

NEW MEETING LOCATION

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED LOCAL
COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)**

NEW LOCATION:

Charlotte County Family Services

**21500 Gibralter Drive, Building A
Port Charlotte, Florida 33952
January 8, 2026 at 10 A.M.**



Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Regular Meeting



10:00 AM Thursday, January 8, 2026
Charlotte County Family Services
21500 Gibraltar Drive, Building A Port Charlotte, FL



1. Call to Order & Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items
4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes: November 6, 2025
5. Election of LCB Vice-Chairperson
6. Overview of the LCB Process (Annual Training)
7. Review/Endorsement of Charlotte County's Section 5310 and 5311 Grant Applications
8. Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Quarterly Report
9. Member Presentations
 1. Ezequiel Tirado – Charlotte County Veteran Services (Veteran Services)
 2. Angela Hemstreet – Goodwill (Economically Disadvantaged)
 3. Lynn Dorler – Boys and Girls Clubs of Charlotte County (Children at Risk)
10. Public Comments
11. Staff Comments
12. Member Comments
13. Adjournment

Next Meeting: May 7, 2026

Please let us know if you or your alternate cannot attend

No stenographic record by a certified court reporter is made of these meetings. Accordingly, anyone seeking to appeal any decisions involving the matters herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the meeting/testimony and evidence upon which any appeal is to be based. (F.S. 286.0105)

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND CHAPTER 286.26 FLORIDA STATUTES, PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. CALL (941) 883-3535 BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Title VI Coordinator Sierra "Ray" Scott at (941) 883-3535 or by writing her at 1050 Loveland Blvd, Box C, Port Charlotte, FL 33980.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
1050 Loveland Blvd., Box C, Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Telephone: (941) 883-3535



Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2026



The Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) will hold a quarterly meeting on January 8, 2026 in a hybrid format (both in person and remotely). TEAMS meeting links will be available from MPO Staff. Persons wishing to provide public comment may do so by alternative means, should they desire. Written comments may be submitted by either emailing the comments to office@ccpgmpo.gov or mailing the comments to MPO LCB Staff at 1050 Loveland Blvd, Box C, Port Charlotte, Florida, 33980. Comments must be received for the LCB meeting by noon, January 7, 2026. The comments will be read by an MPO staff member during the meeting for that item to be placed in the record. More information regarding the LCB Agenda is available on the MPO website at www.ccpgmpo.gov.

JANUARY 8, 2026
LCB MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA # 4

JANAUARY 8, 2026
LCB MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 4-A
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 6, 2025 LCB MEETING

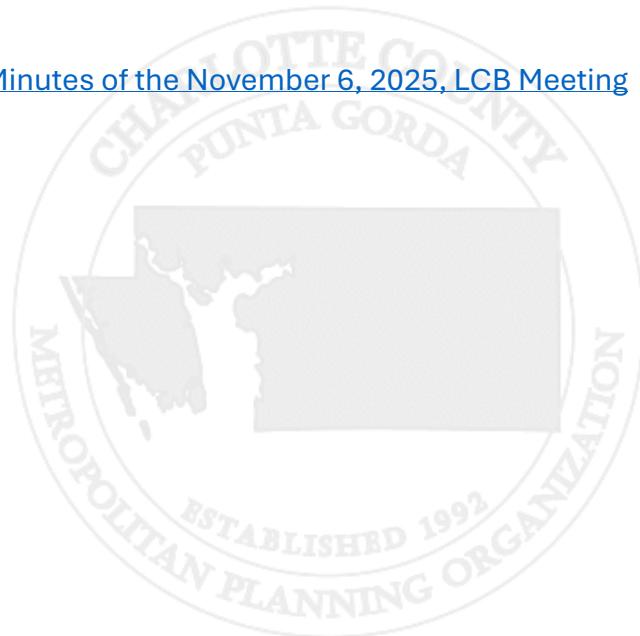
Purpose: To review and approve the minutes of the previous LCB Meeting

Presented by: MPO Staff

Discussion: To Be Determined

Recommendation: Motion to approve the minutes of the LCB Meeting of November 6, 2025.

Attachment: [Minutes of the November 6, 2025, LCB Meeting](#)



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)
MEETING
November 6, 2025**

Minutes of the regular meeting held in a hybrid format on November 6, 2025, utilizing TEAMS remotely and in-person at the Transit Facility, 545 Theresa Boulevard in Port Charlotte, FL 33954.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON

M. Suzanne Roberts, *Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic - Medical Community Representative (LCB Vice-Chair)*
Donna Fain, *Agency for Persons with Disabilities*
Maricela Morado, *Area Agency on Aging-Florida Department of Elder Affairs*
Lynn Dorler, *Children-at-Risk Representative*
Victoria Upthegrove, *FDOT, District One Modal Development Office*
Carmen Henry, *Regional Workforce Development*
Lynda Faieta, *Public Education-School Transportation (alternate)*

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY

Dottie Fulton, *Citizen Advocate-User*
Michael Stahler, *Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)*

ABSENT MEMBERS

Commissioner Ken Doherty, *Charlotte County Commissioner (LCB Chair) - excused*
Matthew McGee, *Veteran Services Manager - excused*
Tabitha Larrauri, *Department of Children & Families - excused*
Leigh Ann Bellamy, *Division of Blind Services*
Joseph Sabatino, *Citizen Advocate*
Shery Stahnke, *Goodwill, Economically Disadvantaged Representative (alternate)*
Cheryl Sytsma, *Disabled Interests Representative*
Pamela Jordan, *Representative for Elderly Interests*
Vacant, *Local Private-for-Profit Transportation Industry Representative*

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Lakshmi N. Gurram, *MPO Director*
Bekie Leslie, *MPO Administrative Services Coordinator*
Mark Yaxis, *MPO Multimodal Planner*
Sierra "Ray" Scott, *MPO Senior Administrative Assistant*
Heidi Maddox, *Charlotte County Transit*

Betty-Ann Sherer, Charlotte County Transit
Shirley Ciampi, Charlotte County Transit
Jill Turner, Charlotte County Transit
Jason Colon, Charlotte County Transit
Zinnia Vargas, Charlotte County Fiscal
Aimee Shafran, Charlotte County Fiscal
Kayla Huetten, Benesch – Remote Via Teams

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

LCB Vice-Chair Suzanne Roberts called the regular LCB Meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. An in-person quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes: September 4, 2025

Lynn Dorler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. ***Maricela Morado*** seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

5. Approval of LCB Grievance Procedures

Laks Gurram reviewed the updates to the LCB Grievance Procedures and explained to the LCB Board members that the primary purpose of the grievance process is to establish a formal policy for determining when a complaint becomes a formal grievance. This policy is designed to supplement the Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Bylaws related to grievance procedures and help individuals and agencies understand their rights and responsibilities.

In accordance with the Planning Grant Agreement, the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) requires that the LCB update and approve the Local Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures annually. These grievance procedures apply to service provided through Charlotte County's Transportation Disadvantaged system, formerly known as Sunshine Ride. Historically, no grievances have ever gone forward to the LCB

Grievance Board but rather have been settled at the service provider or mediator levels. The LCB's role under these procedures is advisory only.

