

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Oct 1, 2024 - Sept 30, 2025

BLUEPRINT  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY
Connecting People & Places®

OFFICE OF
**ECONOMIC
VITALITY**  



City of Tallahassee Commission



Jeremy Matlow



Mayor Pro-Tem
Dianne Williams-Cox



Mayor
John E. Dailey



Jacqueline "Jack"
Porter



Curtis Richardson

The Leon County Administrator and the Tallahassee City Manager provide executive management of the policy directives of the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors.



Vincent S. Long



Leon County
Administrator



Reese Goad



Tallahassee
City Manager

Leon County Board of County Commissioners



Bill Proctor



David O'Keefe



Christian Caban
*BOCC Vice
Chairman*



Brian Welch
BOCC Chairman



Nick Maddox



Rick Minor



Carolyn Cummings

Advisory Committees

Citizens Advisory Committee

Economic Vitality Leadership Committee

MWSBE Citizens Advisory Committee

What is Blueprint?

A penny makes a big difference in Tallahassee-Leon County! Guided by the visionary leadership of the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors (BPIA), Blueprint executes ambitious, transformative, and generational projects that redefine and enhance our community. From vital transportation enhancements, utilities, stormwater management, sustainable parks, greenways, and robust economic initiatives, Blueprint ensures coordinated planning and construction of infrastructure essential for our future. This impactful initiative is powered by the resounding endorsement of Tallahassee-Leon County voters, who twice approved the surtax in 2000 and again in 2014.

Blueprint Vision

To preserve, protect, and enhance the community's quality of life through the implementation of holistic and coordinated planning, transportation, water quality, environmental, green space projects, and economic development efforts to drive the growth of Tallahassee-Leon County's diverse and vibrant economy.

Blueprint Mission

To implement the Blueprint Program in a timely and cost-effective manner through transformative impacts and innovative business practices while keeping the Tallahassee-Leon County community informed and involved.

The Blueprint Promise

"...To provide for projects designed to improve roads; reduce traffic congestion; protect lakes and water quality; reduce flooding; expand and operate parks and recreational areas; invest in economic development; and other uses authorized under Florida law and to seek matching funds for these purposes, shall the existing one-cent sales surtax within Leon County be extended until December 31, 2039, with project expenditures subject to annual independent audit and review by citizens advisory committee."

Blueprint is...



Connecting People & Places



Improving Roads



Placemaking



Protecting Lakes and Water Quality



Reducing Flooding



Investing in Economic Development



Bicycle Routes



Expanding Parks and Recreational Areas



Pedestrian Safety



Reducing Traffic Congestion



History and Art



Greenways



Beautification



Recreation



Matching Funds

Blueprint Management



Artie White, AICP, CNU-A
Director, PLACE

The City of Tallahassee and Leon County Government created the Department of Planning, Land Management, and Community Enhancement - PLACE - under the management of the Leon County Administrator and the Tallahassee City Manager, to better integrate the executive management of three interrelated programs: Planning, the Office of Economic Vitality and Blueprint.



Autumn Calder, AICP
Director, Blueprint

Within the PLACE structure, the Blueprint Director and team implement significant infrastructure projects throughout the Tallahassee-Leon County area. All projects are refined through robust community engagement and thorough technical analyses to reflect the community's unique vision and build the foundation for sustainable growth.



Keith Bowers
Director, Office of Economic Vitality

OEV is committed to keeping pace with the rapidly evolving business environment, adapting programs and innovative economic development programs and services to suit local businesses best and match the expectations of a dynamic and growing community.



Susan Dawson, ESQ
Blueprint Attorney

The Blueprint Attorney serves as the General Counsel for the Agency and manages the Blueprint Legal Office. The Blueprint Office is committed to delivering superior legal services to assist and support the Blueprint infrastructure and economic development projects.

Awards, Grants, and Recognitions



2025 Project of the Year for Historical Restoration and Preservation in the projects less than \$2 million category for the History and Culture Trail from the American Public Works Association Big Bend Chapter.



2025 Project of the Year in the Roads and Highways under \$2 million category for Lake Jackson Greenway Phase 1 from the American Public Works Association Florida Chapter.



