



Board of County Commissioners
Federal Legislative Program

115TH CONGRESS

Broward County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards
115 S. Andrews Ave., #426, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PROPOSED

Broward County's Federal Legislative Program is a document that expresses the legislative priorities, and values and goals of the Board of Broward County Commissioners. This program provides direction for the county's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs & Professional Standards in its advocacy with federal legislative and executive branch officials and staff.

COMMISSION VALUES AND GOALS

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners (Board) envisions:

- From our Sawgrass to our Seagrass, a home for everyone seeking a sense of community and an exceptional quality of life, and a destination for visitors from every corner of the globe.
- A model County, governed in an open and ethical manner, where innovative ideas are encouraged, and public and private sectors work collaboratively to achieve shared goals.
- A vibrant economy with a diverse, skilled workforce, in a County offering unique advantages that attract all types of businesses to create equitable, countywide prosperity.
- A sustainable system of world-class intermodal transportation, infrastructure, quality human services, public safety, affordable housing, recreation, arts and culture, complementing and balancing our natural resources and environment.

To implement these visions, the Board has adopted the following eight Values and thirty Goals to assure a responsible and accountable county government and to fashion a climate for a vibrant economy, an exceptionally diverse, educated and skilled workforce, an outstanding transportation system, a remarkable arts and culture environment, protection of our resilient natural resources, and to secure an extraordinary economic and social quality of life for its residents.

I. Ensuring economic opportunities for Broward's diverse population and businesses

- Attract and retain all types of business, especially high-wage industries that offer employee benefits, through partnerships with the Alliance, chambers of commerce, colleges and universities, CareerSource, and any other available avenues.
- Increase the economic strength and impact of revenue-generating County enterprises balancing economic, environmental, and community needs.
- Diversify the local economy, attract industries offering high-wage jobs with benefits while balancing economic, educational, environmental, and community needs.
- Utilize policies and strategies to create employment opportunities and supports for economically disadvantaged members of the community (e.g., Workforce Investment Program, quality and affordable child care, trainee and internship opportunities tied to Skills Gap Assessment by Alliance, better collaboration with colleges and universities, and construction projects using small and certified businesses).

II. Prominently marketing Broward County as a brand, while increasing public understanding of programs and services

- Consistently and effectively market and brand Broward County programs and services, locally and globally, through effective collaboration.
- Promote to the public, through effective diversification of mediums and messages, the County's positive works and efforts to improve the quality of life for all residents.

III. Approaching human services collaboratively and compassionately, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable

- Effectively advocate for and acquire municipal, state and federal financial support to equitably address health and human services needs of the entire community, through a truly coordinated system of care.
- Deliver evidence-based services to the public, and connect customers and their family members, to sustainable support, with special emphasis on financial supports.
- Collaborate with public and private partners to find creative, equitable, and responsible solutions to systemic community problems, especially permanent, supportive housing for persons experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

IV. Cooperatively delivering an efficient and accessible regional intermodal transportation network

- Actively seek through an effective marketing plan, a full penny transportation surtax in 2018 to support a world-class intermodal transportation system including: a robust and reliable transit level of service, rail, intersection reconfiguration, adaptive signalization, and congestion relief.

- Implement the Wave Streetcar project while seeking local, state, federal funding and public support for rail projects that connect to existing rail corridors, balancing ridership with community redevelopment demands.
- Support the development, design and construction of sustainable, multi-modal transportation facilities throughout the County, to meet the demands of residents, travelers, and businesses.

V. Encouraging investments in renewable energy, sustainable practices and environmental protection

- Seek funding for, implement policies and pursue projects promoting, the use of alternative energies and sustainable practices.
- Proactively lead in the planning, design and construction of projects supporting resilience and climate adaptation, including coordination with other entities to foster resilient design as part of local and regional projects, especially shore protection efforts.
- Increase water quality protection efforts and lead creative approaches to water storage and aquifer recharge, as well as diversification of water supplies, regionally.
- Educate the public about the fragile South Florida ecosystems, impacts of severe weather, sea level rise, and climate change, with special emphasis on the coral reef ecosystem.
- Support and seek local, state, and federal funds for coastal management of coral reefs through collaboration with other governmental jurisdictions.

VI. Cultivating community culture, arts, recreation and life-long learning

- Provide diverse artistic, cultural, educational, and historical amenities and programs that contribute to a vibrant, multi-cultural and economically-viable community, including an annual signature event.
- Improve access to business development, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities and amenities to the economically disadvantaged.
- In coordination with our community partners, market and deliver world-class recreational opportunities.
- Enhance funding for Library programs and various life-long-learning opportunities for our residents and visitors.

VII. Offering sustainable, compatible, innovative housing options for all income-levels, including integrated, permanent supportive housing

- Facilitate a regional approach to growth and redevelopment through coordination and collaboration at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Increase the availability of affordable housing of all types, countywide, in every community using effective, uniform criteria, policies and strategies.
- Identify affordable workforce housing funding, to include a local, dedicated source of revenue.
- Develop, through municipal collaboration, neighborhoods and communities connecting affordable housing to reliable, accessible modes of transportation.
- Promote housing and community redevelopment that integrates energy efficiency, community resilience, and other livability standards and initiatives.

VIII. Consistently delivering responsive, efficient, quality services to the public and internal customers

- Create a system of expectation and accountability across the institution that assures effective communication, continuous performance review and improvement.
- Offer effective mandatory and optional coursework, addressing the lines of business and needs of the entire organization.
- Grounded in the intrinsic value of quality Public Service, respond to every customer, internal or external, expeditiously, thoroughly and professionally.
- Build into every process and service effective checks and balances that do not cause inefficiency, but rather ensure consistency, continuity, and quality.