Transit and MPO staff have completed a major review and revision of the Charlotte County LCB grievance procedures in accordance with the Local Grievance Guidelines for Transportation Disadvantaged Services. Recently, Charlotte County Transit has been tasked by a 2024 state law to report Adverse Incidents for Paratransit Riders, which is a separate, but sometimes related issue. The CTD held a workshop on August 27, 2024 regarding this requirement, and the PowerPoint is found here:

[20240827_adverse_incident_public_workshop_presentation.pptx \(live.com\)](https://www.live.com/ppt/20240827_adverse_incident_public_workshop_presentation.pptx)

In developing the new draft LCB Grievance Procedures, Charlotte County Transit staff expressed the desire to address all formal grievances within the Transit Division through its Mobility Manager (rather than relying upon a County Human Services Department mediator). The attached draft LCB Grievance Procedures will only apply to Charlotte County Transit's Transportation Disadvantaged program. Separate procedures for service funded through the general public paratransit (FTA Section 5307) service will be developed by Charlotte County Transit for in-house use and will not involve the LCB in hearing any grievances that might arise within that program. The Community Transportation Coordinator's Grievance Procedures should ultimately end with the Board of County Commissioners which retains legal responsibility for Transit's actions.

He also indicated that overall, the desire is to meet the needs of all Charlotte County Transit passengers (both TD sponsored and general public paratransit system riders) and other participants in these systems.

1. [Draft Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures](#)

Maricela Morado made a motion to approve the draft Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures. **Carmen Henry** seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6. Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Designation/Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Laks Gurram reported on the current Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) designation for Charlotte County, which has been in place since 2020 and is set to expire in June 2026. He also reviewed the renewal process, including the requirements outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Chapter 427.0157, Florida Statutes, requires that the LCB review and approve the MOA that will be signed by the newly designated Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) and the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) for the next five-year period. The draft document is attached. Currently, the Charlotte County Board of

County Commissioners (BCC) through its Transit Division serves as the CTC for Charlotte County. On May 13, 2025, by resolution, the BCC expressed a willingness to serve in this role for the next five-year period commencing July 1, 2026. The most recent CTC Evaluation reflects Charlotte County Transit's ability to perform as CTC.

At the December 15, 2025 meeting, the MPO Board will consider recommending to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) the designation of the Charlotte County area CTC for the next five-year period commencing July 1, 2026. As part of this recommendation process, the MPO Board will consider approving MPO Board Resolution #2025-03 for forwarding to the CTD.

The final step in this CTC designation process will require a presentation by the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO staff at a CTD business meeting in early 2026. Once the CTD approves the new Charlotte CTC designation, the new MOA will be finalized and a new Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) developed by Charlotte County Transit and MPO staff will be reviewed and approved at the September 3, 2026 LCB Meeting.

1. [Letter and BCC Resolution #2025-161 received June 9, 2025 from Charlotte County Transit Operations Manager Heidi Maddox regarding the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioner's willingness to serve as CTC for the next 5 year period beginning July 1, 2026](#)
2. [Draft Memorandum of Agreement between the CTD and the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners for LCB approval at the November 6, 2025 LCB Meeting](#)
3. [Draft MPO Resolution #2025-03 to be considered at the December 15, 2025 MPO Board Meeting](#)

Lynn Dorler made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement and recommend MPO Board approval of MPO Resolution #2025-03 for submittal to the CTD. **Maricela Morado** seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

7. Quarterly Report

Laks Gurram introduced Charlotte County Transit staff, Betty-Ann Sherer, who presented on the recent activities of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). She reported that there was an increase of nearly 2,000 trips compared to last year and same day trips for the year were up to nearly 3,900. The Charlotte Rides app reported 8,100 trips booked, a 22% increase in new riders, and 999 new accounts created on the Charlotte Rides app. Ms. Sherer also said that following a survey on how riders heard about Charlotte County Transit, they are working with a news outlet to help reach a broader audience.

For the revenue reports, Zinnia Vargas presented. She took a moment to explain that FDOT changed the applicability of local match. She also introduced Aimee Shafran, who is new

to Charlotte County Fiscal Services. Lynn Dorler asked about a decline in revenue from the Senior Friendship Center, which is due to their funding being exhausted in June.

Ms. Sherer resumed the presentation and explained that unmet trips are down and expected to continue progressively decrease, which she cites their new driver contract for much of this improvement. She also reminded the Board that all customer compliments and concerns are taken seriously, and each one is investigated carefully. **Maricela Morado** complimented Transit on the improvement in compliments and concerns.

1. [Presentation](#)

8. FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment – Transit Efficiency Study

Laks Gurram introduced the UPWP amendment.

In accordance with federal requirements, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) must be amended when revisions occur to the approved Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) budget as reflected in the adopted UPWP.

The Charlotte County–Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is requesting an amendment to the FY 2026 UPWP to incorporate additional funding received by Charlotte County Transit.

The study is funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Operating and Capital Assistance in the amount of \$50,000 to procure consulting services for the completion of a Transit Efficiency Study.

The study will evaluate transit operations, identify opportunities for new or improved services, and analyze the use of high-capacity vehicles to enhance long-term efficiency and sustainability.

1. [Proposed and adopted Task 8 pages and tables for Task Transit & Transportation Disadvantaged \(TD\)](#)
2. [FDOT UPWP Revision Form](#)

Victoria Upthegrove made a motion to endorse the amendment of the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to include the attached updates . This motion allows for transmittal of the amendment pages and all supporting documentation to be transmitted to FDOT/FHWA. This motion allows staff to make any changes and adjustments based upon input received from FDOT. ***Carmen Henry*** seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. Review of Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update

Charlotte County Transit and MPO staff presented the FY 2026 TDP annual update required by State TDP Rule 14-73.001. The update summarized progress on adopted TDP initiatives, recent performance metrics (ridership, revenue hours, cost per passenger), status of capital projects, proposed service adjustments, and priority actions for the coming year. Staff will request Board concurrence to transmit any required documentation to the Florida Department of Transportation and to authorize any minor administrative revisions necessary to maintain funding eligibility.

M. Suzanne Roberts thanked Charlotte County Transit and complimented their work on the TDP.

1. [TDP Annual Update](#)

10. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

11. Staff Comments

Laks Gurram provided staff comments, thanking the LCB for their participation and noting that all the member vacancies on LCB have been filled, except for the Private-For-Profit Industry representative. He also announced two openings on the MPO's Citizen's Advisory Committee, one in West County (residents must reside west of the Myakka River) and one in Mid County (applicant must reside in Charlotte County, between Myakka River and Peace River). Mr. Gurram expressed appreciation for the members' continued commitment and support in maintaining a strong and active board.

Mr. Gurram reminded the LCB members that there is still time to sign up to present information about their agencies to the Board and encouraged them to contact MPO staff to do so.

Heidi Maddox reported that, as of November 5, Charlotte County Transit is fully staffed. She welcomed three new employees: Tiffany Hummel, Business Services Supervisor, Jason Colon, Transit Safety Coordinator, and Cassie Chavez, Senior Transit Dispatcher. Ms. Maddox also noted ongoing collaboration with a marketing team for their rebranding and targeted marketing plan. She provided a brief update on the new driver contract that began in October, praising the quality and professionalism of the drivers and their positive presence at the Transit facility.