2025 Project of the Year for the Northeast Gateway: Welaunee Boulevard from the American Society of Civil Engineers Tallahassee Chapter.



2025 Florida Preservation Award in the Communications and Media Category for the History and Culture Trail from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.



2025 APA Florida Award of Merit in the Grassroots Initiative category for the History and Culture Trail from the American Planning Association Florida Chapter.

\$1M for the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 4



\$450K for the Welaunee Greenway



Total: \$1.45M in Grants

Blueprint Impacts

2000 – 2040

44 projects

\$1.8 Billion in Total Investment



\$1 million invested annually for Operating Costs of Blueprint Funded Parks, creating new parks and public spaces



Over **\$3 million** is invested annually in sidewalk projects and StarMetro



Over **43 miles** of improved roadways



Blueprint infrastructure staff continually search for outside funding to **leverage** the sales tax dollars



Over **189 miles** of bicycle and pedestrian facilities



Over **42 miles** of new or improved sidewalks



\$135 million is invested in water quality and stormwater projects



18 public parks



Over **103 miles** of greenways and trails



History and art are incorporated in Blueprint projects such as the History and Culture Trail, Smokey Hollow Commemoration, and many more

Major Project Component Completed in FY25



Lake Jackson Greenway Phase 1

Phase 1 of the Lake Jackson Greenway creates a multimodal connection between Lake Ella and the Trousdell Aquatic & Gymnastics Center. This segment combines sidewalks and on-street cycle routes to improve safety and access. New sidewalks were constructed along Glenview Drive and within a recreational easement adjacent to the Canterfield Assisted Living Facility. This project enhances walkability for nearby neighborhoods while expanding connectivity to key recreational destinations.



Expanding Parks



Northeast Park

On October 16, 2024, a new milestone was reached for Tallahassee-Leon County as the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, alongside Leon County Government and City of Tallahassee, enthusiastically hosted the groundbreaking ceremony for Northeast Park. City and County leaders, community members, and dedicated staff gathered to celebrate the expansion of our community's vibrant park system. Designed to offer a diverse mix of active and passive recreational facilities, Northeast Park addresses the community's evolving needs. This investment provides valuable green space to promote health and wellness and will serve as a cherished recreational asset for generations to come.

"Community input was central to the Park's design, ensuring that it reflects the desires of local residents, from playgrounds and team sports facilities to picnic areas and walking paths," said **Blueprint Director Autumn Calder**.



Orange-Meridian Community Park

On May 8, 2025, the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, the City of Tallahassee and Leon County Government, broke ground on Orange-Meridian Community Park. City and County leaders, dedicated staff, members of the media, and local residents gathered to celebrate the beginning of a dynamic new gathering space for the southside. Designed with input from the surrounding neighborhoods, Orange-Meridian Community Park represents a notable accomplishment in the ongoing investment aimed at enhancing quality of life and community connectivity throughout Tallahassee-Leon County's southside.



Creating over 430 acres of vibrant public space in Tallahassee-Leon County!



Market District Park

In January 2025, Market District Park started construction. Designed to promote active lifestyles and social interaction, the park will create a dynamic space supporting the health and well-being of residents and visitors alike. As a first step in revitalizing the Market District, this park prioritizes recreation, pedestrian safety, and a strong sense of community.



Single-Track Mountain Bike Trail at Southwest Greenway

In July 2025, the single-track mountain bike trail broke ground. This trail at the Southwest Greenway: Debbie Lightsey Nature Park will expand Tallahassee-Leon County's growing trail network. Nestled within the park's 113 acres, this new 2.2-mile track will offer a dynamic ride for both beginner and experienced cyclists. With natural twists, turns, and scenic views, the trail is designed to encourage skill-building, outdoor adventure, and active recreation for all levels.



Projects Underway



Animal Services Center

- Provides renovations to the existing center to promote animal health and wellbeing. Facility upgrades include:
 - Large-scale dog kennel renovations
 - Shelter medicine area renovations
 - Addition of new outdoor dog yards



Market District Placemaking

- Creating a new community park offering a range of amenities catering to diverse interests.
- Improving pedestrian safety and connectivity throughout the Market District.



Tram Road Trail

- Leveraging opportunity between the City of Tallahassee and Blueprint.
- Constructing a trail along Tram Road from Capital Circle SE to Four Oaks Blvd.



