Launching and Enhancing RDO State Associations

Florida Regional Councils Association

Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

National Association of Development Organizations
Annual Training Conference
Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas
October 15, 2012
Partnerships for the Future

Florida Regional Councils Association: Overview

• History
• Structure
• Purpose
• Staffing
• Budget
• Adding Value

NADO Trailblazer Award 2011

Partnerships for the Future
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
**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)
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
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
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
Florida Regional Councils Association: 
Adding Value

**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
Florida Regional Councils Association: Take Away

- **Budget Commitment**
- **Active Participation**
- **Full-Time Staff**
- **Consistent Presence**
- **Relationship Building**
- **Internal Alliances**
Florida Regional Councils Association: Questions?

Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
sherí.coven@flregionalcouncils.org
850.294.0526

VISIT: www.flregionalcouncils.org