12. Member Comments

A. Member Presentations: Carmen Henry, CareerSource Southwest Florida

Carmen Henry provided the following abstract of her [presentation](#):

“The presentation will outline the full spectrum of no-cost workforce services provided by **CareerSource** for our community. We will detail the comprehensive support available to job seekers, including career counseling, skills assessments, tailored training programs, and direct job placement assistance. We will also cover the robust business services designed to help local employers with talent recruitment and employee development. Among these key offerings is our commitment to specialized programs, such as our role as an Employment Network for the Social Security Administration's **Tickets at Work** initiative, ensuring all job seekers, including those with disabilities, have access to the resources needed to achieve success and financial stability.”

There was brief discussion on the differences between SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance). Shirley Ciampi offered to assist with any transportation concerns in Charlotte County. Ms. Henry agreed that they will be needed next summer. Betty-Ann Sherer was impressed with the amount and scope of services that CareerSource offers the community. M. Suzanne Roberts asked Ms. Henry what percentage of their organization encompassed Charlotte County, to which she stated that she serves as the disability Navigator for all six counties.

Victoria Upthegrove updated the board on the status of 5311 funding, which has been approved, and she said would be available next week. There was brief discussion on whether an amendment would be necessary for these funds.

Donna Fain and Suzanne Roberts both took a moment to volunteer to present about their organizations and choose a date.

Maricela Morado reminded the board that open enrollment for Medicare is occurring now. There will be an event Friday, November 14 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Family Services Center on Gibraltar Drive for free, unbiased Medicare counselling.

Suzanne Roberts spoke on the success of Transit and described a recent experience. This year Virginia B. Andes Clinic hosted the annual conference of the Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics at Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor. The host clinic always provides a tour, and they had 50 people from the conference that they needed to move from Sunseeker to the VBA Clinic. Ms. Roberts explained that Charlotte County Transit donated four large size buses to transport the participants, and they received many compliments about the partnership as well as the drivers.

Ms. Roberts also took a moment to wish the board Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays as the next meeting will be after the new year.

13. Adjournment (Next Meeting – January 8, 2026) at the Charlotte County Transit Facility, 545 Theresa Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33954)

The next LCB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026, at the Transit Facility located at 545 Theresa Blvd. in Port Charlotte, FL 33954. The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

DRAFT

JANUARY 8, 2026

LCB MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 5

ELECTION OF THE LCB VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Purpose: Election of the LCB Vice-Chairperson

Presented by: MPO Staff

Discussion: The LCB Bylaws require the election of a Vice-Chairperson during the first scheduled meeting of the calendar year. The Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of a quorum of the members of the Board present. The Vice-Chairperson shall serve a term of one year starting with the first meeting after the election. The Vice-Chairperson may serve more than one term. The Vice-Chairperson shall, during the absence of the Chair, have and exercise all the duties and powers of the Chair. The Vice-Chairperson shall also perform other such duties as may be assigned by the Chair.

Recommendation: Motion to nominate and elect the LCB Vice-Chairperson for 2026

Attachment: None

JANUARY 8, 2026

LCB MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 6
OVERVIEW OF THE LCB PROCESS

Purpose: To provide annual training for LCB members

Presented by: MPO Staff

Discussion: As described in the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) annual planning grant executed with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, planning staff members are required to annually “provide technical assistance and training for the local coordinating board.” This is accomplished at the January LCB meeting each year. In past years, staff utilized an instructional PowerPoint presentation, which has been updated (see attached). Additionally, three years ago, staff created an instructional video as a training tool. It was developed with the assistance of several LCB Members and a Transit staff member who provided all narration. The video’s information is derived from the PowerPoint. The PowerPoint is updated annually to reflect any changes to information from the year prior and reflect the current fiscal year funds.

Members should feel free to ask any questions that they would like to have answered after the video presentation is shown. The video presentation will be posted to the MPO website (www.ccpgmpo.gov) under the Transportation Planning 101 tab.

Recommendation: None

Attachment: [LCB Member Training Power Point presentation](#)

Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Training

January 8, 2026
Charlotte County TD LCB Meeting

Florida Law

- Florida Statutes, Chapter 427
 - establishes the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program
- Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 41-2
 - establishes specific rules/regulations, and sets requirements that govern the process.

Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD)

- A state commission (with state agency staff).
- Created by the Florida Legislature in 1989.
- To accomplish the coordination of transportation services provided to TD.

Commission Membership

11 Voting members appointed by the Governor:

- Secretary of Transportation or designee
- Director of Agency for Persons with Disabilities or designee
- Secretary of the Dept of Elderly Affairs or designee
- Director of the Division of Blind Services
- Secretary of Children and Families
- Two County administrators or managers (one small County/one more than 150K pop (cont.)

Commission Membership (continued)

- Five members who have experience in transportation, workforce development, transit services, management, insurance, or service of persons with disabilities or who have a disability and use transportation for the transportation disadvantaged.

Definition of TD

- Those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation.
- TD persons are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities and other life sustaining trips.

Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

- The LCB is composed of citizens, representatives of governmental agencies, purchasing agencies, and non-profit or for-profit service providers.

Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

Coordinating Board Structure

- Members are appointed by the Official Planning Agency
 - 1 elected official to serve as Chairperson
 - 1 Vice-Chairperson (elected annually by LCB Members)
 - Additional member groups which compose the LCB
 - FL Dept of Transportation
 - Dept of Children & Families
 - Dept of Elder Affairs
 - Agency for Health Care Administration
 - Public Education Community

(continued)

Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

Coordinating Board Structure (Continued)

- Additional member groups which compose the LCB (Continued)
 - Elderly (person over 60)
 - Disabled
 - 2 citizen advocate representatives, 1 of whom must use the coordinated transportation system
 - Representative for children at risk
 - Chairperson/designee of local Public Transit System's Board, except in cases where they are also the Community Transportation Coordinator
 - Private for profit, when available (local private nonprofit may replace unless Community Transportation Coordinator) (cont.)

Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

Coordinating Board Structure (Continued)

- Additional member groups which compose the LCB (Continued)
 - Regional Workforce Development Board
 - Medical Community
 - Florida Association for Community Action representative of county's disadvantaged population
 - Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Division of Blind Services for DOE, when applicable
 - Veterans Service Office
 - Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)

- The CTC is responsible for the actual arrangement or delivery of transportation services.
- The CTC may provide *sole source (as in Charlotte County)*, partial brokerage or complete brokerage service.

Official Planning Agency (OPA)

- In accordance with Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Rule 41-2.009.
- The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) shall serve as the OPA in areas covered by MPOs.

