

**6.1 Close-out Report.** No later than 60 calendar days after the Agreement ends or is terminated, Grantee shall provide copies of all paid invoices to document completed work.

**7. SUBCONTRACTS.** In accordance with **Section Y., Assignments and Subcontracts**, of this Agreement and subject to the terms and conditions in sections Y.1. through 7 of this Agreement, this paragraph constitutes Commerce’s written approval for Grantee to subcontract for any of the deliverables and/or tasks identified in the Scope of Work for this Agreement. A copy of the executed subcontract(s) shall be provided to Commerce’s Agreement Manager upon execution by the Parties. Grantee shall be solely liable for all work performed and all expenses incurred as a result of any such subcontract. Any subcontracts between the Grantee and a subcontractor for work performed under this Agreement shall identify the hourly rate of pay to be charged by the subcontractor and shall require all invoices from the subcontractor to the Grantee to identify the hourly rate of pay, actual hours worked on the grant project, and any expenses incurred by the subcontractor in performing such work.

**8. DELIVERABLE DUE DATE.** The “deliverable due date” is the date the deliverable must be received by Commerce by 11:59 p.m. on that date. For extensions of deliverable due dates, see Section 13 of this Scope of Work.

**9. BUSINESS DAY; COMPUTATION OF TIME.** For the purpose of this Agreement, a “business day” is any day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or a state or federal legal holiday. In computing any time period provided in this Agreement, the date from which the time period runs is not counted. The last day of the time period ends at 11:59 p.m. on that day.

**10. COST SHIFTING.** The deliverable amounts specified within the Deliverables section above are established based on the Parties' estimation of sufficient delivery of services fulfilling grant purposes under the Agreement in order to designate payment points during the Agreement Period; however, this is not intended to restrict Commerce's ability to approve and reimburse allowable costs, incurred by Grantee in providing the deliverables herein. Prior written approval from Commerce's Agreement Manager is required for changes to the above Deliverable amounts that do not exceed **ten (10) percent** of each deliverable total funding amount. Changes that exceed **ten (10) percent** of each deliverable total funding amount will require a formal written amendment, as described in **Section D., Renegotiation or Modification**, of this Agreement. Regardless, in no event shall Commerce reimburse costs of more than the total amount of this Agreement.

**11. INVOICE SUBMITTAL AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** Commerce shall pay Grantee in accordance with the following schedule in the amount identified per deliverable in Section 4 above. The deliverable amount specified does not establish the value of the deliverable. In accordance with the Funding Requirements of s. 215.971(1), F.S., Grantee and its subcontractors may only expend funding under this Agreement for allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during the Agreement period.

**11.1** Grantee shall provide an invoice upon completion of each deliverable. Grantee shall submit invoices as set forth below to be eligible to receive and retain payment for the performance of duties and completion of deliverables set forth above. Grantee shall submit all documentation necessary to support Grantee's expenditures. Commerce may request any information from Grantee that Commerce deems necessary to verify that Grantee has performed the services for which payment is requested. Grantee's submission of each invoice package is Grantee's certification that it has performed the services and incurred the costs in compliance with all applicable laws and the terms of this Agreement. Grantee will provide invoices in accordance with the requirements of the Reference Guide for State Expenditures, available at: ([https://myfloridacfo.com/docs-sf/accounting-and-auditing-libraries/state-agencies/reference-guide-for-state-expenditures.pdf?sfvrsn=b4cc3337\\_2](https://myfloridacfo.com/docs-sf/accounting-and-auditing-libraries/state-agencies/reference-guide-for-state-expenditures.pdf?sfvrsn=b4cc3337_2)). Invoices must be legible and must clearly reflect the performance for which payment is sought. Payment does not become due under this Agreement until Commerce accepts and approves the invoiced deliverable(s) and any required report(s). At Commerce's option, Grantee may submit invoices electronically. Grantee shall submit its final invoice for payment to Commerce no later than 60 days after this Agreement ends and Commerce may, at Commerce's sole and absolute discretion, refuse to honor any requests for payment submitted after this deadline.

**11.2** Invoices must contain the Grantee's name, address, federal employer identification number or other applicable Grantee identification number, the Agreement number, the invoice number, and the invoice period. Grantee shall submit the following documents with the itemized invoice:

**11.2.1** A cover letter signed by the Grantee's Agreement Manager certifying that the costs being claimed in the invoice package: (1) are specifically for the project represented to the State in the budget appropriation; (2) are for one or more of the components as stated in Section 4, Deliverables, of this Scope of Work; (3) have been paid; and (4) were incurred during the Agreement period.