HOME RULE

Home rule power is conferred to Florida counties by Article VIII, Section 1(f) and 1(g) of the Florida Constitution (1968), and by section 125.01, Florida Statutes. In accordance with Section 102, Broward County Charter, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is dedicated to the preservation of this fundamental democratic concept that protects the right of the people to determine and implement a public purpose at the grassroots level.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

While some mandates are justified because they achieve agreed upon policy goals, many, if not most mandates, are imposed without the consensus of local governments or resources for implementation. Mandates drain the financial lifeblood from county governments and impede the ability to adequately deliver essential services required by law.

POLICY STATEMENTS

The ability to maintain home rule and avoid unfunded mandates are central to Broward County's federal and state legislative priorities and advocacy needs, as outlined below. These ideals are championed by Broward County, the **Florida Association of Counties (FAC)** and the **National Association of Counties (NACo)**.

- The Broward County BCC **SUPPORTS** maintaining the integrity of county home rule power, both administrative and fiscal, which allows counties to develop and implement community-based solutions to local problems.
- The Broward County BCC **SUPPORTS** the establishment of an agreed upon course of action whereby elected officials deliberatively evaluate the appropriate funding and delivery of intergovernmental service responsibilities between the county and state or federal governments.
- The Broward County BCC **SUPPORTS** tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to taxpayers while at the same time considering and minimizing cumulative negative impact on local revenues, including state shared and local.
- The Broward County BCC **OPPOSES** any state or federal actions that limit the ability of local elected officials to make fiscal and public policy decisions for the citizens they represent.

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

ENERGY AND WATER

PORT EVERGLADES USACE NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SUPPORT for sufficient funding in the **Energy and Water Appropriations Bill** for the USACE for Construction, Navigation projects not included in the Administration’s budget and a sufficient number of new start designations for construction projects. The requested funds (\$28,780,000) provided via the Corps of Engineers Work Plan will be used to begin construction of **the Port Everglades Navigation Improvement Project**, specifically for the reconfiguration of the Coast Guard Station Ft. Lauderdale. **TOTAL PROJECT COSTS:** estimated at \$390 million (estimated \$199 million federal).

PORT EVERGLADES SOUTHPORT DREDGING REIMBURSEMENT | \$4,763,000

SUPPORT funding of \$4.763 million from the **Energy and Water Appropriations Bill** from within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Construction General account. The requested funds will be used to **reimburse Port Everglades** for the federal share of costs associated with the previous widening and deepening of the Southport Access Channel (1985) and Turning Notch (1990).

STORM WIND/SURGE RESISTANT PORTS MICROWAVE WATER LEVEL STATION | \$75,600

SUPPORT a funding request of **\$75,600** to be used to install and operate a new water level monitoring station at Port Everglades. This new microwave radar technology observatory station would contribute data to the National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON). NWLON provides long-term water level monitoring of coastal locations that are affected by varying combinations of meteorological and oceanographic conditions using data collected by over 200 observatories throughout the U.S. coastal regions, including the Great Lakes and Pacific and Caribbean island territories. NWLON data also supports real-time decisions by port pilots and other commercial mariners which improves navigation safety. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Ocean Service (NOS) Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) supports those who depend upon water level measurements via maintaining the NWLON.

HOMELAND SECURITY

RADIATION PORTAL MONITORS | \$1,500,000

SUPPORT for funding of \$1.5 million for the reimbursement of costs previously incurred to design and construct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) radiation portal monitors for Port Everglades at the international cargo entrance to the Intermodal Transfer Container Facility which was completed in 2014.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS FUNDING

SUPPORT no less than **\$533 million** for the **Community and Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant**; and no less than **\$1.86 billion** for the **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant**.

SUPPORT legislation that enhances counties’ abilities to provide local systems of care. Through 750 behavioral health authorities and community providers, county governments plan and operate community-based services for persons with mental illnesses and substance abuse conditions.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

SUPPORT increased funding for licensing and monitoring of child care facilities.

SUPPORT funding for subsidized child care services for parents and professional development opportunities for child care workers.

HIV HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

SUPPORT increased funding for HIV treatment and care.

SUPPORT the revision of funding formula disparities and require the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to revise HIV Reporting to adjust for migration of patients to another jurisdiction. The Board also **SUPPORTS** increased funding for HIV related respite programs and loosening eligibility criteria to ensure earlier access and availability of supportive services for caregivers; full funding of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program to meet the housing need for people living with HIV/AIDS; and full funding of the CDC's High Impact Prevention to geographical locations overburden with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

HOMELESSNESS

SUPPORT a minimum of \$2.565 billion for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD's) **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants** program within HUD in FY 2018.

SUPPORT funding of \$1 billion for the **National Affordable Housing Trust** to maintain a new permanent supportive housing, consistent with HEARTH Act Amendment priorities, which in turn supports the federal "Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness Initiative" and "Opening Doors" plans.

SUPPORT expansion and **increased** funding for the following ongoing federal homeless policies, programs:

- HUD Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Programs to increase HUD's ability to serve and stably house low-income individuals.
- Homeless Programs within the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, HUD, Justice, Veterans Affairs, Education, and Labor.
- A range of supportive services to homeless persons to address issues such as mental health and substance abuse disorders and promote access to mainstream benefits to increase the availability of services linked to housing for people experiencing homelessness.

HUD HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHPS PROGRAM (HOME)

SUPPORT the restoration of \$1.2 billion for the HUD Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The **HOME program**, assists state and local governments to provide affordable housing for low-income families helping to improve the quality of life in local communities. **HOME** funds can be used towards the acquisition, reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing. Counties can also use home funds for tenant-based rental assistance, and have flexibility to design policies and programs that address local affordable housing needs.