Authority of the CTD

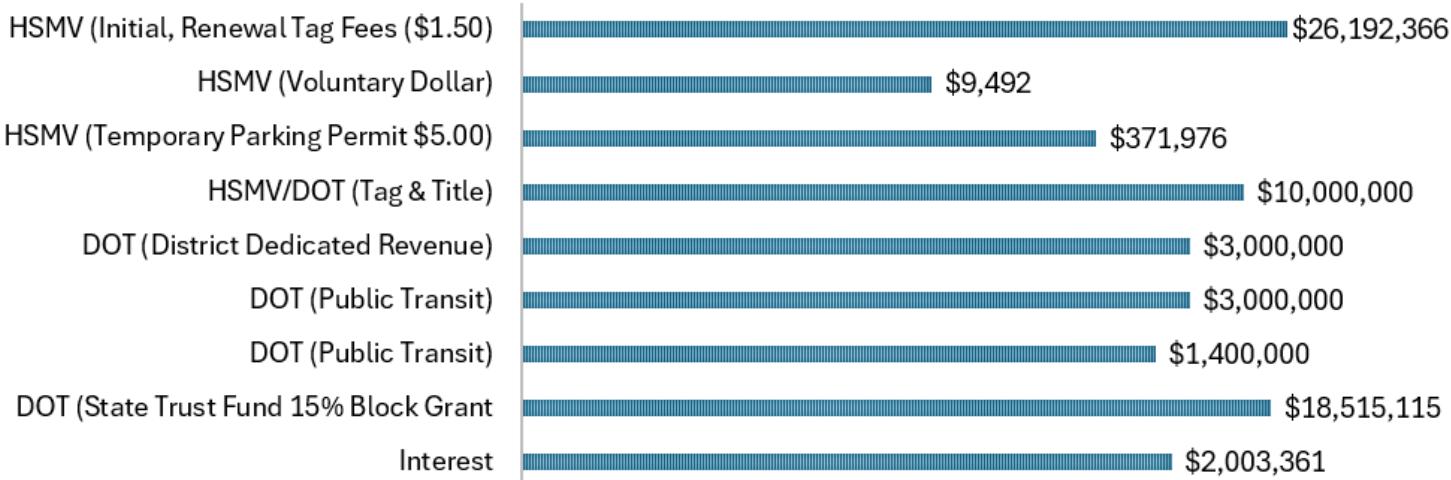
- The CTD is an independent agency.
- It is located in (but not governed by) the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).
- The FDOT connection is for administrative and fiscal purposes only.
- In FY 2023-24, Florida's Coordinated Transportation System reported revenues of \$ 374 Million which generated 13.4 Million trips for over 189,000 individuals.
- The CTD administers the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.

FY 2025-26

Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Estimated Revenues



ESTIMATED REVENUES FY 2025-26 \$64,492,310



Duties of the CTD

- Develops policies and procedures for the coordination of transportation services for the Transportation Disadvantaged
- Designates the planning agency in areas outside the purview of an MPO
- Approves the appointment of CTCs
- Contracts with CTCs

Funding for Charlotte TD Program

- Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund
 - TD Planning Grant/MPO (\$27,291 FY 25/26)
 - Trip and Equipment Grant (\$616,789 FY25/26 state amount of \$555,005 + local match of \$61,667)
 - Total Voluntary Dollar with match (\$117 – FY25/26)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants administered by FDOT FY26:
 - FTA Section 5310 Operating – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (\$100,000 federal funds + \$100,000 County match) Total: \$200,000
 - FTA Section 5311 Operating – Rural (\$82,800 federal funds + \$82,800 match) Total: \$165,600

CTD Reports

■ Annual Performance Report

- A comprehensive report that highlights the accomplishments of the TD system statewide and provides data that is used in the CTC evaluation. It includes a compilation of each county's Annual Operating Report (AOR)

Florida's Coordinated Transportation System

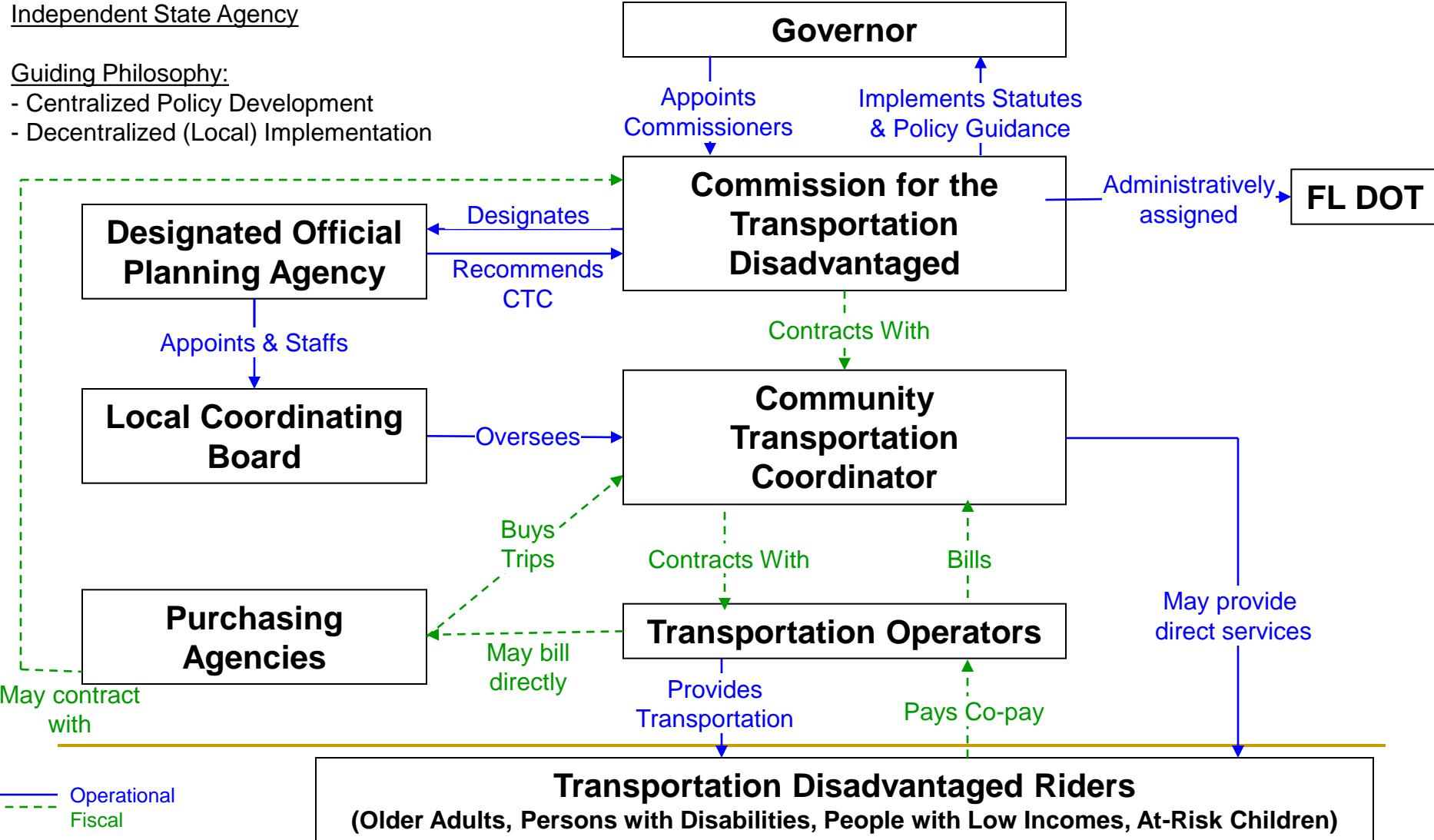
Organizational Structure

Transportation Disadvantaged Riders

Independent State Agency

Guiding Philosophy:

- Centralized Policy Development
- Decentralized (Local) Implementation



Why is coordination worth the effort?

