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| **Department of Community Affairs** | | |
| The Department of Community Affairs’ mission is to “meet the needs of Floridians’ by investing in communities and working with them to plan and manage growth.” The Secretary of the department is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The department is designated by law as the state’s land planning agency, and includes the Division of Community Planning and the Division of Housing and Community Development. The Department also provides administrative, legal and inspector general services to the Division of Emergency Management. | | |
| **Community Planning** Appropriation: $7.7 million, 61 FTE  The Division of Community Planning oversees comprehensive land use planning in Florida; ensures that local government comprehensive plans meet statutory standards; and works with local governments to implement their growth management programs. | | |
|  | *Continue* | **Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act**  Requires all of Florida's 67 counties and 410 municipalities to adopt Local Government Comprehensive Plans that guide future growth and development. Comprehensive plans contain chapters or "elements" that address future land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, coastal management, conservation, recreation and open space, intergovernmental coordination, and capital improvements. A key component of the Act is its “concurrency” provision that requires facilities and services to be available concurrent with the impacts of the development.  The division receives comments from state and regional agencies and produces a review of proposed comprehensive plans and plan amendments. Challenges to comprehensive plans or plan amendments are referred to the state’s Division of Administrative Hearings.  *FY 2008-09:* *Performance measures:* 1,416 plan amendment packages reviewed; 93% of amendment packages determined to be in compliance with Growth Management Act.  **Alternative State Review Process Pilot Program** – created in 2007 the program is intended to provide an expedited process for comprehensive plan amendment review for Pinellas and Broward counties, their municipalities, and the Cities of Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, and Hialeah. In this program, time frames for review are accelerated, there is no unified state report, and the state does not publish a notice of intent.  **Local Government Comprehensive Planning Certification Program** – created in 2002 the program allows up to eight local governments per year to be exempted from comprehensive plan review by the division. To date, the cities of Lakeland, Orlando, Miramar, and Freeport have been certified. To be eligible, a local government must demonstrate a level of competence to execute locally what DCA oversees at the state level. |
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|  | | **Rural Land Stewardship Areas Program**  Provides that counties may designate rural land stewardship areas (10,000 acre minimum), to include all or portions of lands classified in the future land use element as predominately agricultural, rural, open, open-rural, or a substantively equivalent land use. The program was created to carry out the broad principles of rural sustainability; restoration and maintenance of the economic value of rural land; control of urban sprawl; identification and protection of ecosystems, habitats, and natural resources; promotion of rural economic activity; maintenance of the viability of Florida’s agricultural economy; and protection of the character of rural areas of Florida.  **Optional Sector Plan Program**  Provides that up to five optional sector plans may be authorized as pilot projects. Optional sector plans include two major components; a long range conceptual framework map and a detailed specific area plan. Once a specific area plan is in effect, development of regional impact requirements are satisfied, thus consolidating the comprehensive planning and development of regional impact program.  **Evaluation and Appraisal reports**  Every 7 years local governments are required to review the effectiveness of their comprehensive plans and identify any updates that need to be made to better address community objectives, changing conditions and trends affecting the community, and changes in statutory requirements. Technical assistance and training workshops are provided for local governments prior to the EARs scheduled due date.  *FY 2008-09 Performance measures:* 103 Evaluation and Appraisal reports reviewed; 92.3% of initially adopted Evaluation and Appraisal reports determined to be sufficient. |
|  | *Continue* | **Developments of Regional Impact**  Provides oversight of large scale development that exceeds size thresholds and would otherwise result in significant impact to adjacent counties. The division is responsible for determinations of DRI status, and reviews adopted development orders. Should a development order fail to meet standards, the division may file an appeal to the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission. |
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|  | | *FY 2008-09 Performance measure:* 226 Developments of Regional Impact managed. |