TRANSPORTATION/HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

ELECTRIC BUSES | \$7,400,000

SUPPORT funding of **\$7.4 million** to be used to purchase six electric buses and build two charging stations.

COPANS BUS MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS FACILITY REHABILITATION | \$20,000,000

SUPPORT funding of **\$20 million** to be used for redevelopment of the Copans facility that will include a joint control room for bus and rail operations in addition to enhancing operations for alternative fuel vehicles.

NEW BUS MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS FACILITY | \$58,000,000

SUPPORT funding of **\$58 million** for the acquisition and building of a third facility/garage outlined in the **Transportation Development Plan** (TDP). The new facility would also include a joint control room for bus and rail operations with accommodations for alternative fuel vehicles.

DOWNTOWN MULTIMODAL TRANSIT FACILITY PROJECT | \$5,000,000

SUPPORT funding for **The Broward County Transportation Department** (BCT) that will spearhead a proposed public/private partnership transportation project to redevelop the County's current downtown transit facility (Broward Boulevard Terminal) into a modern intermodal hub allowing inter-connectivity between various modes of transportation.

TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS | \$14,000,000

SUPPORT funding for the procurement, installation and integration of various technology programs to enhance and improve transit operations, specifically a fiber optics system to improve customer service, transit operational efficiency, and safety. The fiber optics project will include a **Traffic Signal Priority** (TSP) system to facilitate the movement of public transit vehicles, including trains, along heavily congested traffic corridors; installation of a **Real-Time Information System** to provide riders with **ADA accessible transit information** about the next bus and next train arrival time based on the vehicle's location and conditions in the transit corridor. Also, funds will go towards the purchase and installation of an **Internet Protocol Video System** (IPV) that views and records events on all rail and transit platforms and traffic intersections. Additional enhancements include funding for software acquisition for mobile ticketing/fare interoperability program, injury notification program, and a **Cisco Overlay Transport Virtuality** (OTV) network configuration program.

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT – PARK AND RIDE LOTS | \$6,000,000

SUPPORT funding of \$6 million to be used to develop geographically-dispersed park and ride lots along the County's regional transit corridors. Funding will also be used for property acquisition and developing/renovating existing property to accommodate park and ride use. Park and ride lots will be developed along BCT's most heavily travelled corridors and will promote transit usage with commuters.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES | MOSQUITO-BORN DISEASES

SUPPORT funding to states and local governments to combat the **Zika virus** and other emergent public health crises.

Broward County’s Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) is an economic engine that creates and promotes commerce and industry. FLL serves the air travel needs of Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties. The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that promotes airports and **OPPOSES** legislation which could be detrimental to aviation interests with the following legislative priorities:

- **EXPAND** service hours and provide additional staffing for 24-hour **United States Customs and Border Protection Federal Inspection Services** Facilities at FLL to meet the strong demand for services because of increasing international air traffic.
- **SUPPORT** the removal of the federal cap on **Passenger Facility Charges** that can be charged by an airport to fund its development.
- **MAINTAIN** long-term funding for the Airport Improvement Program to support airports’ infrastructure development at a level **no less than the current \$3.35 billion**.
- **OPPOSE** the removal of federal funding for contract air traffic control towers.
- **SUPPORT** the approval of a permanent exemption to the **Alternative Minimum Tax** relative to **Private Activity Bonds** to reduce financing costs and to facilitate the airports’ ability to bond projects.
- **SUPPORT** addressing the national pilot shortage in order to prevent negative effects to national mainline carriers and future impacts to FLL’s operations.

BENEFITS OF FLL

- FLL OFFERS MORE THAN **700 FLIGHTS A DAY AND NON-STOP SERVICE TO MORE THAN 70 U.S. cities**
- IN 2016, FLL SERVED MORE THAN **29.2 MILLION PASSENGERS**
- IN 2016, FLL GENERATED OVER **\$13 BILLION IN ECONOMIC IMPACT**

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY | PORT EVERGLADES

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

UPDATED The Board **REQUESTS** legislative language in the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to: 1) ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) uses recent data regarding the collection of harbor maintenance taxes when calculating which ports are deemed Donor Ports and 2) includes the harbor maintenance taxes collected from the cruise industry in the calculation for each port.

UPDATED **BENEFIT:** Maintenance of USACE navigation projects at seaports is accomplished by appropriated dollars from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The Fund is replenished by a Harbor Maintenance Tax paid by the commercial shippers on the value of cargo that transits seaports. In addition, the Tax is paid by the cruise industry, which also benefits from the federal channels.

UPDATED **BACKGROUND:** Section 2106 of WRDA-2014 established a program to address the large disparity that exists between the totals of Harbor Maintenance Tax collected at some ports and the dollars spent from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund at that port. The statute provides that ports meeting certain criteria, including that the receipt of less than 25 percent of the taxes collected at that port, shall be designated Donor Ports and shall receive special consideration. Specifically, Donor Ports may use the Trust Fund to address other navigation infrastructure needs at the port besides federal channel maintenance and may use the Trust Fund to reimburse shippers that use the port and have paid the tax. However, USACE was directed by Congress to use 2012 data in its calculations of Donor Ports, thereby hurting some ports, such as Port Everglades, which had lower receipts that year compared with more recent years when receipts have grown significantly. Also, USACE does not include revenue from the cruise industry when it calculates revenues from each port.