- Coordination involves strategies that result in more trips for more riders.
- Coordination produces service that is cost effective and efficient
- Coordination reduces fragmentation and duplication of service.
- Coordination increases vehicle utilization and ridership, which helps agencies meet a greater number of needs by pooling resources.

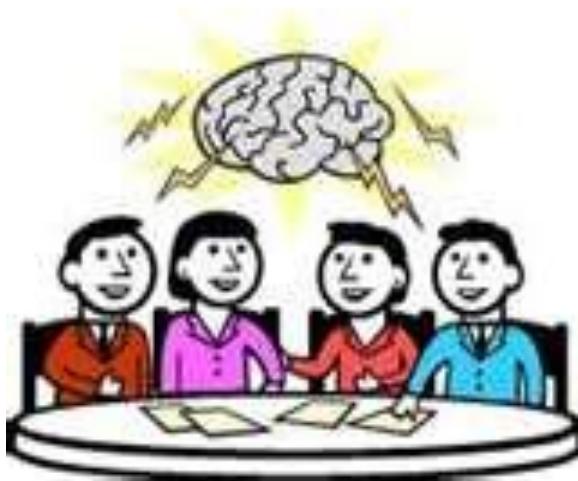
Charlotte County TD Service

(source: 2025 Annual Operating Report)

- Operates in an Urban Environment
- Total County Population is 235,255 (County forecast 12/25)
- 2,946 TD passengers (unduplicated headcount)
- Total expenses were \$2,072,175
- 26,562 trips were provided
 - 27% medical (21% in 2024)
 - 12.1% employment (19% in 2024)
 - 30.1% education/training/day care (38% in 2024)
 - 13.5% nutritional (4% in 2024)
 - 17.2% life sustaining/other (17% in 2024)

Government in the Sunshine

- Applies to any gathering of two or more LCB members.
- Applies to any issue on which *“foreseeable action”* by the LCB will be taken.
- Applies to all functions of covered boards and commissions, whether formal or informal.
- Requires reasonable public notice for all meetings.



Conflict of Interest

Rule 41-2.012 (5)(d), F.A.C. notes that all LCB members should be trained on and comply with the requirements of Section 112.3143, F.S. concerning voting conflicts of interest. In these instances, LCB members must refrain from voting on any item that could benefit the member, his/her organization, relatives or business associates. Prior to any LCB vote being taken, the member should disclose the nature of the conflict of interest. (see statute)

LCB Products/Yearly Calendar

- Public Meeting/LCB Training - January
- Annual CTC Evaluation – May (4 of 5 years)
- 5 Year-TD Service Plan (TDSP) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) - May-Sept (1 of every 5 years - then amend/update TDSP annually as needed each offyear in May)
- Annual Operating Report (AOR) - September
- Grievance Guidelines (November) and LCB Bylaws (September) – reviewed annually/updated as needed
- Review of grant applications, CTC quarterly reports, and any other action an LCB member recommends – ongoing

Staff

MPO (Planning Agency/LCB staff)

- MPO Director: Lakshmi N. Gurram
- MPO Planners: Mark Yaxis, MPO Admin Services: Bekie Leslie and Senior Administrative Assistant: Sierra “Ray” Scott

Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (Community Transportation Coordinator) through the Charlotte County Transit Division

- Budget & Administrative Services Director/Transit Director: Gordon Burger
- Transit Operations Manager: Heidi Maddox
Mobility Manager: Shirley Ciampi
Transit Data Coordinator: Betty-Ann Sherer
Transit Grants Analyst: Jill Turner

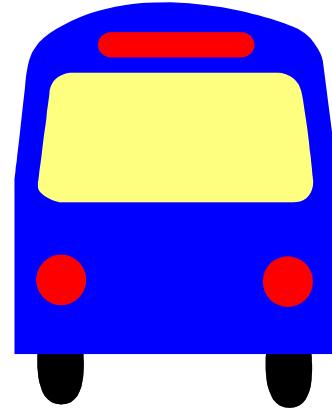
Fiscal Services Division

- Financial Analyst: Amiee Shafran

To Charlotte LCB Members:

*Thanks for your service in helping
folks get down the road!*

Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



JANUARY 8, 2026

LCB MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 7

**REVIEW/ENDORSEMENT OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY'S SECTION 5310
AND SECTION 5311 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Purpose: To provide Local Coordinating Board (LCB) members an opportunity to review/endorse Charlotte County's FY 2025/2026 Section 5310 (Operating) and Section 5311 (Operating) Grant Applications

Presented by: Charlotte County Staff

Discussion: Federal transportation legislation includes the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 and Section 5311 funding programs. Section 5310 is aimed at enhancing mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities, while rural residents benefit from Section 5311. Charlotte County Transit is applying for operating grants in both programs.

Recommendation: Motion to endorse the Section 5310 Grant and Section 5311 Grant Applications

Attachments: Charlotte County Transit [Section 5310](#) and [Section 5311](#) Grant Applications

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="checkbox"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="checkbox"/>
* 3. Date Received: <input type="text"/>	4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>	5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>	7. State Application Identifier: 1001	
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a. Legal Name: Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners		
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text"/> 59-6000541		* c. UEI: <input type="text"/> W8YJZF4NSQL1
d. Address:		
* Street1: <input type="text"/> 545 Theresa Blvd	Street2: <input type="text"/>	
* City: <input type="text"/> Port Charlotte	County/Parish: <input type="text"/>	
* State: <input type="text"/> FL: Florida	Province: <input type="text"/>	
* Country: <input type="text"/> USA: UNITED STATES		
* Zip / Postal Code: <input type="text"/> 33954-0000		
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name: <input type="text"/> Budget & Administrative Services	Division Name: <input type="text"/> Charlotte County Transit	
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: <input type="text"/> Mrs.	* First Name: <input type="text"/> Heidi	
Middle Name: <input type="text"/>		
* Last Name: <input type="text"/> Maddox		
Suffix: <input type="text"/>		
Title: <input type="text"/> Transit Operations Manager		
Organizational Affiliation: <input type="text"/>		
* Telephone Number: <input type="text"/> 941-833-6234		Fax Number: <input type="text"/>
* Email: <input type="text"/> Heidi.Maddox@CharlotteCountyFL.gov		

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Federal Transit Administration

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

20.509

CFDA Title:

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (FTA Section 5310)

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

* Title:

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Section 5310 Operating application for the small urban area of North Port/Port Charlotte to continue providing transportation service to meet the needs to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

[Add Attachments](#)

[Delete Attachments](#)

[View Attachments](#)

Attest:

Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Ex-officio
Clerk of the Board of County
Commissioners

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

17

* b. Program Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
--	----------------	-------------------	-----------------

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 10/01/2026

* b. End Date: 09/30/2027

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	100,000.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	100,000.00
* e. Other	
* f. Program Income	
* g. TOTAL	200,000.00

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Janette S. Knowlton
Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney
LKAS-119

* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on

b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)

Yes No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
--	----------------	-------------------	-----------------

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: Mr.	* First Name: Hector
Middle Name:	
* Last Name: Flores	
Suffix:	
* Title: County Administrator	
* Telephone Number: 941-743-1321	Fax Number: <input type="text"/>
* Email: Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFl.gov	
* Signature of Authorized Representative: 	* Date Signed: 

CHARLOTTE CO.

