



# Housing & Economic Development



Greetings,

As we continue strengthening our service to the residents of Palm Beach County, I am pleased to share an important update about the direction of our departmental newsletter. Beginning this month, our publication will expand its focus to highlight the full scope of work led by the Department of Housing & Economic Development (HED). This shift reflects our commitment to transparency, collaboration, and community-centered progress across all areas of our mission.

HED's work spans a broad and interconnected portfolio of housing stability, neighborhood revitalization, economic mobility, small business development, and strategic community investment. By unifying these efforts within one comprehensive newsletter, we can better demonstrate how each division contributes to a stronger, more resilient Palm Beach County.

Our mission is clear: to expand access to safe and affordable housing, support economic opportunity for residents and businesses, and invest in vibrant, thriving communities. Every program, partnership, and initiative within HED is designed to advance this mission with integrity, equity, and measurable impact.

In the months ahead, you can expect this newsletter to feature:

- Department-wide updates that reflect our collective progress
- Housing initiatives that promote stability, affordability, and homeownership
- Small business programs and resources that support entrepreneurs, foster growth, and build a resilient local economy
- Economic development projects that strengthen local businesses and expand opportunity
- Community revitalization efforts that enhance quality of life across our neighborhoods
- Success stories that celebrate the residents, partners, and entrepreneurs shaping our future

Thank you for your continued engagement and partnership. Together, we are building a county where every resident has the opportunity to live, work, and thrive. I look forward to sharing more of our department's work with you as we continue this important journey.

With regards,

*Axel Miranda*

Director, Department of Housing & Economic Development

## What's Happening

July 4 | 5:30 pm  
City of Greenacres  
Independence Day Celebration "Ignite the Night"

July 7 | 10 am–4 pm  
PBC Office of Small Business Development  
Mind Your Business 7th Annual Youth Entrepreneurship Forum  
Riviera Beach Marina Event Center  
[7th Annual Mind Your Business Youth Entrepreneurship Forum](#)

July 9, 16 | 5:30 pm–7:30 pm  
HEI SBE Registration and Certification Workshop  
Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches

July 16 | 10:30 am  
Commission on Affordable Housing (CAH)  
<https://pbc-gov.webex.com/pbc-gov/j.php?MTID=m9faed0884eed4df48284d56ee8a05fca>

August 7 | 7:30 pm–10:30 pm  
City of Boca Raton  
6th Annual Battle of the Bands  
Mizner Park Amphitheater

September 26 | 11 am–2 pm  
City of Greenacres  
4th Annual Senior Health & Resource Fair  
Greenacres Community Center



**Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Goal Setting Meeting** is every 1st and 3rd  
Wednesday, 3:30 pm  
In-person: 50 S. Military Trail, Suite 1N-142 West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Webex Online: <https://pbc-gov.webex.com/pbc-gov/j.php?MTID=mf7422f3b2b4a6e4aed2ddce16ae06fc2>

## The Palm Beach County (PBC) Commission on Affordable Housing (CAH)

The County’s Commission on Affordable Housing (CAH) is gearing up for its next round of meetings, and we invite staff and community members to stay engaged. As the County’s Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC), the Commission helps identify local barriers to affordable housing and recommends practical, Florida-statute-guided incentives to address them.

AHACs statewide share a common mission: support local governments in expanding housing options by reviewing policies, promoting flexibility in development, and encouraging innovative approaches like adaptive reuse and mixed-income development.



Your participation helps shape the recommendations that guide our Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) and strengthen our ability to meet community needs. Meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of every month. Visit the CAH webpage at <https://discover.pbc.gov/HED/Pages/Commission-on-Affordable-Housing.aspx> for upcoming meeting dates to join a meeting or send comments to [HED-CAH@pbc.gov](mailto:HED-CAH@pbc.gov).

You can learn more about AHAC roles or Florida Statutes Chapter 420 on housing incentive strategies at “Online Sunshine” - [Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine](#).

## Strengthening Communities Through Investment, Innovation, and Growth

Palm Beach County’s economic landscape continues to evolve, and at the center of that progress is the Department of Housing & Economic Development (HED). The County has advanced a series of strategic investments designed to expand opportunity, support small businesses, and strengthen neighborhoods, ensuring that economic growth reaches residents in every community.

HED’s economic development team continues to collaborate with municipal partners, workforce agencies, and private employers to attract new industries and strengthen the County’s talent pipeline. Recent projects have supported job creation in construction, logistics, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing, sectors that offer strong wages and career pathways for residents. These investments are part of a broader strategy to ensure Palm Beach County remains competitive, resilient, and prepared for future growth.

Perhaps most importantly, the County’s economic development is deeply connected to its housing mission. As new jobs and businesses take root, HED is advancing workforce housing initiatives that help residents live closer to where they work. This integrated approach, linking housing, business development, and community investment, creates stronger, more stable neighborhoods and supports long-term economic mobility.