UPDATED POLICY STATEMENTS

The Board **SUPPORTS:**

- **Reimbursement** or credit for costs incurred in the Preconstruction Engineering & Design phase of the Navigation Improvement Project.
- **Increased U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staffing** to meet the current needs and match the infrastructure expansions supporting the major growth in cargo and travel/cruise activities at Port Everglades and at Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Safe and efficient movement of freight through seaports are fundamental to the twin goals of protecting our border and growing the economy. Full funding for expanded, additional, relocated and replaced federally mandated Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs). Cargo containers represent a massive area of concern in terms of homeland security and vulnerability. The lifecycle of many of these RPMs has come to an end (2015) and at the same time Port Everglades is experiencing an increase in global trade. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), not individual ports, must assess budget needs and secure full funding for replacement, installation and maintenance of RPMs. Implementing the Congressionally mandated 100 percent inspection of these containers is an enormous task without Congress providing the required federal funding need for the entire cost.
- **Funding and construction of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Inspection Station** at Port Everglades. While the volume of plant imports at Port Everglades exceeds that of Port Miami, the "local" station is in Miami. Port Everglades needs a local Plant Inspection Station to handle current volumes and anticipated increased volumes expeditiously. The USDA Deputy Administrator has stated that current staffing levels are adequate to support a Plant Inspection Station at Port Everglades.
- **Continued authorization and appropriation of Homeland Security measures authorized by Congress** and implemented by the Administration to help strengthen the Nation against risks associated with acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

- This includes **permanent reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program (TRIP), prior to its expiration on December 31, 2020**, and making port projects a priority for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), including full funding for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) that provides transportation infrastructure security initiatives required to offer port security services.
- **Cost-share requirements for FEMA Port Security Grant Programs must be permanently eliminated**, as it is a significant economic disincentive to make security enhancements and implement regional maritime security plans. The Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) provides grant funding to port areas for the protection of critical port infrastructure from terrorism. PSGP funds are primarily intended to assist ports in enhancing maritime domain awareness, enhancing risk management capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs), weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and other non-conventional weapons, as well as training and exercises and Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) implementation.
- **Continued OPPOSITION to further attempts that will move port security grants to the states** as advocated by the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP). The FEMA Port Security Grant program must remain a stand-alone program. Port Security is a federal responsibility. The Board holds firm opposition to moving grants to the State as Port security grants should remain at the federal level.
- ***UPDATED*** Continued significant funding for **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants** and the **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program**.
- **Exploration of federal programs to promote Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** as a marine transportation fuel throughout the United States. As appreciation grows for the environmental, economic and energy security benefits offered by LNG, explore the regulatory structures required to support continued LNG-fueled vessel development and operations.
- ***UPDATED*** **Support of the U.S. Department of Commerce's (DOC) Export Assistance Centers**, which help more U.S. companies to begin exporting and will assist companies already exporting to increase their sales to more overseas markets.
- **Continuing to lead the world in negotiating high-standard trade agreements** that give U.S. exporters access to billions of customers beyond our borders. This includes the establishment of a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) along with the location of the Permanent Secretary of the FTAA in South Florida.

***NEW* NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo)**

The Board **SUPPORTS** the National Association of Counties (NACo) Federal Legislative Priorities, **unless specific issues conflict with Broward County positions**. The priorities of NACo are as follows:



PROTECT THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

NACo **SUPPORTS** preserving the federal deductibility of local property and income taxes and the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds that provide critical funding for public facilities, infrastructure and development. Provisions like the tax exemption for municipal bond interest have been part of the federal tax code for over 100 years, helping to efficiently and safely finance trillions of dollars in public works projects.

PROTECT THE FEDERAL-STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

NACo **SUPPORTS** maintaining the federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services. Counties continue to be concerned about measures that would limit the ability of states to direct supplemental payments to county providers, curtail the ability of counties to contribute local funds to match federal dollars or otherwise shift federal and state Medicaid costs to counties including cuts, caps or block grants. We **SUPPORT** efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of policies and operations.

PROMOTE COUNTY SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

NACo will work to ensure that any transportation and infrastructure measures to reflect county priorities, including allocating more funding for locally owned infrastructure, increasing local decision making authority, prioritizing investments that increase economic development, mobility and safety. NACo will also continue to **URGE** Congress to resolve the long-term solvency of the **Highway Trust Fund**.

SUPPORT COUNTY AUTHORITY TO COLLECT EXISTING SALES TAX

NACo **SUPPORTS** legislation to permit the collection of existing sales and use taxes from remote sellers. The issue of collecting remote sales taxes has escalated in recent years due to the Internet's growth as a retail marketplace. As a result, state and local governments have lost billions in uncollected sales taxes and Main Street businesses find themselves at a significant competitive disadvantage to online merchants. This disadvantage is amplified because online merchants and their customers use local infrastructure and services without contributing to their provision.

SUPPORT POLICIES TO PROMOTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

NACo **SUPPORTS** measures that enhance the ability of counties to prevent and treat mental illness and substance abuse disorders. NACo also **SUPPORTS** programs and legislation to reduce mental illness in jails and provide appropriate treatment to those in custody, while protecting overall public safety.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST COUNTIES TO PREVENT AND REDUCE POVERTY

NACo **SUPPORTS** federal investments and strategies that focus on serving those most in need and address the root causes of poverty. NACo **SUPPORTS** fully funding programs that assist those most in need and maintain the maximum amount of efficiency and flexibility possible at the local level. Key federal programs that assist counties in tackling poverty include the Social Services Block Grant, the Community Services Block Grant and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS | HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

The ACA was enacted in 2010 and has provided health coverage and improved access to care for many Americans. A cornerstone of the ACA was the provision of the Essential Health Benefits that were required to be provided in qualified health plans. **In any reform of the ACA, it is imperative to keep the following as the minimum benefits of all plans:**