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="checkbox"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="checkbox"/>
* 3. Date Received: <input type="text"/>		4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>	5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>	7. State Application Identifier: 1001	
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a. Legal Name: Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners		
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text"/> 59-6000541		* c. UEI: <input type="text"/> W8YJZF4NSQL1
d. Address:		
* Street1: <input type="text"/> 545 Theresa Blvd	Street2: <input type="text"/>	
* City: <input type="text"/> Port Charlotte	County/Parish: <input type="text"/>	
* State: <input type="text"/> FL: Florida	Province: <input type="text"/>	
* Country: <input type="text"/> USA: UNITED STATES	* Zip / Postal Code: <input type="text"/> 33954-0000	
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name: <input type="text"/> Budget Administrative Services	Division Name: <input type="text"/> Charlotte County Transit	
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: <input type="text"/> Mrs.	* First Name: <input type="text"/> Heidi	
Middle Name: <input type="text"/>		
* Last Name: <input type="text"/> Maddox		
Suffix: <input type="text"/>		
Title: <input type="text"/> Transit Operations Manager		
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* Telephone Number: <input type="text"/> 941-833-6234		Fax Number: <input type="text"/>
* Email: <input type="text"/> Heidi.Maddox@CharlotteCountyFL.gov		

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

Federal Transit Administration

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

20.509

CFDA Title:

Formula Grants for Rural Areas

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

* Title:

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

CC MAP_Rural.pdf

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

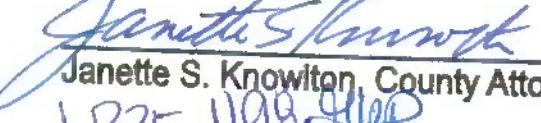
S311 Operating application for the rural areas of Charlotte County in order to continue providing transportation services to meet the needs of citizens residing in Charlotte County.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		Attest:
16. Congressional Districts Of:		Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex-officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
* a. Applicant <input type="text" value="17"/>		* b. Program Project <input type="text"/>
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.		
<input type="text"/>		Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment
17. Proposed Project:		
* a. Start Date: <input type="text" value="10/01/2025"/>		* b. End Date: <input type="text" value="09/30/2026"/>
18. Estimated Funding (\$):		
* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="82,800.00"/>	
* b. Applicant	<input type="text"/>	
* c. State	<input type="text"/>	
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="82,800.00"/>	
* e. Other	<input type="text"/>	
* f. Program Income	<input type="text"/>	
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="165,600.00"/>	
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:		
 Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney NR25-1198-018P		
* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?		
<input type="checkbox"/> a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on <input type="text"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.		
* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If "Yes", provide explanation and attach		
<input type="text"/>		Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment
21. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ** I AGREE		
** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.		
Authorized Representative:		
Prefix:	<input type="text" value="Mr."/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Hector"/>
Middle Name:	<input type="text"/>	
* Last Name:	<input type="text" value="Flores"/>	
Suffix:	<input type="text"/>	
* Title:	<input type="text" value="County Administrator"/>	
* Telephone Number:	<input type="text" value="941-743-1321"/>	Fax Number: <input type="text"/>
* Email:	<input type="text" value="Hector.Flores@charlottecountyfl.gov"/>	
* Signature of Authorized Representative:		
		* Date Signed: <input type="text" value="Walter"/>



JANUARY 8, 2026

LCB MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 8

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) QUARTERLY REPORT

Purpose: To provide a quarterly report of Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) transit activities

Presented by: Charlotte County Staff

Discussion: The quarterly report is presented to describe recent activities of the Community Transportation Coordinator. This is an informational item.

Recommendation: None

Attachment: None¹

¹*Given the timing of the holiday period and a very short turnaround time, the CTC Quarterly Report covering the October-December 2025 timeframe will not be available for the January 8, 2026 LCB meeting. It will be reviewed along with the January-March 2026 report at the May 7, 2026 LCB meeting.*

JANUARY 8, 2026

LCB MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 9
LCB MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Purpose: To provide an overview of LCB member agencies role in Transit

Presented by: LCB Members

Discussion: Charlotte County's Local Coordinating Board (LCB) advises the community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) and oversee services for the transportation disadvantaged. Members represent state agencies, local organizations, and citizen advocates, each with defined roles and responsibilities to ensure coordination, accountability, and equitable access to transit. Today's presentation highlights the role each member's role in supporting transit services

Recommendation: None

Attachments:

1. Ezequiel Tirado/Matt McGee – [Charlotte County Veteran Services](#)
2. Angela Hemstreet – [Goodwill \(Economically Disadvantaged\)](#)
3. Lynn Dorler – [Boys and Girls Clubs of Charlotte County \(Children at Risk\)](#)

Charlotte County Veteran Services

LCB

8 January 2026

Ezequiel Tirado, Senior VSO for Charlotte County



Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)

- VSOs work on behalf of Veterans and service members as well as their dependents and survivors.
- Our VSOs have at least two accreditations:
 - Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA)
 - American Legion (AL)
 - Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
 - National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO)



What We Do

- We are County Employees who act as the liaison between the veteran and Veterans Administration (VA)
 - File claims and appeals (benefits, pension, appeals, burial, and more)
 - Enroll in VA Healthcare
 - Outreach
- We provide referral and information services for Veterans and their families.

3



Common Claims

- **Compensation:** illness or injury due to military service.
- **Pension:** needs-based benefit paid to eligible wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements.
- **Burial:** burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.
- **Dependency Indemnity Compensation:** monthly benefits for surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness.

4



Homebound and Aid & Attendance

- Wartime Veterans in need of home healthcare, caregiver services, or assisted living may qualify for tax-free pension benefits from the VA.
- Veteran must have served 90 days with at least one day during a wartime period.
- Surviving spouses of wartime Veterans may also qualify.

5



When to File Claims

- **Original claim** – file your first claim for disability compensation.
- **Increased claim** – for a disability already service connected and is worse.
- **Secondary claim** – for a new disability that's linked to a current service-connected disability.
- **Supplemental claim** – provide new evidence to support a disability claim that was denied.

6



Getting proof of service (DD-214)

- Check with the County in which you lived upon your return from active duty.
- Online via eVetRecs at archives.gov
- Download SF 180 and fax or mail to National Personnel Records Center.
- Ask our office to request for you.