|  | *Continue* | **Areas of Critical State Concern**  The focus of this program is to protect natural resources and public facilities of major statewide significance through cooperative planning and management. The program requires oversight of comprehensive plans, land development regulations, and development permits in The Big Cypress Swamp, Green Swamp, City of Apalachicola, and the Florida Keys, including the City of Key West.  *FY 2008-09 Performance measure:* 390 Area of Critical State Concern Development Orders reviewed and Final Orders issued. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Transportation and Land Use Planning**  The Division assists the Department of Transportation by completing reviews of long-range transportation proposals, Metropolitan Planning Organization plans, and the five-year work plan, and participates in DOT’s Efficient Transportation Decision-Making Program. The Division also reviews transportation facilities work programs developed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the Florida Department of Transportation for consistency with local comprehensive plans. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan Initiative (federally funded through DEP)**  Federal Disaster Mitigation Act mandates that local governments prepare local mitigation strategies to reduce vulnerability and risk associated with future growth and development. In partnership with the Division of Emergency Management the division is implementing a multi-year planning initiative to help local governments prepare post-disaster redevelopment plans. The plans incorporate hazard mitigation principles into comprehensive plans to reduce future damage to property and public facilities, avoid development in hazardous areas, provide for adequate public shelters and maintain or reduce hurricane evacuation clearance times. The division is currently providing technical assistance to pilot communities to plan for long-term recovery. It is anticipated that the division will produce a Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning guidebook later this year to assist local governments in compliance with this requirement. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Springs Protection**  The division, in conjunction with the DEP, has prepared a best management practices manual, along with Implementation Guidelines, to assist pilot communities and provide ongoing technical assistance to local governments to protect Florida’s springs and water resources. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Waterfronts Florida Program**  Provide working waterfronts across Florida with technical support and limited financial support to revitalize, renew, and promote interest in their waterfront districts. This program is funded in part by DEP, Federal Coastal Management Program, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. |
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|  | | *Performance measures:* Between 1997 and 2009, the Department designated 23 Waterfronts Florida Partnership Communities, each of which received or will receive two years of technical and financial assistance. |

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|  | *Continue* | **Military Base Encroachment**  Provides oversight of local comprehensive planning decisions and assists communities near military bases with technical assistance and land use planning strategies to ensure local government compatibility of development with major military installations. The goal of the program is to protect military bases from encroachment of incompatible land uses which can interfere with flight operations, live fire training, and other mission-essential activities. |
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|  | | *Performance measures:* Since 2003 the Department of Community Affairs has worked with Florida’s 38 affected local governments (20 counties and 18 municipalities) and 14 major military installation base commanders to address land use encroachment issues. |
|  | *Continue* | **Wekiva Parkway and Protection Program**  This act provides comprehensive protection to the Wekiva River system by requiring local comprehensive plans to address a number of issues including; master storm water management plans, water conserving landscaping, optimized open space, protecting recharge areas, and sensitive natural habitats.  The Division provides technical assistance to the 15 local governments in the Wekiva study area conducts formal reviews of required comprehensive plan amendments and serves on the Wekiva River Commission. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Technical Assistance to Local Governments**  The Division provides technical assistance to local governments and regional planning councils on a variety of topics that are under the department.  *FY 2008-09 Performance measure*: 740 technical assistance initiatives undertaken. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Homeowners Association Covenant Revitalization**  This program requires the department to review homeowners associations’ reinstated covenants that were extinguished by Florida’s marketable record Titles Act for compliance with statutory requirements. The revitalization process was created to assist communities that were experiencing difficulty collecting assessments and maintaining common property because their covenants had expired.  \*\*\* DBPR’s Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes administers a private arbitration program for recall and election disputes of homeowners associations. Within the division, the Bureau of Standards and Registration reviews and approves all public disclosure documentation prior to public issuance. |
