



## Department Report

**MEETING DATE:** May 19, 2025  
**FROM:** Dr. Philip C. Harris, D.B.A., Director, Economic Development  
**SUBJECT:** Monthly Report – April 2025

### BACKGROUND

The Economic Development Department continued to prioritize inclusive economic growth, small business engagement, strategic partnerships, and resource development throughout April 2025. Efforts were made to strengthen relationships with local organizations, provide on-the-ground business support, and pursue external funding opportunities that align with the City's long-term goals around equity, innovation, and economic resilience.

#### 1. Grant Management:

- **National League of Cities (NLC) Southern Cities Economic Inclusion Initiative**  
 The City of Greenacres has submitted a proposal to the NLC's Southern Cities Economic Inclusion Initiative, which is designed to enhance access to workforce development, entrepreneurship, and small business support. If awarded, the \$15,000 mini-grant will be used to expand economic opportunities for residents by strengthening job training pathways, providing technical assistance for small businesses, and deepening strategic community partnerships.
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Economic Mobility and Opportunity (EMO) Peer Learning Cohort and Mini-Grant**  
 The City has also applied for the ICMA 2025 EMO Peer Learning Cohort and Mini-Grant Program. This initiative supports municipalities in advancing upward mobility through capacity-building, strategic planning, and peer collaboration. If awarded, the \$20,000 mini-grant will support a comprehensive set of initiatives including:
  - A Community Workforce Assessment to identify local employment barriers and opportunities,
  - Job Readiness and Skills Training in high-demand fields,
  - Youth Internships and Apprenticeships to provide early career exposure,
  - Small Business Development Support through workshops and mentorship, and
  - Neighborhood Beautification Projects that improve livability and encourage economic activity.

Together, these grant opportunities align with the City's strategic goals to foster inclusive economic growth and enhance the quality of life for all Greenacres residents.

#### 2. Building Strategic Partnerships:

Strategic partnerships play a critical role in extending the reach and impact of the Department's goals. During April, meetings were held with:

- **Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce:** Discussed opportunities for collaboration, including the City's support for and active participation in the Chamber's Economic Development & Government Affairs Committee to strengthen regional advocacy and business development efforts.
- **Latino Leadership Institute:** Held discussions on the program overviews of the Ignite Program, the Latino Entrepreneur Access Program (LEAP), and Cumbre Connect, with a focus on opportunities for collaboration to

support Latino entrepreneurs and emerging leaders in Greenacres.

- **APEX Accelerator / Florida SBDC:** Discussed planning efforts for a government contracting workshop, aimed at helping local small businesses become certified vendors for local and federal procurement.
- **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County:** Explored opportunities for joint marketing initiatives and collaborative workshops aimed at supporting Hispanic-owned businesses in the Greenacres area. Additionally, discussed the City's involvement in and support for the Chamber's 25th Annual Triunfo Awards Gala.

### 3. Business Assistance:

- **Chick-fil-A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
The department facilitated the grand opening of a new Chick-fil-A location in the City. The event was well-attended by Mayor Chuck Shaw, Deputy Mayor Judy Dugo, Palm Beach County Commissioner Joel Flores, City Manager Andrea McCue, and Charisma Kendrick-Adams, Economic Development Director for U.S. Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, City staff, and the business community, highlighting the City's commitment to welcoming and supporting new employers. The establishment is projected to bring approximately 120 new jobs to the area, including entry-level and management roles.
  - **Pop-Up Business Assistance Events**  
In collaboration with Prospera USA, the department hosted its monthly "Pop-Up Business Assistance" event, offering walk-in support for entrepreneurs and small business owners. Services included business diagnostics, startup guidance, and access to microloan referrals.
  - **Small Business Recognition Program (In Progress)**  
Staff began outlining a Small Business Spotlight Program to recognize businesses that contribute positively to the community through hiring practices, community service, or innovation. The goal is to boost visibility and morale among local entrepreneurs.
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