7

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR CERTIFICATION PURPOSES		THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD SAFEGUARD IT		ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID	
CERTIFICATE OF RECORDS OF SERVICE FROM ACTIVE DUTY This Report Contains Information Subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, As Amended.					
1. NAME (Last, First, Middle)	2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH	3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER			
4a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK	4b. PAY GRADE	5. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)	6. RESERVE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (YYYYMMDD)		
7a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY		b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF SEPARATION (If not same as above, or complete evidence of known)			
8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND		b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED			
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED		(10. BULL COVERAGE) (None)			
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List entries, title and place and results in order. List additional specialty numbers and title covering periods of one or more years).		(11. RECORD OF SERVICE) YEAR(S) MONTH(S) DAY(S) a. DATE ENTERED AS THIS PERSON b. DATE OF SEPARATION c. DATE OF ACTIVE SERVICE d. DATE OF INACTIVE SERVICE e. FOREIGN SERVICE f. DUTY TRAVEL g. BIRTH/ENTRY TRAINING h. DATE OF PAY GRADE			
13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (If not listed above)		14. MILITARY EDUCATION (List name of schools, month and year completed)			
15a. COMMISSIONED THROUGH SERVICE ACADEMY		15b. COMMISSIONED THROUGH ROTC SCHOLARSHIP (If USC Sec. 2070c applies, list name of college and month and year of graduation)			
16. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE		17. MEMBER PROVIDED COMPLIMENTARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT, WHETHER 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION 18. REMARKS			
<small>This information contained herein is subject to computer matching within the Department of Defense or with any other affected Federal or non-Federal agency for verification and comparison purposes. It is the responsibility of the member to advise the Department of Defense of any changes in his/her name and address.</small>					
<small>19. MAILING ADDRESS AT TIME OF SEPARATION (include ZIP Code) 20. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY TO (check if applicable) OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS A. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 1 TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (Washington, DC) B. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 2 TO (check if applicable) STATE C. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 3 TO (check if applicable) MEMBER - 4</small>					
<small>21a. MEMBER SIGNATURE 21b. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Type name, grade, rank, and telephone) 22. SPECIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (If not use by authorized agencies only)</small>					
<small>23. TYPE OF SEPARATION 24. CHARACTER OF SERVICE (check if applicable) 25. SEPARATION AUTHORITY 26. SEPARATION CODE 27. ENTRY CODE 28. NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION 29. DATES OF TIME LOST DURING THIS PERIOD (YYYYMMDD) 30. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 1 (check) 31. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 2 (check) 32. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 3 (check) 33. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4 (check)</small>					
<small>DD FORM 214, AUG 2009 PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE MEMBER - 4</small>					



Appeal Benefits that have been Rejected or Reduced

- Call our office for an appointment.
- We will work with you and file a Supplemental Claim with new and supporting evidence.
- If we see an error in the rating, we will request a Higher Level Review.

Qualification for VA Healthcare Services

- Veteran must have served in the **active** military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.
- Veteran served in certain locations and time periods during the Vietnam War era.
- Former prisoner of war (POW), received a **Purple Heart**, or received a **Medal of Honor**.
- Get (or qualify for) Medicaid benefits.
- Enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981 and served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty
- Served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War between August 2, 1990, and November 11, 1998.
- Served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.

9



Vietnam



Gulf War Era



Post 9/11

The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022

- A new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.
- This law helps VA provide generations of Veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

10





Vietnam



Gulf War Era



Post 9/11

The PACT Act

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era
- Expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances

11



The PACT Act Presumptives

List of conditions that are presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures

· Asthma	· Gastrointestinal cancer	· Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance
· Brain cancer	· Glioblastoma	· Neck cancer
· Chronic bronchitis	· Granulomatous disease	· Pancreatic cancer
· Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	· Head cancer of any type	· Pleuritis
· Chronic rhinitis	· High blood pressure	· Pulmonary fibrosis
· Chronic sinusitis	· Interstitial lung disease	· Reproductive cancer
· Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis	· Kidney cancer	· Respiratory
· Emphysema	· Lymphatic cancer	· Sarcoidosis
	· Lymphoma of any type	
	· Melanoma	

12



Vietnam Era Veterans Expanded Locations

- **Republic of Vietnam** (between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975)
- **Thailand at any US or Royal Thai base**
(between January 9, 1962 and June 30, 1976)
- **Laos** (between December 1, 1965 and September 30, 1969)
- **Certain Provinces in Cambodia** (between April 16, 1969 and April 30, 1969)
- **Guam or American Samoa or their territorial waters** (between January 9, 1962 and July 31, 1980)
- **Johnston Atoll, or a ship that called there** (between January 1, 1972 and September 30, 1977)

13



You Should **NEVER** Pay to Receive Your
Earned Benefits!



- There is never a charge for any of our services.
- We will help you obtain your EARNED BENEFITS.
- ***Beware of Pension Poachers***

14



Schedule an Appointment

- Currently, we only accept appointments.
- You may make an appointment by calling **941-764-5579**.
- Appointment hours are Monday – Friday, 0800-1600

15



What papers should I bring with me to an appointment?

- **DD 214** – Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- **Bank account number and routing number** for VA to deposit funds
- Additional paperwork requests depending on purpose of visit

16



Our Impact in Charlotte County Through October 2025

1

- Over 1,187 veterans and families assisted annually.

2

- \$3,484,322.43 in retroactive payments and \$947,689.37 monthly reoccurring payments secured for local veterans.

3

- Partnerships with local organizations, nursing homes, and community programs.



Charlotte County Veteran Services

941-764-5579

Main Office

21500 Gibraltar Dr, Port Charlotte

West County Office

6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood

Presentation for Charlotte County MPO LCB - TD

January 8, 2026

*Presented by Angela Hemstreet
Director of Employment Services*

Our Mission

“Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida is committed to serving people with disabilities and disadvantages by offering life-changing opportunities to achieve independence.”



Goodwill Industries International

We are one of 156 autonomous member agencies of Goodwill Industries International.



Ref: www.goodwill.org

GOOD to KNOW

Goodwills operate in all **50** states

82 percent of the U.S. population resides within ten miles of a Goodwill.

For nearly 120 years, Goodwill® has been one of the leading workforce providers in North America, helping individuals empower themselves with the skills and job support services they need and want to thrive.

WE EMPLOY

- 1,085 employees (106 in Charlotte)
- 76% of our employees have either a disability or disadvantage
- \$ 30.9 million in wages (2025)



In 2024, Goodwill SWFL served a total of 24,716 people.