**11.2.2** Grantee's invoices shall include the date, period in which work was performed, amount of reimbursement, and work completed to date;

**11.2.3** Travel documentation in accordance with s. 112.061, F.S., with a completed State of Florida Travel Reimbursement Form, available at: <dfs-aa-15voucherforreimbursement.xlsx> ([live.com](https://live.com))

**11.2.4** A copy of all supporting documentation for vendor payments;

**11.2.5** A copy of the cancelled check(s) specific to the project; and

**11.2.6** A copy of the bank statement that includes the cancelled check.

**11.3** The State may require any other information from Grantee that the State deems necessary to verify that the services have been rendered under the Agreement.

**11.4** All documentation necessary to support payment requests must be submitted with Grantee's invoice for Commerce's review.

**11.5** If the Grantee is a county or municipality that is a rural community or rural area of opportunity as those terms are defined in section 288.0656(2), F.S., the payment of submitted invoices may be issued for verified and eligible performance that has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement to the extent that federal or state law, rule, or other regulation allows such payments. Upon meeting either of the criteria set forth below, the Grantee may elect in writing to exercise this provision.

**11.5.1** A county or municipality that is a rural community or rural area of opportunity as those terms are defined in section 288.0656(2), F.S., that demonstrates financial hardship; or

**11.5.2** A county or municipality that is a rural community or rural area of opportunity as those terms are defined in section 288.0656(2), F.S., and which is located in a fiscally constrained county, as defined in section 218.67(1), F.S. If the Grantee meets the criteria set forth in this paragraph, then the Grantee is deemed to have demonstrated a financial hardship.

**11.6** Grantee's invoice and all documentation necessary to support payment requests may be submitted into Commerce's Subrecipient Enterprise Resource Application (SERA). Further instruction on SERA invoicing and reporting, will be provided upon execution of the Agreement. SERA Access Authorization Form will be provided after the execution of this Agreement.

**11.7** Payment shall be provided to Grantee in accordance with **Section K., Invoices and Payments**, of this Agreement.

## **12. SUBMITTAL, REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF DELIVERABLES; NOTICE; OPPORTUNITY TO CURE.**

Grantee shall submit all deliverables to Commerce's Agreement Manager. Commerce will review all work submitted for payment under the deliverables and will determine in Commerce's sole and absolute discretion whether the deliverables are sufficient to satisfy the requirements in this Scope of Work. Within 15 business days after receipt of a deliverable, Commerce shall provide written notice to Grantee by electronic mail of Commerce's determination that the deliverable is sufficient and is accepted or that the deliverable is not sufficient to satisfy the requirements in the Scope of Work and how the Grantee can address the insufficiency. If Commerce determines that a deliverable is not sufficient under this Agreement, Grantee shall have 10 business days from the date of receipt of notice from Commerce to correct the insufficiency, and during this 10 business day period, the financial consequences specified in Section 12 of this Scope of Work will not be assessed. Commerce may extend this timeframe in writing (which may be by electronic mail) if Grantee is actively working with Commerce to resolve the insufficiency; provided, however, that any extension of time under this section will not extend the Agreement Period in Section A. of this Agreement. An extension of time under this section does not require an amendment to this Agreement. Payment for a deliverable shall not be due until Commerce

notifies the Grantee's Agreement Manager in writing that the deliverable or corrected deliverable is sufficient under the Scope of Work and is accepted by Commerce.

### **13. FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY AND SATISFACTORILY PERFORM:**

**13.1** Financial consequences of \$50 a business day up to a maximum amount of \$500 shall be imposed in each of the following circumstances:

**13.1.1** Grantee submits a deliverable to Commerce more than ten (10) business days after the deliverable due date. Financial consequences begin to accrue on the eleventh business day following the deliverable due date and continue until the deliverable is received by Commerce or the maximum amount of financial consequence accrues, whichever occurs first.

**13.1.2** Grantee is given a notice of insufficiency and fails to submit to Commerce a corrected deliverable within the timeframe provided in Section 11 of this Scope of Work. Financial consequences begin to accrue on the business day following the deadline under Section 11 of this Scope of Work and continue until the corrected deliverable is received by Commerce or the maximum financial consequence accrues, whichever occurs first.