Monroe-Adams Corridor Placemaking

- Creating safe and comfortable streets for pedestrians, transit users and cyclists along the South Monroe-South Adams corridor.
- Five streets connecting the Monroe Street and Adams Street corridors will be improved: Harrison Street, Pershing Street, Jennings Street, Perkins Street, and Kestner Street



Northeast Corridor Connector: Bannerman Road

- Enhances the 4-mile Bannerman Road corridor by widening to four lanes from Quail Common Drive to Preservation Road.
- Improves safety and enhances mobility by adding a median to accommodate turn lanes from Quail Common Drive to Meridian Road.
- Provides 9 miles of new multiuse trail facilities along Bannerman Road, Orchard Pond Parkway, and Meridian Road.
- Improves accessibility and safety for people walking and biking by constructing two neighborhood sidewalk projects along Tekesta Drive and northern Bull Headley Road.



In Design and Construction

Scan the QR code for more



Magnolia Drive Trail: Phase Two

- Constructs a new shared-use trail from South Adams to Apalachee Parkway to provide connectivity and improve safety.
- Provides underground electric utilities from Chowkeebine to S. Monroe Street, and upgrades sewer utilities.



North Monroe Gateway

- Collaborative project with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).
- Signage, art, landscaping, crosswalks and pedestrian enhancements.
- Landscaped median project in progress.



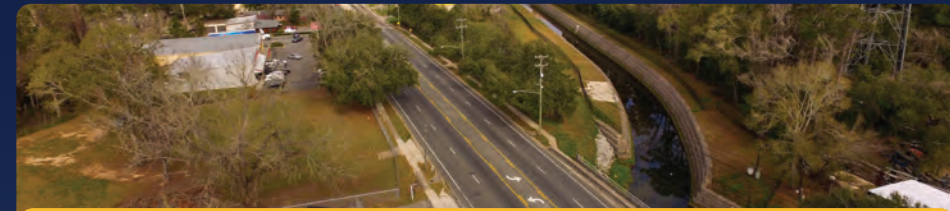
Capital Circle Southwest

- Completing the last phase (5.8 miles) of improvements to the Capital Circle Corridor.
- Road widening and safety-enhanced multiuse trails.
- Stormwater treatment and enhanced landscaping.
- Collaborative project with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).



Northeast Gateway: Welaunee Boulevard

- Creates a new gateway into northeast Tallahassee-Leon County by extending Welaunee Boulevard to Roberts Road.
- Provides a new 6-mile roadway that will improve regional mobility, enhance connectivity, and protect canopy roads by reducing transportation pressures on existing roadways.
- Supports enhanced safety and connectivity to Roberts Elementary and Montford Middle schools by constructing the Pimlico extension.
- Constructs a new 8-mile Welaunee Greenway to create a 17-mile greenway loop by connecting to the existing Miccosukee Greenway.
- Provides a new roadway accessing the 50-acre Northeast Park, currently under construction.



Capital Cascades Trail Segment 4

- Completes the 4.25-mile Capital Cascades Trail project linking Leon High School in Downtown Tallahassee to Lake Henrietta.
- Provides connectivity, water quality, stormwater, and recreational improvements from the convergence of the Central Drainage Ditch and the St. Augustine Branch near Lake Bradford Road to Munson Slough at Springhill Road.
- Constructs new sidewalks to connect the Bond neighborhood to the regional St. Marks Trail.
- Provides a new community space along the corridor near the Callen and Bond neighborhoods and Pineview Elementary.
- Improves water quality through sediment and trash removal in the Central Drainage Ditch.



(Projects Underway continues on next page)

Shaping a safer, stronger, connected



University Greenway

- Provides seamless connectivity between Tallahassee State College, the FAMU- FSU College of Engineering, the FSU Southwest RecPlex, Mabry Park, and nearby neighborhoods through approximately six miles of greenway trails.



Lake Jackson Greenway Phase 2

- Creating a connection and providing improvements north from the Trousdell Aquatic & Gymnastic Center to the Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park.