Palm Beach County’s economic development momentum is the result of collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to equity. As the County moves into the next fiscal year, HED will continue to champion projects that uplift communities, expand opportunity, and build a thriving local economy for all.



## RESOURCE GUIDE

### Heirs' Property Family Wealth Protection Project

Palm Beach County and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta are partnering on the 2025–26 Heirs' Property Family Wealth Protection Fund, a program designed to help families preserve generational wealth and strengthen community stability. Through this initiative, eligible homeowners can receive 100% free legal services, including estate planning, wills, deeds, and assistance clearing tangled property titles.

Properties must be located within eligible census tracts. Residents can check eligibility using the County's Heirs' Mapping Tool or by calling the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County at 561-655-8944, ext. 167. Eligible properties will appear within a purple-shaded census tract.

Services will be available June 1, 2025 through September 2026, or until funds are fully expended. Applications will be accepted online through Legal Aid's Heirs' Property Project portal, [https://discover.pbc.gov/HED/Pages/2025-2026\\_Heirs-Project.aspx](https://discover.pbc.gov/HED/Pages/2025-2026_Heirs-Project.aspx)

For more information, contact Legal Aid at 561-655-8944, ext. 167, or reach HED staff: Alan Chin Lee, Economic Sustainability Special Projects Manager,



### What does the Department of Housing & Economic Development do?

HED advances housing stability, neighborhood revitalization, small business growth, and economic mobility. HED manages affordable housing programs, community development investments, business assistance, and strategic initiatives that strengthen local communities.

### Economic Development Week 2026

Economic Development Week, celebrated May 4–8, 2026, highlights Palm Beach County's commitment to building a vibrant, resilient economy through strategic investment, business support, and collaborative partnerships. With a focus on attracting competitive industries, expanding a skilled and diverse workforce, and providing accessible financing tools for new and growing businesses, the County continues to deliver measurable impact. Over the past three years, the Department of Housing & Economic Development has assisted more than 2,000 businesses, advanced 87 collaborative initiatives, and supported the commitment of over 7,100 new jobs and 7,000 retained jobs, a testament to coordinated efforts that strengthen the local tax base and expand opportunity. This year's celebration also recognizes transformational projects like the Twiggs Academy expansion in Lake Park, a \$7.3 million investment that will increase childcare capacity and create new jobs. Palm Beach County proudly joins communities nationwide in honoring the professionals and partners who drive innovation, business growth, and long-term prosperity through economic development.

## HED Workforce Housing Program

Palm Beach County’s Workforce Housing Program (WHP) helps ensure that essential workers, teachers, healthcare professionals, public safety personnel, service workers, and other moderate-income earners, can live and thrive in the communities they serve. The program provides income-restricted rental and homeownership opportunities designed to keep housing affordable for households earning between 60% and 140% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

WHP homes are created through partnerships with local developers and are located throughout the county in mixed-income communities. Eligible residents can access high-quality housing at below-market prices, supporting long-term stability and economic mobility.

To learn more about eligibility, available units, and upcoming opportunities, visit <https://discover.pbc.gov/HED/Pages/Workforce%20Housing.aspx>.

**“Affordable workforce housing keeps our essential workers rooted in the communities they proudly serve.”**

## The Office of Small Business Development

The Palm Beach County Office of Small Business Development (OSBD) is committed to helping local small businesses grow, compete, and thrive. At the heart of our work is a hands-on approach that ensures every entrepreneur, whether new, emerging, or established, has access to the tools and guidance needed to succeed.

One of the most impactful services we offer is goal-setting meetings. These one-on-one sessions help business owners clarify priorities, strengthen operations, and map out strategies for long-term growth. From certification readiness to marketing improvements, the team works closely with each business to identify opportunities and remove barriers.

OSBD also provides direct access to compliance support, helping firms understand County requirements, maintain eligibility,

and stay competitive in procurement opportunities. Our staff ensures that businesses have the knowledge and resources needed to meet standards confidently and successfully.

OSBD’s outreach efforts extend far beyond the office. Throughout the year, we host and participate in outreach and networking events that bring together small businesses, County departments, prime contractors, and community partners.

In addition, OSBD serves as a gateway to a robust ecosystem of resource partners, including the local chambers of commerce and financial institutions, schools and universities, healthcare agencies, etc. These events create meaningful connections that often lead to new partnerships, contract

opportunities, and expanded visibility for local chambers of commerce, technical assistance providers, financial institutions, and entrepreneurial support organizations.

By linking businesses to these partners, we help strengthen the local economy and ensure that small businesses have access to the full range of support available in Palm Beach County.

Together, these services reflect OSBD’s mission: to empower small businesses, expand economic opportunity, and build a more resilient business community.

For more information, call 561-616-6840 or visit the website at <https://discover.pbc.gov/HED/osbd/Pages/default.aspx>.