**13.2** Imposition of the above-described financial consequences shall in no manner affect Commerce's right to impose or implement other provisions in this Agreement including the right to terminate this Agreement.

**14. PRELIMINARY DRAFT DELIVERABLES; Commerce REVIEW AND COMMENT.** Unless preliminary draft deliverables are required under Sections 2 or 4 of this Scope of Work, above, Grantee is encouraged, but not required, to submit preliminary drafts of all substantive written deliverables (e.g., proposed plan amendments, reports) to Commerce for review and comment no later than ten (10) business days before the deliverable due date. If Commerce provides comments, Grantee is urged to address them in the deliverable submitted to Commerce for payment. If submission of a preliminary draft deliverable is required under Sections 2 or 4 of this Scope of Work, above, Commerce shall provide comments to the Grantee no later than four business days before the deliverable due date.

**15. EXTENSIONS OF TIME OF DELIVERABLE DUE DATES.** Notwithstanding **Section D., Renegotiation or Modification**, of this Agreement, Commerce's Agreement Manager, in Commerce's sole discretion, may authorize extensions of deliverable due dates without a written modification of this Agreement. Extensions shall be requested by Grantee's Agreement Manager (not Grantee's consultant or subcontractor) in accordance with the following:

**15.1** Requests for extension of one or more deliverable due dates shall be submitted by Grantee's Agreement Manager in writing (which may be by electronic mail) to Commerce's Agreement Manager **no later than four (4) business days before the deliverable due date** (or the earliest of multiple due dates for which the extension is requested);

**15.2** A request for extension from Grantee's Agreement Manager must state the reason for the extension; and

**15.3** Commerce's Agreement Manager shall approve or deny a request for extension of a deliverable due date by electronic mail to Grantee's Agreement Manager within two (2) business days after receipt of the request. Only written approvals of extensions shall be effective.

This authority and procedure do not apply to an extension of the Agreement Period defined in **Section A., Agreement Period**, of this Agreement.

**16. ADVERTISING AND INFORMATION RELEASE.** Notwithstanding **Section J., Advertising and Sponsorship Disclosure**, and **Section F., Records and Information Release**, of this Agreement, Grantee is authorized to disclose to the public on its website or by other means that it has been awarded a Competitive Florida Partnership Grant from Commerce for the work described in this Scope of Work.

**17. NOTIFICATION OF INSTANCES OF FRAUD.** Instances of Grantee's operational fraud or criminal activities shall be reported to Commerce's Agreement Manager in writing within twenty-four (24) chronological hours.

**18. NON-DISCRIMINATION.** Grantee shall not discriminate unlawfully against any individual employed in the performance of this Agreement because of race, religion, color, sex, physical handicap unrelated to such person's ability to engage in this work, national origin, ancestry, or age. Grantee shall provide a harassment-free workplace, with any allegation of harassment to be given priority attention and action.

**19. GRANTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES UPON TERMINATION.** If Commerce issues a Notice of Termination to Grantee, except as otherwise specified by Commerce in that notice, the Grantee shall:

**19.1** Stop work under this Agreement on the date and to the extent specified in the notice;

**19.2** Complete performance of such part of the work as shall not have been terminated by Commerce;

**19.3** Take such action as may be necessary, or as Commerce may specify, to protect and preserve any property which is in the possession of Grantee and in which Commerce has or may acquire an interest; and

**19.4** Upon the effective date of termination of this Agreement, Grantee shall transfer, assign, and make available to the Commerce all property and materials belonging to Commerce. No extra compensation will be paid to Grantee for its services in connection with such transfer or assignment.

**20. CONFLICTS BETWEEN SCOPE OF WORK AND REMAINDER OF AGREEMENT.** In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Scope of Work and other provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Scope of Work shall govern.