The Board **REQUESTS** Congress:

- Retain the ACA provided protection from health plans discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability and age or excluding coverage of pre-existing conditions.
- Ensure regulations and guidance that help patients access the medications prescribed by their providers to include cost-sharing limits and do not allow for medications to be removed from formularies mid-year.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to permanently repeal the 40 percent excise tax on employer-sponsored health insurance plans, otherwise known as the “**Cadillac Tax.**”

The Board **OPPOSES** an increase plan costs if an individual has a lapse in coverage. However, the Board **SUPPORTS**:

- Retaining tax credits based on income – not age.
- Retaining funding for **Planned Parenthood.**

NEW OPIOID ADDICTION EPIDEMIC

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislative action to address the national opioid epidemic, including funding for local governments to combat the issue on multiple fronts from law enforcement to treatment to prevention. Broward County recorded **580 drug deaths in 2016** — with more than **90 percent related to heroin, fentanyl and other opioids**, according to the Broward County medical examiner.

NEW RECOVERY RESIDENCES

Florida is amid an opioid crisis with the South Florida region experiencing the worst of the epidemic. Federal laws, including the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and the Affordable Care Act of 2012, have dramatically increased required insurance coverage for behavioral health issues, including substance abuse treatment. The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** and the **Fair Housing Act (FHA)** have combined to limit government oversight of recovery residences that house persons recovering from **Substance Abuse Disorders (SUDs)**.

Florida has become a medical vacation destination for treatment. The flood of out-of-state patients with insurance covering more lucrative out-of-network programs has created a billion-dollar industry in Florida with little oversight. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is charged with the interpretation of the Fair Housing Amendments Act. There is an urgent need for clarification from HUD regarding the language within the Fair Housing Amendments Act (“the Act”) and its application to sober homes. The courts have applied the Act inconsistently over the years and this has caused a great burden to be placed upon the states and local governments, some of which are currently facing an over-concentration of sober homes in their single-family residential communities.

With a lack of regulation and/or oversight of such homes or their operators, there has been increasing abuse and exploitation of the patients/residents in the sober homes by the operators. Also, the lack of coordinated discharge planning of patients/residents contributes to homelessness. Therefore, there is a real need for clarification from HUD regarding what actions related to sober homes, if any, may be taken by states and local governments in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of both the residents of the homes and the surrounding areas where homes are located. The following clarifications to the Fair Housing Amendments Act could be helpful:

- Provide a better definition of “currently using drugs or alcohol.”

- Provide that sober homes may be limited in single-family zoning districts everywhere due to the more frequent turnover of a sober home dwelling unit.
- Provide for limitations of sober homes within single-family zoning districts by providing an allotted percentage of sober houses to non-sober homes within each single-family zoning district or by limiting them by location (no closer than 500 feet from one another) to avoid overconcentration of sober homes in single-family zoning districts only.
- Provide clarification that sober homes must comply with the local zoning regulations pertaining to the number of unrelated persons allowed per dwelling unit.

SUPPORT the regulation of the recovery residence industry and protect the welfare, health and safety of the consuming public.

FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SUPPORT federal efforts to **expand affordable housing initiatives**, including **increased funding** for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program and overall Housing Authority resources.

SUPPORT legislation to lift or **increase** the present 4 percent and 9 percent cap on **Housing Tax Credits** to provide a direct allocation of tax credit/bond resources to Local Housing Finance Authorities. Currently, the 9 percent tax credit model is the only process that effectively delivers new affordable multi-family units. Broward County has a deficiency of over 65,000 units that would be affordable to families at 60 percent of Area Median Income (AMI).

SUPPORT legislation that would maintain or increase current levels of the **Community Development Block Grant Program** (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), which contribute to affordable housing infrastructure, public services and economic development for low to moderate income residents.

SUPPORT maintaining the homeowner federal income tax deductions.

NEW **SUPPORT** an increase in **funding for the National Housing Trust Fund** to build and preserve affordable housing for persons with extremely low incomes (ELI), including veterans, seniors, individuals with disabilities or special needs, and persons experiencing homelessness.

HIV HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Board **SUPPORTS**:

- Expansion of federal programs which provide scholarships and financial assistance to students committing to medical careers in HIV/AIDS and promote specialization in communities that are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas.
- HIV testing of inmates upon incarceration to reduce the impact of transmission.
- Reauthorization and increased funding of the Ryan White Care Act.
- Continued funding for the **AIDS Drug Assistance Program** (ADAP) to ensure pharmaceutical Health Insurance Premium assistance access.
- Legislation which removes administrative and statutory barriers to obtaining prescription medications confronted by people living with HIV/AIDS; ensuring they are not forced to interrupt life-saving medications while learning to navigate the complex system of care.
- Enhanced coordination of activities of Federal Health and Human Services Programs in their response to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States.

MEDICAID

The Medicaid program is recognized nationally as a partnership between the federal and state governments to provide medical assistance to certain individuals and families with low incomes and resources. Unlike many states, Florida requires counties to contribute financially to the Medicaid program, subsidizing the state's share, leaving counties vulnerable each year to potential cost shifts when there is a state budget deficit or shortfall. As the state seeks to implement the federal waiver to help provide predictability in the cost of the state's share for Medicaid:

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that:

- Increases the percentage the federal government reimburses states for Medicaid expenditures through the **Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP)**, based on a sliding scale, so that states with lower personal incomes will have higher FMAPs.
- Allows the state to finance and promote the objectives of the Medicaid program without shifting additional costs to county government.
- Allows the use of Intergovernmental Transfers (IGTs) to help draw down additional federal funding without supplanting the state's share with local funds that have been certified to be federally matched, in addition to the state's contribution.
- Provides the financial infrastructure for the state to sustain Medicaid non-emergency patient transportation services by using a methodology rate process for distribution of funds to counties that does not shift financial responsibility of these services to the local level.
- Provides flexibility at the local level for counties to actively participate in the state's efforts to reduce unnecessary nursing home placement by allowing counties to re-direct their Medicaid match to fund local health care services or community-based care programs.
- Maintains and preserves critical mandatory and optional services such as the **Medically Needy** program.
- Ensures Medicaid coverage for dual eligible clients (Medicare/Medicaid).
- Allows a Medicaid funding increase and expanded prescription coverage without any copayments.
- Enables the state of Florida to seek a waiver from the Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration to allow state and local governments to explore the purchase of Canadian pharmaceuticals to reduce costs.
- ***NEW*** Enhances covered Medicaid services, which include expanded **dental benefits** for eligible adults.
- Reduces states' long term share of cost and financing of Medicaid Expansion efforts. The Board also **SUPPORTS** expanded drug formularies for beneficiaries and reduced co-pays.

NEW The Board **OPPOSES** any measure that would further shift federal and state Medicaid costs to counties – including cuts, caps, block grants and new limits on counties' ability to raise the non-federal match or receive supplemental payments. The Medicaid program is a key target in the 115th Congress. Major health legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives (the "American Health Care Act") and other versions considered by the Senate (e.g., "Better Care Reconciliation Act") would decrease federal funding for Medicaid by almost one-fourth during the next decade. This decrease in Medicaid funding would be achieved by requiring states to accept a per capita cap or block granting program funds. Under a per capita cap model, states would receive a fixed amount of federal funding per beneficiary category. Under a block grant approach, states would receive a fixed amount of federal funding each year, irrespective of changes in Medicaid's enrollment and mandates. Both these approaches would further shift costs to counties and reduce counties' capacity to provide essential health services to their residents.

MEDICARE

The Board **SUPPORTS** the elimination of the 24-month waiting period for individuals to access Medicare benefits after receiving a disability determination. The Board also **SUPPORTS** the:

- Inclusion of prescription drug coverage within the traditional Medicare framework and permanent Medicare funding for medical immunosuppressant's and other related drugs; and
- Expanded Medicare coverage for home- and community-based care as a cost-effective and evidence-based alternative to nursing home care, and Medicare efficiencies, however, not at the expense of compromising a beneficiary's health.

***NEW* LOW INCOME POOL (LIP)**

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that provides flexibility for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to meet match dollar requirements to draw down funding for LIP. This includes allowing FQHCs to self-fund the match requirement.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The Board **SUPPORTS** increased levels of funding for the **Community Services Block Grant**, which supplies core funding for local agencies assisting the lowest income families in America. The Board **OPPOSES** cuts to the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** and **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** program and **SUPPORTS** increased funding of these programs as measures that provide assistance and stability to individuals and families while moving toward self-sufficiency. The Board also **SUPPORTS** federal funding for the **Assets for Independence** program that provides asset building by low-income families.

***NEW* LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)**

The Board **SUPPORTS** an increase to the cap of administrative costs that will improve implementation of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), allowing local governments the ability to hire staff to support these programs.

HOMELESSNESS

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation to direct the Department of Justice to gather data on potential hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness, and to prosecute accordingly.

AUTISM

The Board **SUPPORTS** health insurance coverage for **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**, in parity with other chronic medical conditions receiving insurance coverage, to ensure children diagnosed with ASD can access available medical services, treatments, and therapies.

***NEW* PRIMARY CARE SERVICES**

SUPPORT increased funding to the Bureau of Primary Health Care to expand new preventive and primary care access points through the Federally Qualified Health Centers.

***NEW* CHILD ABUSE**

SUPPORT increased funding for Child Advocacy Centers to enhance child abuse investigations.

***NEW* HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

SUPPORT increased funding for the provision of effective, comprehensive services to victims of human trafficking.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS | TRANSPORTATION

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Broward County **SUPPORTS** improving current surface transportation policy that includes the following:

- Funding beyond the current levels plus inflation.
- Robust growth of the federal public transportation program and continued funding for the Mass Transit Account from the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), thus preserving transit's long-term source of dedicated funding in order to maintain transit assets in a state of good repair, ensure stable funding for long-term capital investment projects, and meet the growing ridership demand.
- Accelerated project delivery without compromising environmental impacts.
- Mechanics to reach full funding of the Highway Trust Fund through congestion pricing practices.
- A federally supported pilot program for Broward County or the state of Florida to explore non-traditional funding mechanisms that leverage federal funds with local dollars and devolve control for transportation dollars to the local level.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Board **SUPPORTS** continued funding for the **Mass Transit Account** from Highway Trust Fund and flexibility in Federal Transit Administration funding so local transit providers may use **no less than 10 percent** (as allowed with ARRA funding) for operations.

The Board **SUPPORTS full funding for the Downtown Transit Corridor** ("The Wave") and its joint sponsors: Florida Department of Transportation, Broward County, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, the City of Fort Lauderdale, and the Downtown Development Authority.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS | ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY

EVERGLADES RESTORATION

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for the **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP)**, with a priority given to the **Broward County Water Preserve Areas (WPAs)** and the **Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)**.

The Board **SUPPORTS** biennial passage of the **Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act**, formerly the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRDA).

HERBERT HOOVER DIKE (HHD)

The Board **SUPPORTS** continued federal funding for the complete repair and protection of the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD), and any and all actions to expedite full rehabilitation of the HHD.