Northwest Connector Corridor

- Improving Tharpe Street from Ocala Road to Capital Circle Northwest.
- Improves access to old Bainbridge County Park near Tower Road and Stoneler Road County Park.
- Adding approximately 9 miles of trail and sidewalk connectivity.



SW Area Connector

- Creating safer biking connections along Lake Bradford Road, Springhill Road, and Orange Avenue linking neighborhoods to FSU, FAMU, and Innovation Park.
- Improving road and pedestrian safety by widening shoulders, dedicated bike lanes, and shared-lane markings.



Downtown-University Protected Bike Lanes

- Providing a 2.5-mile protected bike lane running along West Pensacola Street from Tallahassee City Hall to Florida State University, then back downtown along St. Augustine and West Madison Streets, and South Adams to the Capital Cascades Trail.



Tallahassee-Leon County



Upper Lake Lafayette Trail

- A component of the Lake Lafayette and St. Marks Regional Linear Park project creating a new connection between the Buck Lake Road Corridor and Upper Lake Lafayette.
- Providing a natural setting for walking, relaxing, and wildlife viewing, and features an observation deck for visitors to enjoy the area's scenic beauty.



Ridge Road Trail

- Creating better connectivity along Ridge Road connecting surrounding neighborhoods to the St. Marks Trail, Lake Henrietta, and Silver Lake Park.
- Adding new crosswalks, sharrows, and signage to improve road safety for all pedestrian and transit users.



Fairgrounds Beautification and Improvements

- Provides funding to construct improvements to the 107-acre Fairgrounds property.
- Constructs a new community building with meeting space and restrooms and improves parking around Gene Cox Stadium.
- Enhances the Capital Park complex and facilities and constructs new stormwater ponds with walking paths.



Blair Stone Trail

- Creating a new walking and biking trail nearly two miles long along Blair Stone Road.
- Improving safety, connectivity, and mobility for residents to reach surrounding parks and neighborhoods.
- Connecting to other bike lanes, sidewalk, and paths forming more than 14 miles of continuous routes across Tallahassee-Leon County.



Airport Gateway

- Creates a multi-modal gateway from Tallahassee International Airport to Downtown.
- Provides 7 miles of roadway safety improvements and over 13 miles of new or improved multimodal facilities.
- Constructs a new roadway to Innovation Park and FAMU + FSU's southwest campus as well as new sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes to improve travel in southwest Leon County.
- Supports high-tech sector growth and improves access to Innovation Park and the world-class National High Magnetic Laboratory.



Projects Underway in FY 2025 Will Provide



\$811 Million in planned investment



Over 26 Miles of Roadway Improvements



128 Miles of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities



430 Acres of New or Improved Public Space



52 Miles of Greenway Projects



Thousands of Tree Plantings



6 Public Parks

Community Engagement

- **Hosted 40+** project-specific community meetings, outreach, and events (virtual and in person) that engaged thousands of citizens.
- **Hosted 9** TCC, CAC and IA Board meetings, hearings, and workshops.
- **11** presentations and panel discussions.
- **2** groundbreaking events on October 16, 2024 – Northeast Park and May 8, 2025 – Orange-Meridian Community Park.
- **Led 6 tours** for state and local organizations, including the Citizens Advisory Committee, FSU's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Opportunity Tallahassee, Leadership Tallahassee, Youth Leadership Tallahassee, and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative.
- **Represented** the Agency at several community partner-sponsored events (e.g., Florida Wildlife Corridor summit, FSU's Real Estate TRENDS Conference, Black Business Expo, FSU's Department of Urban and Regional Community Gardening event at Smokey Hollow Commemoration, ULI's Urban Planning Program, American Public Works Association- Florida Chapter, and Leon Works).
- **Attended** numerous homeowner, neighborhood, and special interest meetings.
- **Initiated** many conversations and attended meetings with individual project stakeholders.
- **Leveraged** its social media accounts to strategically communicate to the public about project milestones, celebrations, and information.



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC VITALITY



October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

About OEV

The Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) is the principal economic development organization for the City of Tallahassee and Leon County, responsible for driving economic growth and development in the region.

Mission

To lead Tallahassee-Leon County's economic development efforts by leveraging existing resources and assets that grow and drive economic vitality.

Vision

To drive the growth of Tallahassee-Leon County's diverse and vibrant economy.