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Attachment 1A

**Ron DeSantis**  
GOVERNOR

**GRANT  
AGREEMENT FINAL  
CLOSEOUT FORM**

**J. Alex Kelly**  
SECRETARY

FLAIR Contract ID:	_____		
Recipient Name:	_____	Contract Amount	_____
Vendor ID:	_____	Deobligated Funds	_____
Contract End Date:	_____	Final Contract Amount	_____

**Section A: Financial Reconciliation**

1. Total Recipient Funds Received from Commerce	_____
2. Total Recipient Expenditures	_____
3. Balance of Unexpended Program Income (from Section B)	_____
4. If negative, this amount must be refunded to the Commerce. If positive, this amount is to be remitted to the Recipient.	_____

**Section B: Statement of Recipient Income**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> There was no recipient income earned under this contract.</li> <li><input type="radio"/> The following recipient income was earned under this contract.</li> </ul>			
Description of Recipient Income			
Source	Amount	Expended	Balance
<b>Total Program Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Section C: Property Inventory Certification**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No tangible property was purchased in the contract period.</li> <li><input type="radio"/> All non-expendable and non-consumable tangible property having a useful life of more than one year and acquired at a cost of \$1,000 or more per unit with grant funds are listed below. I do hereby certify that the property inventory described below is complete and correct. Notification will be sent immediately to the Department of Commerce if any changes occur to this inventory. I will not destroy, sell, or otherwise dispose of this property without written permission of the Department.</li> </ul>					
Description of Property Inventory					
Description and Serial Number	Quantity	Acquisitions		Condition	Location
		Cost	Date		

**Section D: Recipient Certification**

By signing below, I certify, that the above representations for Financial Reconciliation, Recipient Income, and Property Inventory are true and accurate.	
Name: _____	Signature: _____
Title: _____	Date Signed: _____

**Section E: Commerce Internal Review and Approval**

By signing below, I certify, that the above representations for Financial Reconciliation, Recipient Income, and Property Inventory are true and accurate.	
Name: _____	Signature: _____



## Attachment 2 AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

The administration of resources awarded by Commerce to the recipient (herein otherwise referred to as "Grantee") may be subject to audits and/or monitoring by Commerce as described in this Attachment 2.

**MONITORING.** In addition to reviews of audits conducted in accordance with 2 CFR 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements, and section 215.97, Florida Statutes (F.S.), as revised (see AUDITS below), monitoring procedures may include, but not be limited to, on-site visits by Commerce staff, limited scope audits as defined by 2 CFR §200.425, or other procedures. By entering into this agreement, the recipient agrees to comply and cooperate with any monitoring procedures or processes deemed appropriate by Commerce. In the event the Commerce determines that a limited scope audit of the recipient is appropriate, the recipient agrees to comply with any additional instructions provided by Commerce staff to the recipient regarding such audit. The recipient further agrees to comply and cooperate with any inspections, reviews, investigations, or audits deemed necessary by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or Auditor General.

### **AUDITS.**

**PART I: FEDERALLY FUNDED.** This part is applicable if the recipient is a state or local government or a nonprofit organization as defined in 2 CFR §200.1.

1. A recipient that expends \$750,000 or more in federal awards in its fiscal year must have a single or program-specific audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements. EXHIBIT 1 to this form lists the federal resources awarded through Commerce by this agreement. In determining the federal awards expended in its fiscal year, the recipient shall consider all sources of federal awards, including federal resources received from Commerce. The determination of amounts of federal awards expended should be in accordance with the guidelines established in 2 CFR §§200.502-503. An audit of the recipient conducted by the Auditor General in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR §200.514 will meet the requirements of this Part.
2. For the audit requirements addressed in Part I, paragraph 1, the recipient shall fulfill the requirements relative to auditee responsibilities as provided in 2 CFR §§200.508-512.
3. A recipient that expends less than \$750,000 in federal awards in its fiscal year is not required to have an audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements. If the recipient expends less than \$750,000 in federal awards in its fiscal year and elects to have an audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements, the cost of the audit must be paid from non-federal resources (i.e., the cost of such an audit must be paid from recipient resources obtained from other than federal entities).

**PART II: STATE FUNDED.** This part is applicable if the recipient is a nonstate entity as defined by Section 215.97(2), Florida Statutes.

