



Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

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Regional Forum - Information Sheet

Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity - Division of Strategic Business Development (DEO) is creating *Florida's 2012-2017 Statewide Strategic Plan* as required by law. The plan must be for all Floridians, include performance measures and accountability, and align with regional and local plans, all having a common vision, goals, and language.

The plan is required to be adopted by May 2012 and to include input from: 1) Enterprise Florida; 2) Workforce Florida; 3) Local, state, federal governments and agencies; 4) Local, regional economic development organizations; 5) Business community; 6) Educational institutions and the 7) Public.

During Phase I of the plan creation, which concluded last Fall, DEO compiled and compared the 25 statewide plans that exist within various agencies, chose the Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy program created by the Florida Chamber Foundation as the common language, and held a state-level stakeholder's workshop to generate the plan framework and initial recommendations. The initial framework includes the following vision, mission and goals:

Vision: Florida will have the nation's top performing economy and be recognized as the world's leading business destination.

Mission: To promote economic prosperity for all Floridians and businesses through successful workforce, community, and economic development strategies.

Goals:

- Increase Florida's global competitiveness as a destination for business, capital, talent, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- Promote Florida as the global destination of choice for business and industry.
- Facilitate business development through delivery of world-class customer service.

Phase II of the plan creation (January to April 2012), includes DEO convening regional forums, similar to the statewide workshop, to gather input in the form of strategies and accountable action steps reflective of each region. The Southwest Florida forum is scheduled for:

March 6th, 10 am to 3 pm at Florida Gulf Coast University

Due to the St. Petersburg College collaborative labs technology used in the forums, **only 100 regional leaders** can actively participate. DEO is working with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council to compile the list of the 100 leaders for our region.

The data gathered at the forum will be captured and the regional information generated could be used to establish a foundation for a Southwest Florida regional strategic plan. **Further meetings with broader regional participation are anticipated to continue a regional planning effort.**

Questions should be directed Ms. Nichole Gwinnett (ngwinnett@swfrpc.org) of staff.

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