History

In November 2014, sixty-five percent of voters elected to extend the one-cent sales tax through 2039. For the first time in the tax's history, twelve percent—or over \$90 million—of the proceeds were allocated to economic development. These funds support a range of initiatives aimed at strengthening the local economy, including job creation, business recruitment and retention, workforce development, support for small businesses, community engagement, strategic partnerships, and innovative programs that drive long-term, sustainable growth.

Fiscal Year 2025 Highlights

2025 IEDC Excellence in Economic Development Awards

In 2025, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) honored Tallahassee-Leon County with two international Excellence Awards, recognizing our commitment to inclusive growth and strategic redevelopment. These awards highlight OEV's role in advancing equitable development and shaping a resilient, forward-looking economy.

SoMo Walls, a vibrant mixed-use project located in the South Monroe corridor, received the Gold Excellence Award in Real Estate Development & Reuse for its innovative approach to placemaking and community revitalization.



The Black Business Expo Tallahassee was awarded the Bronze Excellence Award for Economic Equity & Inclusion. This annual event strengthens the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem by creating meaningful opportunities for small businesses.



Tallahassee-Leon County Climbs National Rankings for Job Growth and Economic Strength

The 2024 Leading Metro Locations report published by Area Development magazine highlighted the Tallahassee-Leon County Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) continued economic strength and competitiveness. The rankings—which evaluated 410 metro areas across the nation based on key economic indicators such as job growth, business climate, and workforce development—reaffirm Tallahassee-Leon County's position as one of the top-performing regions in the United States:

- #2 in the South Atlantic Region
- #3 Small Metro Location
- #4 Overall Metro Location
- #12 in Economic Strength
- #13 in Prime Workforce

This recognition underscores our area's ongoing economic vitality, investment appeal, and ability to attract and retain businesses.



Tallahassee-Leon County Among Top 15 Metros Nationally for Black-Owned Businesses

According to the 2023 Annual Business Survey (ABS) published in December 2024 by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Tallahassee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) ranks #14 nationally for the highest percentage of Black-owned businesses. The ABS, which reflects data from 2022, found approximately 7,828 employer firms in the Tallahassee MSA, of which 549 (7%) were Black or African American-owned. This figure is twice the national average, highlighting Tallahassee-Leon County's commitment to fostering Black entrepreneurship.



Business Development & Intelligence Highlights

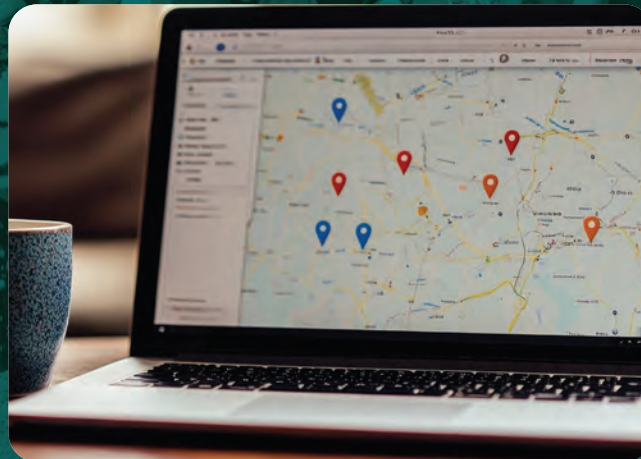
IGNITE Tallahassee Open House

In October 2024, we celebrated the IGNITE (Inspiring the Generation of New Ideas and Translational Excellence) Tallahassee Open House event. This advanced science and technology incubator can fast-track innovation and commercialization for up to 100 startups. It features state-of-the-art facilities, including 31 wet and dry labs, 20 offices, coworking spaces, conference rooms, and a sophisticated machine shop for rapid prototyping, all designed to support comprehensive product development.



Strategic Site Inventory Program

Throughout fiscal year 2025, OEV refined and prioritized the locations identified through the Strategic Site Inventory Program to better align with market demand and infrastructure readiness, accelerating commercial and industrial development opportunities. This initiative evaluates each site's development potential based on zoning, utility access, transportation connectivity, and proximity to workforce and amenities. By streamlining the inventory and focusing on high-impact, shovel-ready sites, the program strengthens Tallahassee-Leon County's ability to attract new investment and support business expansion efforts.