1. In the event that the recipient expends a total amount of state financial assistance equal to or in excess of \$750,000 in any fiscal year of such recipient (for fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, and thereafter), the recipient must have a state single or project-specific audit for such fiscal year in accordance with section 215.97, F.S.; Rule Chapter 69I-5, F.A.C., State Financial Assistance; and Chapters 10.550 (local governmental entities) and 10.650 (nonprofit and for-profit organizations), Rules of the Auditor General. EXHIBIT 1 to this form lists the state financial

assistance awarded through Commerce by this agreement. In determining the state financial assistance expended in its fiscal year, the recipient shall consider all sources of state financial assistance, including state financial assistance received from Commerce, other state agencies, and other nonstate entities. State financial assistance does not include federal direct or pass-through awards and resources received by a nonstate entity for federal program matching requirements.

2. For the audit requirements addressed in Part II, paragraph 1, the recipient shall ensure that the audit complies with the requirements of section 215.97(8), F.S. This includes submission of a financial reporting package as defined by section 215.97(2), F.S., and Chapters 10.550 (local governmental entities) and 10.650 (nonprofit and for-profit organizations), Rules of the Auditor General.
3. If the recipient expends less than \$750,000 in state financial assistance in its fiscal year (for fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, and thereafter), an audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 215.97, F.S., is not required. If the recipient expends less than \$750,000 in state financial assistance in its fiscal year and elects to have an audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 215.97, F.S., the cost of the audit must be paid from the nonstate entity's resources (i.e., the cost of such an audit must be paid from the recipient's resources obtained from other than state entities).

#### **PART III: OTHER AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.**

*(NOTE: This part would be used to specify any additional audit requirements imposed by the State awarding entity that are solely a matter of that State awarding entity's policy (i.e., the audit is not required by Federal or State laws and is not in conflict with other Federal or State audit requirements). Pursuant to Section 215.97(8), Florida Statutes, State agencies may conduct or arrange for audits of state financial assistance that are in addition to audits conducted in accordance with Section 215.97, Florida Statutes. In such an event, the State awarding agency must arrange for funding the full cost of such additional audits.)*

N/A

#### **PART IV: REPORT SUBMISSION.**

1. Copies of reporting packages for audits conducted in accordance with 2 CFR 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements, and required by Part I of this form shall be submitted, when required by 2 CFR §200.512, by or on behalf of the recipient directly to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC) as provided in 2 CFR §200.1 and §200.512.

The FAC's website provides a data entry system and required forms for submitting the single audit reporting package. Updates to the location of the FAC and data entry system may be found at the OMB website.

2. Copies of financial reporting packages required by Part II of this form shall be submitted by or on behalf of the recipient directly to each of the following:
  - a. Commerce at each of the following addresses:

Electronic copies (preferred):  
[Audit@commerce.fl.gov](mailto:Audit@commerce.fl.gov)

or

Paper (hard copy):  
 Florida Department of Commerce  
 MSC # 75, Caldwell Building  
 107 East Madison Street  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-4126

- b. The Auditor General's Office at the following address:

Auditor General  
 Local Government Audits/342  
 Claude Pepper Building, Room 401  
 111 West Madison Street  
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450

The Auditor General's website (<https://flauditor.gov/>) provides instructions for filing an electronic copy of a financial reporting package.

3. Copies of reports or the management letter required by Part III of this form shall be submitted by or on behalf of the recipient directly to:

Electronic copies (preferred):  
[Audit@commerce.fl.gov](mailto:Audit@commerce.fl.gov)

or

Paper (hard copy):  
 Florida Department of Commerce  
 MSC # 75, Caldwell Building  
 107 East Madison Street  
 Tallahassee, FL. 32399-4126

4. Any reports, management letters, or other information required to be submitted to Commerce pursuant to this agreement shall be submitted timely in accordance with 2 CFR §200.512, section 215.97, F.S., and Chapters 10.550 (local governmental entities) and 10.650 (nonprofit and for-profit organizations), Rules of the Auditor General, as applicable.
5. Recipients, when submitting financial reporting packages to Commerce for audits done in accordance with 2 CFR 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements, or Chapters 10.550 (local governmental entities) and 10.650 (nonprofit and for-profit organizations), Rules of the Auditor General, should indicate the date that the reporting package was delivered to the recipient in correspondence accompanying the reporting package.

**PART V: RECORD RETENTION.** The recipient shall retain sufficient records demonstrating its compliance with the terms of this Agreement for a period of five (5) years from the date the audit report is issued, or five (5) state fiscal years after all reporting requirements are satisfied and final payments have been received, whichever period is longer, and shall allow Commerce, or its designee, CFO, or Auditor General access to such records upon request. The recipient shall ensure that audit working papers are made available to Commerce, or its designee, CFO, or Auditor General upon request for a period of five (5) years from the date the audit report is issued, unless extended in writing by Commerce. In addition, if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, or other action involving the records has been started prior to the expiration of the controlling period as identified above, the records shall be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the controlling period as identified above, whichever is longer.