BEACH NOURISHMENT

NEW The Board **SUPPORTS** lifting the statutory restrictions on the use of federal funds for the acquisition of foreign or other non-domestic sand for beach nourishment. Specifically, the Board **SUPPORTS** the **SAND Act** of 2017 (S. 279 and H.R. 833).

The Board **SUPPORTS** efforts to streamline and simplify the regulatory requirements that stem from overlapping jurisdictions of federal agencies in the coastal zone.

The Board **SUPPORTS** efforts to apportion costs among the federal government and other beach nourishment project participants consistent with the actual economic and environmental benefits that beaches provide to those participants.

The Board **SUPPORTS** the **Sand Bypass Project at Port Everglades**, and expediting the necessary federal permits and federal fiscal contributions for the construction and operation of the project.

The Board **SUPPORTS** the **full funding of the US Army Corps of Engineers Shore Protection account**, which can reimburse Broward County for costs incurred with the planning, engineering, design, and construction of beach nourishment projects in Broward County.

The Board **SUPPORTS** beach-related reimbursement and direct funding, in recognition of the high value of beaches and the need to replenish beaches when necessary, particularly in the context of adaptation to accelerated rates of sea level rise and climate disruptions.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE

The Board **OPPOSES** any **efforts to reverse, repeal, hinder, or weaken elements of the Climate Action Plan**, including, but not limited to, the Clean Power Plan (requiring carbon emissions reductions from existing power plants); carbon emission standards for new power plants; use of the social cost of carbon to calculate the benefits of environmental regulations; energy efficiency standards for appliances, equipment, and industry; energy efficiency and renewable energy goals for the federal government, including the Department of Defense; stricter fuel efficiency standards for vehicles; and regulation of methane emission for oil and gas production.

The Board **OPPOSES**:

- Any weakening of US participation in international climate agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.
- Efforts to eliminate climate impacts as a required element of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews.
- Any efforts to defund or diminish the US Global Change Research Program or delay its already-initiated process to develop the Fourth National Climate Assessment.
- Reductions in NASA earth science and planetary observation programs.
- Restrictions to the Department of Defense or other national security agencies from considering climate change in national security assessments.
- Any efforts to overturn the denial of permits for oil and gas exploration off the Atlantic coast of the United States and any efforts to overturn the establishment of Marine Protective Areas undertaken by the Obama Administration.

The Board **SUPPORTS**:

- Federal policies that promote a more resilient electrical grid and distributed generation of electricity from diverse sources, including solar, wind, and other renewables.
- Federal efforts to reduce the total demand for energy through energy efficiency, which reduces costs for consumers and the need for new power plants.
- The establishment of a revenue-neutral carbon tax as part of any tax reform efforts considered by Congress to promote energy efficiency and the transition to clean energy sources.
- Funding for the U.S. Department of Energy to fund programs such as the Clean Cities Program and SunShot Initiative, and making such funds available to local governments.
- Funding criteria for Clean Cities Coalitions which includes a formula based on the population of the Coalition's geographic area.
- Funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund programs such as the Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program, Sustainable Skyline Grant Program, and Southeast Diesel Collaborative, and making such funds available to local governments.
- Legislation to establish a program to increase resiliency or adaptability of water systems to changes to the hydrologic conditions of a region due to the impacts of climate change.

- Full funding for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office and other agencies involved in the critical advancement of climate science critical to informing decisions regarding energy and infrastructure investments, natural resource management, climate adaptation, and resilience.
- Federal policies and actions which advance greenhouse gas emission reductions, climate adaptation activities, energy efficiency measures, and diversification of energy sources, particularly efforts by federal agencies, which provide local communities with resources and tools to promote greenhouse gas reductions, adaptation efforts, and an efficient, clean energy economy at the local level.

AIR QUALITY

The Board **SUPPORTS** full funding for EPA Section 103 (Particulate Matter) and Section 105 (Air Pollution Control) grants, which sustain Broward County's air quality programs.

The Board **SUPPORTS** full funding of the Department of Homeland Security's BioWatch air monitoring and analysis Program.

OIL DRILLING

The Board **OPPOSES** activities, such as **oil exploration and hydraulic fracturing in Florida**, which present potential for negative environmental consequences to coastal areas, the Everglades, or state water resources.

The Board **SUPPORTS** preservation of the longstanding **moratorium against offshore oil and gas drilling in federal waters** off Florida's coast.

WATER POLICY

The Board **SUPPORTS**:

- The **Waters of the United States (WOTUS)** rule and **OPPOSES** any efforts to repeal or weaken it or defund its implementation.
- Efforts by **Florida Area Coastal Environmental Initiative (FACE)** stakeholders, including Broward County, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and others, to **investigate the sources and relative contributions of various nutrient inputs to the coastal waters**.
- The implementation of a long-term coastal water monitoring program for the southeast Florida region by federal and state agencies.
- The National Ocean Policy and coastal marine spatial planning for supporting the diverse uses and long-term sustainability of the nation's coastal and marine resources.
- The installation of a federal tide gauge in Broward County.
- The interagency and stakeholder strategy team for coral reef management and conservation led by the NOAA, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) and Broward County, and **SUPPORT** the implementation of the local action plan to improve coordination of technical and financial support for conservation and management of coral reefs from Miami-Dade County northward to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County.
- Funding for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, which funds grants and cooperative agreements to members of the national network of organizations for the recovery and treatment of stranded marine mammals, the study of stranding incidents, and related facility, operations, and staffing expenses, in the historic amount of \$4 million annually (or more)

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS | JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CIVIL RIGHTS

SUPPORT federal legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

The Board urges members to **SUPPORT** the retention of and funding for a new federal courthouse in Broward County.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

SUPPORT reforms to the current immigration system that would create an expeditious but fair path to citizenship for all immigrants. The Board also **SUPPORTS** increased border security with defined metrics for success and ensure these measurements are de-coupled from the streamlining of the immigration system.