Broadband Expansion Throughout Tallahassee-Leon County

OEV continued to lead the Local Broadband Technology Planning Team (LTPT), which works with key community stakeholders to expand high-speed internet access to unserved and underserved areas of Leon County.

Comcast was awarded \$6.5 million to service more than 3,000 households in Leon County's rural areas. The total project costs represent \$15 million in new broadband investment. The project is progressing as planned and is expected to be completed on schedule.

Conexon was awarded \$2.3 million to serve more than 1,300 rural households. The project is progressing as planned and is expected to be completed on schedule.



2025 Motor, Drive Systems, and Magnetics Conference

OEV spearheaded the collaborative effort to bring the Motor, Drive Systems, and Magnetics (MDSM) Conference to Tallahassee-Leon County in February 2025. This effort showcased our region's expertise in magnetics and advanced manufacturing to more than 260 corporate representatives worldwide, resulting in tangible momentum toward future investments and partnerships in the applied sciences sector. Additionally, the event provided a platform for the City of Tallahassee and Florida State University to unveil the largest magnetically levitating sculpture in the world, designed to celebrate Tallahassee-Leon County's bicentennial and designation as the Magnetic Capital of the World.

After a successful 2025 event, the Motor, Drive Systems & Magnetics (MDSM) Conference will return to Tallahassee-Leon County March 3–5, 2026.

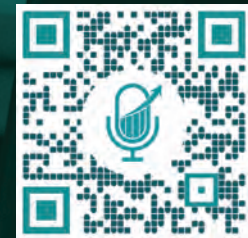


Economic Vitality Unplugged Podcast

In May 2025, OEV launched Economic Vitality Unplugged, a dynamic new podcast series that takes a deep dive into the people, projects, and industries powering Tallahassee-Leon County's economy. Each episode features candid conversations with business leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators working across sectors like advanced manufacturing, technology, real estate, and workforce development. The podcast serves as both an educational resource and a storytelling platform, spotlighting the region's economic momentum and inspiring collaboration across the community.



Scan to
listen now



ECONOMIC VITALITY
UNPLUGGED

Local Small Business Development Initiatives

At OEV, we know that our local businesses thrive off the support and love of the community. Small businesses help preserve our region's unique culture—maintaining the charm and appeal we all have grown to appreciate. They are not just a business, but an extension of our vibrant community.

Love Your Local

The Love Your Local campaign was launched by the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) in 2018 as a Small Business Saturday initiative. The movement encourages citizens in Tallahassee and Leon County to support small businesses by shopping locally, while also shining a spotlight on the thousands of unique, local businesses in the community.

Currently, there are over 550 businesses listed on www.LoveYourLocalTLH.com!



2025 Small Business Day at the Capitol

In March 2025, we celebrated Florida SBDC Day at the Capitol by tabling alongside TC Bakery. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and we're proud to support their growth through resources, networking, and collaboration. Events like this highlight the impact of small businesses in our community, and we love connecting with local entrepreneurs to help them thrive!



Talent Development & Attraction

Second Annual North Florida Worlds of Work

In October 2024, OEV sponsored North Florida Worlds of Work (WOW), an event that provides career exploration experience for students in the Big Bend region. Over 2,700 ninth graders participated in WOW, with an additional 350 attendees at WOW Varsity. The WOW Varsity event welcomes students in grades ten to twelve and their parents, guardians, and community members. More than 130 local businesses contributed their time and resources to support WOW, offering hands-on activities and valuable equipment.



2025 Leon Works Expo

OEV connected over 1,000 high school students to skilled workforce opportunities at the 10th annual Leon Works Expo in April 2025. Students from Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden, Jefferson, Calhoun, Madison, and Taylor counties explored high-demand career paths and engaged directly with nearly 80 employers in health, business, information technology, creative, trade, and more.





BLUEPRINT

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Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

315 South Calhoun Street, Suite 450
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 219-1060
info@blueprintia.org
www.BlueprintIA.org



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC VITALITY

Office of Economic Vitality

315 South Calhoun Street, Suite 110
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 219-1080
info@oevforbusiness.org
www.OEVforBusiness.org



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