**EXHIBIT 1 to Attachment 2**

**FEDERAL RESOURCES AWARDED TO THE RECIPIENT PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:**

N/A

**COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE FEDERAL RESOURCES AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

N/A

**STATE RESOURCES AWARDED TO THE RECIPIENT PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**MATCHING RESOURCES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS:**

N/A

**SUBJECT TO SECTION 215.97, FLORIDA STATUTES:**

State Project: **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – CSFA 40.024 – GROWTH MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION - \$ 59,475.50**

**COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO STATE RESOURCES AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- ACTIVITIES ARE LIMITED TO THOSE IN THE SCOPE OF WORK.

NOTE: 2 C.F.R. § 200.331, as revised, and Section 215.97(5), Florida Statutes, require that the information about Federal Programs and State Projects included in Exhibit 1 be provided to the recipient.

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Attachment 3

AUDIT COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

Grantee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

FEIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Grantee's Fiscal Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Name and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Did Grantee expend state financial assistance, during its fiscal year, that it received under any agreement (e.g., agreement, grant, memorandum of agreement, memorandum of understanding, economic incentive award agreement, etc.) between Grantee and the Florida Department of Commerce (Commerce)? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If the above answer is yes, also answer the following before proceeding to item 2:

Did Grantee expend \$750,000 or more of state financial assistance (from Commerce and all other sources of state financial assistance combined) during its fiscal year? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**If yes, Grantee certifies that it will timely comply with all applicable state single or project-specific audit requirements of section 215.97, Florida Statutes, and the applicable rules of the Department of Financial Services and the Auditor General.**

- 2. Did Grantee expend federal awards, during its fiscal year that it received under any agreement (e.g., agreement, grant, memorandum of agreement, memorandum of understanding, economic incentive award agreement, etc.) between Grantee and Commerce? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If the above answer is yes, also answer the following before proceeding to execution of this certification:

Did Grantee expend \$750,000 or more in federal awards (from Commerce and all other sources of federal awards combined) during its fiscal year? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**If yes, Grantee certifies that it will timely comply with all applicable single or program-specific audit requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F, as revised.**

**By signing below, I certify, on behalf of Grantee, that the above representations for items 1 and 2 are true and correct.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Authorized Representative

## **ATTACHMENT 4**

### **15 Ways to Make Florida Communities More Competitive**

The Competitive Florida Partnership advocates for a holistic approach to job creation that goes beyond recruitment of new businesses and industries. For this reason, the components listed below should be considered when determining what to include in your economic development vision and strategy.

There are many actions a community can take to attract new industry and keep the industries they currently have, while working to build partnerships and encourage innovative community design. For further guidance, tips and tools on each of the topics listed below, please visit the Competitive Florida website.

#### **Take a Whole Community Approach to Planning and Implementation.**

Arguably one of the most important aspects of community development and increasing competitiveness is having a long-term vision that lays out future development priorities and actions with which to plan for improved economic development. In addition, it is vital for a community to develop or participate in a countywide economic development organization that serves as the lead agency for coordinating future projects in the community's surrounding area. Commerce recommends that the community view their local comprehensive plan as a tool for promoting economic development.

#### **Work to Retain Current Businesses and Support their Expansion.**

Historically, up to 80 percent of net new job growth comes from the expansion and enhancement of existing businesses. For this reason, it is important that communities support existing businesses and give them the tools they need to grow their businesses and explore new opportunities.

#### **Attract New Businesses and Industries.**

A new business or industry in a community can not only increase the number of jobs, but can also work to diversify the economy. A diverse economy is more resilient to the ups and downs experienced by all communities.

#### **Build Human Capacity and Develop the Workforce.**

It's important to ensure that those in need of jobs are ready to enter the workforce. Programs that work towards building human capacity can help to reduce unemployment rates by increasing the skills of the labor pool and take steps to end the cycle of multi-generational poverty.

