



U.S. Economic Development Administration Strengthens Regional Economies

The **Apalachee Regional Planning Council** (ARPC) located in Tallahassee, FL administers the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)-funded Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the predominantly rural Apalachee Region in the Florida Panhandle. The CEDS organizes local public and private leaders to identify and assess current circumstances in the regional economy, and most importantly, develops a regional vital project list.

In support of EDA, ARPC's Economic Development Planner Richard Fetchick stated "*The EDA, through their CEDS and associated programs, sets the stage for transformative economic development projects in the Apalachee Economic Development District.*"

EDA Investments in the Apalachee Region:

Wakulla Environmental Institute

Opened 2016 with the assistance of an EDA-awarded \$1.5 million Public works grant for construction of access road and utility extensions.

Through an EDA-funded loan, WEI graduates received capital to expand an oyster aquaculture business.

Created 5 jobs in a budding environmentally-friendly industry; top employer for Wakulla County in 5 years.



City of Apalachicola – Scipio Creek Boat Basin

City of Apalachicola awarded \$1.8 million EDA grant for major overhaul of commercial boat basin.

Match funds provided: \$480,000 (CDBG) and \$110,000 (city).

The port and its fisheries are a major source of employment in the county.



City of Port St. Joe – Sacred Heart Hospital

\$530,000 from EDA and \$80,000 state grant funded access road and utility extensions to serve new hospital.

19-bed hospital features a 24-hour emergency department, in-patient services, surgical services, full complement of diagnostic and laboratory services, and helipad.

Spin-off project, a medical arts office building, employs another 25-30 additional skilled medical, office staff.



Calhoun County – Watson Baled Straw

Watson Baled Straw obtained a working capital line-of-credit for a wholesale pine-straw business through the ARPC's EDA funded RLF Program.

Before the RLF, the business provided only seasonal employment to 20 migrant workers; since obtaining the line-of-credit, year-round employment provided for 20 border-line poverty level individuals.

Increased business' straw production by 50% per acre.