Organization wide we have offered the following services



- Employment applications
- ACCESS Services
- Linkage and Referral
- Wrap around services

- 7,515 opportunity seekers
- 351 Veterans and their families received service or linkage to service



**FREE Access to
Digital Training**



**AI Essentials
AI Prompting
Basic Computer Skills
Internet Basics
Social Media
Email Basics
Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint
Smart Phone Assistance
Career Search**



**The wrap-around services together
with the
digital training
are meant to lift people up
and move them toward
household stability.**



**This holistic framework is called
Opportunity Accelerator.**



Opportunity Accelerator



Opportunity Accelerator



Opportunity Accelerator

2. EQUIP & CONNECT



- + Wrap-around and support services
- + Employment competencies
- + Digital Skills
- + Occupation-specific skills
- + Learn-and-earn Goodwill and beyond

Validated skills and competencies



Opportunity Accelerator

3. LAUNCH & EVALUATE



Job Placement into In-Demand Occupations

Understand Employer Needs

Engage Employer Partners in Hiring

Sustain Alumni Connections

Career progression support and impact evaluation



2024 Details

5,747

Individuals received Community Support Services in the following areas:

- **5,543** people were served through our Community Resource Centers (CRCs) and Neighborhood Outreach Center, accessing Digital Skills Training, Interviewing Skills, Employment Services, and Placement, ACCESS services, Literacy Classes, and other wrap-around services that help individuals and their families get one step closer to economic self-sufficiency.
- **4,876** individuals have actively participated in The Opportunity Accelerator TM program, benefiting from a holistic journey that spans from initial intake to job placement and retention and ongoing support for further training and wrap-around support to advance in their career.
- **239** individuals secured a job through our employment placement services.
- **118** Goodwill Employees received assistance through the G.I.V.E program, reaffirming our commitment to supporting our dedicated team members.
- **81** aspiring entrepreneurs enrolled in the MicroEnterprise Institute, 64 graduated and 39 new businesses were started or strengthened empowering individuals to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.
- **5** Individuals enrolled in our credentialing programs, which included a home-care companion course, or Safe Staff Food Handler's course. 5 people earned a certification in one of these programs enhancing their employability and skill set.

2024 Annual Report
www.goodwillswfl.org

Goodwill
Southwest Florida

Q & A







BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY



United Way of Charlotte County

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA



MISSION MOMENT MONDAY

OUR MISSION:

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

OUR VISION:

Provide a Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

Good Quality of Life



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

Building Blocks



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

**Youth development organization,
Managed - Directed by local community leaders.**

**Local Club is response for all operational costs
No direct fundraising support from BGCA**

**We are an after school & Summer program
Not a daycare.**

We serve all kids ages 6 to 18.

Programs are conducted by TRAINED/PROFESSIONAL Caring Adults.

Low or No cost services.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



CORE PROGRAMS

The five Core Program Areas that align with the developmental needs of all young people:

- Education & Career Development
- Character & Leadership Development
- Health & Life Skills
- The Arts
- Sports, Fitness and Recreation

BGCA programs are designed to encourage Club members to realize a wide variety of positive outcomes, a strategy for developing the “whole child.”



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Our **three priority** outcome areas of
Academic Success, Good Character
and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles.



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

EDUCATION

**HOMEWORK
TUTORING
Reading/Reading Buddies
SUMMER BRAIN GAIN
MENTORING
STEM**



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

HEALTHY HABITS TRIPLE PLAY

**Smart Moves, Opioid/Drug Prevention, Fitness ,Sports,
Bullying Prevention, Teamwork**



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

**POSITIVE ACTION
GOOD MANNERS
RESPECT
TRUST
COMMUNITY SERVICE**



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Education is a critical step in a good quality of life.
Our program also provides life skills and life changing opportunities for youth. We provide guidance, help and assistance to a successful future. Kids have access to tutors & mentors. We provide certified teachers at all sites to work with kids.

Our goal is for ALL kids to graduate high school on time with a plan for the future.



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BGC DINNER PROGRAM

**EVERY NIGHT DURING THE
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
KIDS HAVE ACCESS TO A HOT MEAL
PRIOR TO GOING HOME**



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
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SUMMER BRAIN GAIN CAMP

OUR SUMMER PROGRAMS!



SUNCOAST SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge, sponsored by the Patterson foundation. Provides resources to encourage children to read, reducing the "summer slide." Why? Because nationwide, children from asset-limited families can lose an average of 2 to 2.5 months of reading skills each summer!

SUMMER BRAIN GAIN

BGCA Summer Brain Gain, developmentally appropriate, project-based learning experiences are designed to keep youth engaged throughout the summer. Summer Brain Gain is comprised of one-week modules with fun, themed activities for elementary school, middle school and high school students that are aligned with common core anchor standards.

TRIPLE PLAY

A Game Plan for the Mind, Body and Soul is BGCA's proven health and wellness program co-sponsored by the Anthem Foundation and founding partner The Coca-Cola Company. Launched in 2005, Triple Play has made more than 14.4 million connections with kids and teens, promoting the importance of physical activity and proper nutrition through the program's three components: mind, body and soul.

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LIZZY THE LITERACY BUS HAS HUNDREDS OF GRADE-LEVEL BOOKS FROM KINDERGARTEN - 8TH GRADE!

Lizzy can go ANYWHERE! Previously seen at many local elementary schools, Dairy Queen, Franz Ross YMCA, at events, and local parks in our community! To coordinate Lizzy coming to you, contact Maria Jenkins, Boys & Girls Clubs Volunteer Coordinator, via email at volunteer@bgcofc.org



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
PORT CHARLOTTE | ENGLEWOOD | PUNTA GORDA



CHARLOTTE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



United Way
of Charlotte County



Harbor Heights | Peace River



Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce
Leadership Charlotte Class of 2019



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PARTNERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

UNITED WAY OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

BOCC

BBBS

SUNCOAST CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING

CCPS

CCSO

YMCA

DRUG FREE CHARLOTTE

LOVELAND CENTER

KIDS THRIVE - ELC

MAPLE LEAF VILLAGE

BANK OZK

CREWS BANK

BMO BANK

CHARLOTTE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

JFCS

LUTHERAN SERVICES

CHARLOTTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CARE

GULF COAST PARTNERSHIP

HOMELESS COALITION

CDBIA

VBA CLINIC

ROTARY CLUBS

FPL

WASTE MANAGEMENT

CHARLOTTE COUNTY CHAMBER

PUNTA GORDA CHAMBER

ENGLEWOOD CHAMBER

KIWANIS CLUBS

ELKS CLUBS

MOOSE LODGES

HARBOR CORVETTE CLUB

CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

PATTERSON FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA COUNTY

HOME DEPOT

LOWE'S

SAM SUB'S

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DCF

HCA FAWCETT HOSPITAL

PULSAFEEDER/IDEX

GULF COAST PARTNERSHIP

DJJ

DOE

VALERIE'S HOUSE

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

GIRLS ON THE RUN

CROSSROADS ACADEMY

CHARLOTTE LOCAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

RICHARD SCHULZE FOUNDATION

BGCA

FLORIDA ALLIANCE OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

SMUGGLER'S FOUNDATION

AMBITRAN'S/GRANT FAMILY

MOSAIC

GTS LAW

KEY AGENCY



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

Priority 1:

**A SAFE PLACE FOR
ALL KIDS TO LEARN
& GROW.**



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Priority 2:

**Strengthen
organizational
capacity &
capability to
Serve more kids
effectively.**



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

Priority 3:

**Position Clubs as
the premier
youth development
agency; advocating
for all kids.**



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Priority 4

Strategic organizational expansion.

PUNTA GORDA, BABCOCK RANCH, DEEP CREEK



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TWEENS & TEENS

Priority 5

Serve more 6TH-12TH GRADE KIDS.

WORKFORCE READINESS + JOB SKILL TRAINING
+ LIFE SKILLS + LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



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196 KIDS GRADES 6-12 CURRENTLY ATTENDING PROGRAMS



Brooklyn – TEN YEAR
MEMBER



ALLYSON – TEN YEAR MEMBER

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



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**Thank you for all
you do for kids!!!**



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