#### **Encourage Innovation and Entrepreneurship.**

When developing strategies for economic development, communities may overlook one of the most important community assets: local entrepreneurs. There is evidence that small businesses generate 75 percent of the net new job growth in the United States. Communities that foster the growth of these individuals and encourage innovation are likely to be more competitive. In fact, communities are unlikely to capture the "big fish," a major industrial facility, unless their local entrepreneurs are succeeding.

#### **Create and Preserve Sense of Place and Important Resources.**

The local economy in Florida communities is often driven and supported by natural, cultural, and historical resources that make it a unique place. It's important to prioritize and preserve these local assets to ensure they continue to add value to the community.

**Build Community Leadership.**

Successful communities are built by passionate leaders who love their hometown and want to see amazing things happen. Communities can do things to support these champions and foster the development of new local leadership along the way.

**Improve Resiliency to Disasters.**

Coastal storms and other hazards are part of the way of life in Florida. By taking steps to increase disaster resiliency, communities can ensure that local government services, businesses, and the overall economy can rebound quickly and efficiently after a disaster. Promoting hazard mitigation techniques to residents and business owners can also decrease the amount of damage to structures and impact to the local economy caused by future disasters.

**Provide Quality Education.**

Our schools are training the next generation of members of the local workforce. Excellent K-12 and post-secondary educational opportunities help improve the ability of future generations to enhance the local economy. In addition, they act as an attractive feature for businesses looking for a new location.

**Support Neighborhood District Revitalization.**

Safe neighborhoods where people can live, shop, work, and play are an important feature to any community wishing to lure in new opportunities. Supporting neighborhood district revitalization draws upon the understanding that efforts led by the community members themselves result in great places that are self-sustained due to community leadership having a stake in the outcome.

**Encourage Commercial District Revitalization.**

Commercial district revitalization efforts can breathe life into downtown corridors that may otherwise be suffering. In communities with declining downtown or commercial centers, visioning efforts driven by community and business leaders can help a community retain current businesses and attract new opportunities to important town centers.

**Increase the Availability of Affordable Housing for the Workforce.**

The availability of housing that is priced appropriately for the industries a community is trying to attract or retain is key element of enhancing the ability of a community to grow its economy. Communities should explore grant opportunities and planning strategies that promote affordable housing for the workforce.

**Provide and Promote Recreational Opportunities.**

Communities should prioritize quality of life factors that make it an attractive place to live, work, and play. Recreational opportunities are not only essential for the promotion of a destination community, but also provide a competitive advantage when trying to attract new businesses and industries.

**Ensure the Availability of Quality Healthcare Facilities.**

Access to quality healthcare facilities is vital to community growth. Infrastructure such as hospitals, senior care and specialized medical practices can help support a growing population of employees.

Furthermore, these facilities are essential for part-time residents wishing to locate to your community. Programs that promote opportunities to age-in-place also encourage lifelong commitments to an area.

**Promote Sustainable Building and Economic Development Practices.**

Economic development and community planning practices should think ahead to consider future vulnerabilities and take into consideration practices to reduce energy consumption and promote adaptation to changing climates through the promotion of green building and other sustainable practices.



**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AND  
GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

This Agreement is entered into this \_\_\_\_\_, by and between the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, herein referred to as the “ARPC”, and the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners, herein referred to as the “Gadsden County BOCC”.

This Agreement/Contract is entered into based upon the following facts: Gadsden County BOCC desires to engage ARPC to render certain technical and/or professional services; and

ARPC possesses the qualifications and expertise to perform the services required by the Gadsden County BOCC.

ARPC in furtherance of its duties desires to partner with the Gadsden County BOCC to render Coordination and Planning services for Gadsden County BOCC (project title: Competitive Florida Partnership Project – Gadsden County) in Gadsden County, Florida; and

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto do mutually agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 – SCOPE OF WORK

ARPC agrees to assign Caroline Smith as the Administrator of this agreement and also agrees that she will be the ARPC employee assigned to the completion of the tasks outlined in this administrative agreement with Gadsden County BOCC. The Scope of Work to be provided by ARPC will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Lead Gadsden County with Planning activities required under the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant #P0478, including but not limited to research, outreach, workshops, and creation of an Economic Development Plan for Gadsden County.
- Provide Coordination and Administrative support services to Gadsden County as needed and requested, if relevant to the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant.