NEW SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS

The Board **OPPOSES** any legislation, or executive branch agency administrative actions seeking to penalize and deny to states and local governments federal grant funds, because they are welcoming communities for foreign visitors and immigrants, regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, or disability. Broward County fully complies with the requirement of Title 8 U.S.C. §1373 – Communication between government agencies and the U.S. immigration and Customs Enforcement Service.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS | FINANCE, TAX AND SPENDING

CHILD CARE/EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The Board **OPPOSES** any proposal to initiate a pre-certification process or any effort to increase requirements for qualification of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

TAX RELIEF

The Board **OPPOSES** legislation that would compel the County to report the amount of real estate taxes paid to the IRS and to individual taxpayers. The Board **SUPPORTS** federal legislation to permanently eliminate the AMT penalty on airport and seaport private activity bonds, and to permit the advance refunding of PABs issued for port-related infrastructure projects.

NEW The Board **OPPOSES** legislation eliminating or limiting the **state and local tax (SALT)** deduction that taxpayers presently enjoy to reduce their overall federal taxes. The SALT deduction was one of six deductions allowed under the original federal income tax code enacted in 1913, and was also included in the emergency federal income tax enacted in 1862 to finance the Civil War. This deduction protects local taxpayers from double taxation by allowing individuals and families to deduct real and personal property taxes, income taxes, and sales taxes paid to state and local governments. A Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) report released on July 11, 2017, concluded that if the SALT deduction were repealed, individuals in every state and all income brackets would be adversely impacted. Eliminating the deduction will hurt the middle class. In 2015:

- At least 95.8% of all itemizers took the SALT deduction.
- 36 million Individuals and families making less than \$200,000 claimed the deduction.
- Those families accounted for 52.7% of the total amount of double taxation avoided.

The GFOA study documented that in Florida approximately 22 percent of families and individuals itemize and take advantage of the SALT deduction. The average SALT deduction taken by Floridians was about \$1,548. While the financial impact to taxpayers varies by income, the study states eliminating the SALT deduction would result in significant tax increases to individuals and families – for example, for persons with incomes between \$50,000 and \$75,000 the average tax increase is about \$322; for incomes between \$75,000 and \$100,000, the average impact is \$987; and for incomes between \$100,000 and \$200,000, the tax increase is \$2,192.

CONGRESSIONALLY-DIRECTED SPENDING

The Board **SUPPORTS** congressional directives that provide Administrative agencies with guidance on the needs of a particular congressional district or state.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS | EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

NEW NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP)

SUPPORT the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with legislative, policy, and programmatic modifications to improve the affordability and transparency of the program through reforms in the following areas:

- **Affordability/Rate Structure**
 - Maintain a focus on affordability; however, if rates must rise, provide a reasonable glide path for all properties.
 - Ensure rates are consistent for all properties, including second homes and businesses.
 - Ensure NFIP rates are not excessive or unfair by making the rate-setting process more transparent.
- **Programmatic Modifications to Enhance NFIP's Financial Sustainability**
 - Consider Write-Your-Own reforms, including capping commissions, while further incentivizing NFIP policy sales efforts.
 - Encourage greater participation by those outside of the 100-year floodplain via expanded use of the Preferred Risk Policy.
 - Further strengthen enforcement responsibilities to ensure those in the 100-year floodplain have and maintain flood insurance.
 - Privatization that maintains affordability and requires whole profile of risk (no cherry picking).
- **Mitigation**
 - Increase funding for existing flood mitigation programs.
 - Establish tax credits for mitigation efforts.
 - Consider voucher/loan programs to further emphasize mitigation, particularly for lower-income participants.
 - **OPPOSE** unfunded mandates requiring local governments to undertake new flood mitigation activities.
- **Mapping**
 - Ensure the mapping process is transparent and is inclusive of local governments.
 - Use the most effective technology available, such as LiDAR to ensure accurate maps.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS (EOCs)

SUPPORT re-instatement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program. The impact on Florida from Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew in 2016 demonstrated the critical capability for county EOCs to ensure each is able to meet the minimum structural survivability and operational functionality established by the state and federal government.

The EOC Grant Program is intended to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. Fully capable emergency operations facilities at the State and local levels are an essential element of a comprehensive national emergency management system and are necessary to ensure continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters or emergencies caused by any hazard. The EOC Grant Program is authorized by section 614 of the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (42 U.S.C. 5196c) as amended by section 202 of the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007* (Public Law 110-53).

***UPDATED* FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AUDIT**

SUPPORT amendments to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to tighten the statute of limitations so that it tracks with each local government’s individual grant completion and amend Stafford Act Section 705 (a) to be grant specific to each project worksheet (PW) rather than the entire disaster (i.e., once last PW is closed). Under the existing Act, FEMA has a three-year period to audit Public Assistance grants and rescind awards, but it has interpreted the clock to start only upon closing of the last project worksheet of a disaster recovery effort which may include multiple projects. Local governments should not be subject to the threat that FEMA will claw back money for an unlimited number of years after FEMA approved their spending of disaster assistance grants. The Board **SUPPORTS** S. 1641, the Post-Disaster Fairness to States Act, that would place a three year statute of limitation on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) clawing back funds after the completion of a project following a federally designated disaster.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLES

SUPPORT an amendment to the Stafford Act that directs FEMA to reimburse local governments for 100 percent deductible costs incurred for an insured facility damaged by multiple same-type disasters, regardless of the number of events.

PROPOSED

For further information about Broward County’s Legislative Priorities, please contact our Office.

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PROPOSED