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| **Housing and Community Development** Appropriation: $376.1 million, 72 FTE | | |
|  | *Continue* | **Florida Communities Trust**  FCT is a competitive grant program annually providing Florida Forever bond funds to local governments and non-profits to help communities provide parks and recreation areas to reach their level of service identified in their comprehensive plans while protecting Florida’s natural resources and habitat.  FY 2008-09 Performance measures: 91 applications processed; 5,383 acres acquired. |
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|  | | ***Note:*** DEP’s operates **Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program** - FRDAP is a competitive program which provides grants primarily for the development (sometimes acquisition) of land for public outdoor recreation use or to construct or renovate recreational trails. |
|  | *Continue* | **Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program**  A part of FCT that provides grants to acquire land directly used for the purposes of the commercial harvest of marine organisms or saltwater products by state-licensed commercial fishermen, aquaculturists, or business entities, including piers, wharves, docks, or other facilities operated to provide waterfront access to licensed commercial fishermen, aquaculturists, or business entities.  *Performance measure:* Four grants have been funded. |
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| **Community Development Programs** Federal Funding: $42.1 million | | |
|  | *Continue* | **Small Cities Community Development (CDBG) Block Grant - received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funding in FY 09-10**  The federal CDBG program provides block grants to small and rural cities (less than 50,000 population) and county governments (less than 200,000). The national objectives target: communities with individuals who have a low-moderate income, areas that are designated as Slum and Blight, and areas that have urgent need. The program is a competitive grant that has four category activities; Commercial Revitalization (10 %), Housing Rehabilitation (20%), Economic Development (30%), and Neighborhood Revitalization (40%). CDBG received $7.5M in ARRA stimulus funding that is available through 2012.  *FY 2008-09 Performance measures:* 258 housing units rehabilitated or replaced. 378 jobs created/retained, 66 public facilities built/improved, 49 neighborhoods assisted, 78.9% Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals as a percentage of total served. |
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|  | *Continue* | **CDBG Section 108 Loan Guarantee**  Offers local governments a source of financing for economic development, large-scale public facility projects, and public infrastructure. The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sells bonds to finance economic development, large scale public facility projects, and public infrastructure (loans are secured by state CDBG funds).  *Performance measure:* There have been three loans requested and approved under this program since 2000. |
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|  | *Continue* | **CDBG Disaster Recovery**  Federal special disaster recovery allocations are awarded to states following a specific disaster or weather event. Eligible activities include restoration of disaster-impacted affordable housing, public infrastructure destroyed or damaged, and assistance for displaced or economically impacted businesses. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program** (Title III Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008)  This program targets communities that are experiencing a severe housing crisis due to high foreclosures. The department has awarded grants to 24 communities. The funds will be used to address HUD eligible activities such as the purchase of foreclosed homes and land and/or property, demolition or rehabilitation of abandoned properties, and offer down payment and closing cost assistance to low and moderate income buyers.  The department also provided a supplemental low-income allocation to the same communities. This allocation is dedicated to rental housing only and is targeted to persons with income at or below 50% of the area's median income. |
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| **Community Assistance Programs** Federal Funding: $327.7 million | | |
|  | *Continue* | **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) – received ARRA stimulus funding in FY 09-10.**  This Community Services Block Grant program receives an annual award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to serve low-income families in 67 counties. The Community Services Block Grant program serves two purposes: to provide emergency financial assistance for nutrition, housing, and health care, and to provide longer term strategies for the state’s poorest citizens and low-income communities to achieve a higher level of self sufficiency through education, employment, and community support activities.  Community Services Block Grant program funds are allocated to a network of 34 local governments and community action agencies. This is a formula based grant and is not competitive. The program received $29.1M in ARRA stimulus funding that is available through 2012.  *FY 2008-09 Performance measure:* 207,986 households served from services provided by Community Services Block Grant Program. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)**  Provides grants to local governments, non-profit organizations, and community action agencies to help low-income households with energy needs, primarily to assist in paying their utility bills. DCA also provides 6% of its allocation to the Department of Elder Affairs to serve the elderly. This is a formula based grant and is not competitive.  *FY 2008-09 Performance measure:* 109,185 households served. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) – received ARRA stimulus funding in FY 09-10.**  Provides grants to local governments, non-profits, community action agencies and federally recognized Indian Tribes to improve energy efficiency in low-income housing (150% poverty). Funds from this program can be used for attic insulation, doors, windows, and the reduction of air infiltration. This is a formula based grant and is not competitive. The program received $175.9M in ARRA stimulus funding that is available through 2012.  *FY 2008-09 Performance measure:* 360,481 MBTU saved by recipients of program services. |
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|  | *Continue* | ***Low-Income Emergency Home Repair (State funded)***  *Provides additional formula based funding to WAP sub-grantees to assist low-income people, especially elderly and physically disabled, with emergency housing repairs that affect their health and safety and allow them to “age in place” rather than becoming dependent on taxpayer assistance.*  *Note: The program has received funding one time over the last five years. LEHRP received $1million through the My Safe Florida Home program in FY 07-08.* |
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|  | *Continue* | ***Florida Access to Civil Legal Assistance Program***  *Provides funding for adequate and equitable legal assistance to the indigent population, particularly the elderly and families with children (income below 150% poverty). Direct legal representation is provided in various official proceedings and negotiations, as well as through education in rights and responsibilities under the law. DCA contracts with the Florida Bar Foundation to manage the program. The Florida Bar Foundation sub-contracts with 18 not-for-profit legal aid organizations in 7 judicial circuits.* |
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|  | | *FY 2008-09 Performance measure: 7,041 clients served.* |
|  | *Continue* | ***Front Porch Florida Initiative/Office of Urban Opportunity***  *Local revitalization councils develop an urban core redevelopment program which enables residents in eligible communities to craft solutions to the unique challenges in the local area. DCA then coordinates the implementation of the program with the local community by identifying different funding and technical resources that are available.*  *FY 2008-09 Performance measure: 87.5% of contracts implemented between Office of Urban Opportunity and Front Porch Florida communities’ Revitalization Councils.*  *Note: The program was not funded by the Florida Legislature in FY 09-10.* |
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| ***Building Codes and Standards*** | | |
|  | *Continue* | ***Florida Building Code***  *Maintain a unified building code for application throughout the state and supplementing that effort by rendering direct technical assistance and maintaining Building Code Information System (BCIS) as the one-stop website for information and business transactions.*  *FY 2008-09 Performance measure: 313 code amendments promulgated; 84% of local governments have a building code program rated at or above a specified level of effectiveness by a recognized rating organization.* |
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|  | *Continue* | ***Florida Prototype Building Program***  *Provide for review and approval of plans for buildings subject to replication throughout the State. DCA created this basic prototype several years ago. The program has been dormant since October 18, 2007; therefore, DCA repealed the rule implementing the function. The factory built schools element of the manufactured building program should not be confused with the prototype effort. The latter was not restricted to education buildings.*  *Performance measure: Six plans were reviewed and approved.* |
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|  | *Continue* | ***State Product Approval***  *Operate and maintain a system for state approval of construction products related to a building’s resistance to wind.*  *Performance measures: For FY 08-09, 14039 total products submitted; 13,883 total products approved.* |
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|  | *Continue* | **Manufactured Building Program**  Oversee construction plans, specifications, and quality control procedures for manufactured building units to ensure compliance with the Florida Building Code.  *FY 2008-09 Performance measure:* 20,272 permits issued for manufactured buildings.  \*\*\* DBPR –regulates site built homes through licensing builders and code enforcement officials. DHSMV regulates the construction of mobile homes (HUD standard). |
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|  | *Continue* | **Special District Information Program**  Serves as the state’s special district clearinghouse, improving governmental efficiency by collecting, disseminating, and sharing information about special districts, and promoting special district accountability through technical assistance. There are currently 1629 special districts. |
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