



COUNTY PARTNERSHIPS HELP BUILD A STRONGER ECONOMY

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With one of the fastest annual job growth rates in the state, Palm Beach County is experiencing the positive results of the effective public-private partnerships and financial leveraging programs supported by our Board of County Commissioners and community business partners. The Business Development Board leads the charge in raising the profile of Palm Beach County to attract companies to our area, and in seeking ideal sites for business location and expansion. Palm Beach County's economic development programs, offered through the Department of Economic Sustainability (DES), give businesses access to capital to help bring projects to fruition. Additionally, technical assistance provided through DES helps companies learn how they can qualify for bidding preferences through programs for minority and women business enterprises and other initiatives to help them keep a competitive edge.

The County's participation with private industry has helped businesses, large and small exceed their job creation goals and has increased their capacity to land larger contracts. Here are a few examples of local businesses that were assisted through the County's Section 108 Loan Program and which have reported remarkable achievements, despite the economic decline of recent years:



Concrete Services, a specialty concrete subcontractor, received \$250,000 in Section 108 loan financing toward acquisition, renovation, and equipment costs, as well as working capital at their facility in the village of Palm Springs.

Under their loan agreement, they were required to create a projected 12 new jobs. To date, they have added 184 jobs to their payroll.

International supplier of color cosmetics, skin and hair care, and over-the-counter drug products, **Oxygen Development**, constructed a \$23 million manufacturing plant on Congress Avenue in Palm Springs in 2012 with the help of \$6 million in financing through the Section 108 program. They committed to create 400 new jobs and now currently operate multiple shifts, 24 hours per day, with 822 employees.



OXYGEN



Baron Sign Manufacturing CEO, Sandra Foland took a bold step approximately ten years ago, when she decided to expand her facilities at a new site in Riviera Beach. With the assistance of more than \$2.6 million in loan financing from the county's Section 108 program, the company built a state-of-the-art plant which has served as a catalyst for economic development along the West 13th Street industrial corridor. Baron Signs has successfully weathered market fluctuations of the past decade

and is now competing on the national stage for sign production contracts with universities, hospitals, airports and convenience store chains.

For more information about the county's business assistance programs and partnership opportunities, contact Sherry Howard at DES, (561) 233-3653.