Launching and Enhancing RDO State Associations

Florida Regional Councils Association

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Florida Regional Councils Association: Overview

- **History**
- **Structure**
- **Purpose**
- **Staffing**
- **Budget**
- **Adding Value**

*NADO Trailblazer Award 2011*
Florida Regional Councils Association: History

**Early 1970s**
- RPCs formed through interlocal agreements
- Loosely formed meetings of RPC Executive Directors
- Legislation establishing all 11 RPCs

**Early 1980s**
- Powers and duties / Regional Plans
- Association of RPC Executive Directors established
- Sharing of ideas, challenges, and best practices
- Policy Board established = One voice in Tallahassee
Florida Regional Councils Association: Structure

Regional Planning Councils

- 11 regions
- Association of local governments
- Each RPC Board
  - 2/3 local elected officials
  - 1/3 gubernatorial appointees
Florida Regional Councils Association: Structure

**Policy Board**
- Two elected officials and one Governor’s Appointee
- Meets twice a year
- Sets policy and a legislative agenda

**Executive Directors Advisory Committee**
- Serves as an advisory body to the Policy Board
- Meets eight times a year
- Coordinates statewide initiatives/meets with state partners
Florida Regional Councils Association: Structure

**Guiding Documents**

- By-Laws last amended in June, 2009
- Memorandum of Understanding to Provide Technical Assistance
- Draft Code of Ethics and Best Practices
- Incorporation being contemplated: 501(c)(6)
Florida Regional Councils Association: Purpose

**FRCA serves to:**

- Strengthen Florida’s RPCs
- Enhance Regional Economic Development
- Improve the consistency and quality of RPC programs
- Ensure the RPCs add value to state, regional, and local initiatives
- Ensure the consistent delivery of services around the state
- Support its representative local governments
Florida Regional Councils Association: Staffing

**History**

- **1970s through early 1990s**
  - Part-time Contract Executive Director (Lobbyist)

- **1995 – 2002**
  - Part-time Contract Executive Director (Lobbyist) and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

- **2002 - 2011**
  - Part-time Contract Executive Director (Lobbyist)

- **Today (Back to 1995 Model)**
  - Part-time Contract Executive Director (Lobbyist) and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Florida Regional Councils Association: Staffing

**Contract Executive Director**

- A/K/A Lobbyist
- Hired in 1982 in response to legislative action to strip funding and regulatory powers
- Primary function is legislative
- Primary responsibility is to preserve the annual appropriation
- In the substantive arena, trend is to play defense
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

- Objectives
  - Implement FRCA’s programs, policies, and priorities
  - Serve as FRCA’s representative when engaged with other entities
  - Seek strategic and funding opportunities to further RPCs
  - Serve as a source of information on issues and initiatives affecting RPCs
  - Strengthen the consistency and quality of RPC programs
Florida Regional Councils Association: Staffing

**Director of Intergovernmental Affairs**

- Organizational Relationships
  - Reports to the Policy Board and Executive Directors
  - Supervised by the Chair of the Executive Directors Advisory Committee
  - Works with the contract Executive Director

- Duties and Responsibilities
  - Outreach and relationship building
  - Resource Development / Capacity Building
  - Legislative (not lobbying)
  - Administrative
Florida Regional Councils Association: Budget

2012-13 Annual Budget

• $275,000
• Dues: 70% equally and 30% per capita
• Budget Categories
  • Executive Director and Expenses
  • Intergovernmental Services
  • Policy Board Expenses
  • RPC Directors’ Meetings
  • Miscellaneous
Single Point of Contact Service Delivery

- Lead Regional Planning Council
- Subcontractor Regional Planning Councils

Cooperative Statewide Projects

- Statewide Regional Evacuation Study
- Emergency Management / Homeland Security
- Regional Economic Modeling
- Regional Broadband Planning
Florida Regional Councils Association: Adding Value

**Florida’s Future Economy**
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies
- Statewide alignment

**Partnerships**
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- Over 40 other state and regional agencies and entities
- Currently serve on or participate in 12 statewide initiatives
Florida Regional Councils Association: Adding Value

**Recent Examples**

- Florida Energy Office Outreach = Energy Assurance Funds
- Value of Board Members
  - Florida League of Cities
  - Florida Association of Counties
  - Small County Coalition
- Redesigned Annual Report and Directory
- Website
Florida Regional Councils Association: Adding Value

Partnerships for the Future
Florida Regional Councils Association: Take Away

- Budget Commitment
- Active Participation
- Full-Time Staff
- Consistent Presence
- Relationship Building
- Internal Alliances
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