ARTICLE 2 – COMPENSATION

ARPC shall be paid by Gadsden County BOCC a total fee of \$59,475.00 (fifty-nine thousand four hundred and seventy-five dollars) in the form of a fixed-fee contract for services rendered under this Agreement. Payment to ARPC for services rendered will become due within thirty (30) days following receipt by Gadsden County BOCC of requisition of payment.

ARPC will submit two invoices, in accordance with Deliverable 1 of the Competitive Florida Partnership Grant’s Scope of Work by June 30, 2024, for the services provided under this agreement.

ARTICLE 3 – TIME OF COMPLETION

This Agreement shall begin on \_\_\_\_\_ and shall end on July 31, 2024. The Parties stipulate that the Agreement may be extended beyond the current end date so long as it's done in writing and executed by the Parties.

ARTICLE 4 – DEFAULT AND TERMINATION

The failure of either party to comply with any provision of this AGREEMENT shall place that party in default. Prior to terminating this AGREEMENT, the non-defaulting party shall notify the defaulting party in writing. The notification shall make specific reference to the provision which gave rise to the default. The defaulting party shall then be entitled to a period of ten (10) days in which to cure the default. In the event said default is not cured within the ten (10) day period, the AGREEMENT may be terminated. The failure of either party to exercise this right shall not be considered a waiver of such right in the event of any further default or noncompliance. Upon default and termination as provided in this Article, ARPC shall be reimbursed for all its actual costs incurred in providing services hereunder as costs are defined in Article 2 of this AGREEMENT and all finished or unfinished documents and other materials prepared by ARPC pursuant to this AGREEMENT shall become the property of Gadsden County BOCC. With 30 days advance notice, either party may choose to voluntarily terminate this AGREEMENT without penalty by formally notifying the other party in writing of its intent.

ARTICLE 5 – NONDISCRIMINATION

In carrying out the work of this Agreement, ARPC shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or handicapped status. ARPC shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or handicapped status. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff, or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. ARPC agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause. ARPC shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of ARPC state that it is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

ARTICLE 6 – LIABILITY

Gadsden County BOCC hereby agrees to hold harmless ARPC, to the extent allowed and required by law, from all claims, demands, liabilities and suits of third persons or entities not a party to this Agreement arising out of, or due to any act, occurrence, or omission of ARPC, its subcontractors or agents, if any, that is related to ARPC performance under this Agreement. The Parties stipulate that ARPC is acting on behalf of Gadsden County BOCC.

ARTICLE 7 – GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. Assignability: ARPC shall not assign any interest in this AGREEMENT and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation), without the prior written consent.

- B. Subcontractor: The Parties stipulate that the work is to be completed by ARPC, should the need arise ARPC shall be authorized to engage a necessary subcontractor at its discretion so long as there is no additional cost to Gadsden County BOCC.
- C. Representation for the Parties: Any questions relating to the performance of this AGREEMENT shall be directed to the ARPC Executive Director or Gadsden County Chairperson, as appropriate.
- D. Venue and Jurisdiction for Litigation between the Parties: This Agreement shall be construed according to the laws of the State of Florida. Venue shall be exclusively in Gadsden County, Florida for all litigation between the parties and all issues litigated between the parties shall be litigated exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction of Gadsden County, Florida. If any provision hereof is in conflict with any applicable statute or rule, or is otherwise unenforceable, then such provision shall be deemed null and void to the extent of such conflict, and shall be deemed severable, but shall not invalidate any other provision of the Agreement. In connection with any litigation arising out of this Agreement, including any administration, trial level or appellate proceedings, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover all costs incurred, including a reasonable attorneys' fee
- E. Amendment of Agreement: ARPC and Gadsden County BOCC by mutual agreement may amend, extend, or modify this Agreement. Any such modification shall be mutually agreed upon by and between ARPC and Gadsden County BOCC and shall be incorporated in a written amendment to this Agreement, duly signed by both parties.
- F. Complete Contract: This Agreement constitutes the entire contract between the parties, and any changes, amendments, or modifications hereof shall be void unless the same are reduced to writing and signed by the parties hereto.
- G. Advertising and Information Release: ARPC is authorized to disclose to the public on its website, printed materials, social media or by other means that it has been awarded the work described in the Scope of Work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this AGREEMENT on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Rietow  
ARPC Executive Director

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronterious Green  
Gadsden County Chairperson