Follow OSBD on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

## Tomorrow. City USA 2026

### West Palm Beach Becomes a National Hub for Urban Innovation

Tomorrow City. USA, hosted in West Palm Beach on April 14–15, 2026, transformed the city into a national gathering place for leaders shaping the future of American communities. The two-day event brought together public officials, global innovators, researchers, and industry experts to explore how technology, design, and policy can build smarter, more resilient cities. With immersive workshops, hands-on seminars, and solution-driven discussions, attendees engaged directly with the ideas and tools redefining mobility, housing, sustainability, digital equity, and community well-being.

Palm Beach County (PBC) proudly served as a sponsor, reinforcing its commitment to innovation, economic development, and inclusive growth. The County's support helped elevate West Palm Beach as a model for forward-thinking urban strategy—one where government, business, and community partners collaborate to create meaningful, people-centered change. "The conversations happening at Tomorrow Cities USA directly strengthen our region's economic competitiveness," said Meri Weymer, PBC Department of Housing & Economic Development Director of Economic Development "When government, industry, and community partners come together with purpose, we accelerate the kind of smart growth that benefits every resident of Palm Beach County."

Building on the success of 2026, Tomorrow City. USA will return to West Palm Beach on April 14–15, 2027, expanding its lineup of workshops, seminars, and interactive labs. Next year's program will deepen its focus on AI readiness, climate resilience, smart infrastructure, and workforce transformation, offering even more opportunities for local leaders, entrepreneurs, and residents to engage with the future of citymaking.



Axel Miranda  
Director, PBC HED

*For more information  
about next year's  
event, visit  
[Tomorrow.City.USA](https://www.tomorrowcityusa.com)*

## Happy National Community Development Week!



Palm Beach County's Department of Housing & Economic Development proudly joined communities nationwide in celebrating the impact of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs during National Community Development Week (NCDW) held April 6-10, 2026.

First launched in 1986 by the National Community Development Association (NCDA) alongside elected officials, NCDW was created to shine

a national spotlight on the CDBG program during a time of Congressional scrutiny. It has since become a grassroots effort to highlight the program's lasting impact in communities across the U.S. Every \$1.00 of CDBG funds leverages more than double in additional investment, strengthening neighborhoods, expanding opportunities, and improving quality of life across our county.

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners designated April 6 - 10, 2026, as National Community Development Week in recognition of these programs' tremendous contributions. Community development is a team effort. Thank you to our partners, nonprofits, municipalities, County staff, and residents who help make these projects possible and work every day to ensure funds are used effectively, responsibly and in ways that uplift Palm beach County families. Together, we're building stronger, more resilient communities.



***This nationwide celebration recognizes the partnerships, investments, and local initiatives that help communities grow stronger and more resilient through collaboration and equitable development.***

## Welcoming Layren Calvo A New Chapter for Small Business Development in Palm Beach County



Palm Beach County's commitment to strengthening economic opportunity takes an exciting step forward with the arrival of Layren Calvo, the new Director of the Office of Small Business Development (OSBD). Please join me in welcoming Layren as she steps into this vital leadership role, where she and OSBD continue to advance programs, build resources, and create initiatives that empower the county's small business community.

With more than a decade of experience spanning economic development, housing, nonprofit leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement, Layren brings a depth of knowledge that aligns seamlessly with HED's mission. Her most recent role as Director of Agency Relations at Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches showcased her talent for building strong partnerships, securing critical funding, and strengthening service delivery across the county. Her leadership helped expand organizational capacity and deepen community impact; experience that will directly benefit Palm Beach County's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

What sets Layren apart is her collaborative spirit and her unwavering dedication to service. She understands that small businesses are the backbone of local economic mobility, neighborhood vitality, and long-term community resilience. Her approach reflects the values that guide our department: partnership, innovation, and a commitment to ensuring every resident and business has access to opportunity.

As she joins the Department of Housing and Economic Development, Layren is eager to connect with teams across the county, learn about ongoing initiatives, and explore new ways to strengthen our collective impact. We are thrilled to welcome her to the HED family and look forward to the work ahead as we continue supporting Palm Beach County's residents, neighborhoods, and business community.

### Layren Calvo | Five Quick Facts

- She was born in Cuba and emigrated to the US at 13 years old.
- She was a Presidential Scholar who attended Palm Beach State College and Florida Atlantic University.
- Girl mom! Daughters, Jasmine and Jessica, are her pride and joy.
- She runs...Layren has completed 12 marathons.
- Her current home is the beautiful Village by Sea, Delray Beach.

## CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 2026 Palm Beach County’s Entrepreneur’s Take Center Stage

Palm Beach County’s entrepreneurial spirit was on full display during Small Business Week 2026, as the Office of Small Business Development (OSBD) hosted a dynamic lineup of events designed to educate, empower, and elevate the county’s small business community. From sunrise networking to hands-on contracting forums, the week highlighted the essential role small businesses play in driving local innovation, job creation, and economic resilience.

### A Week Built on Connection, Opportunity, and Growth

Commissioner Marci Woodward issued an official County Proclamation declaring May 4–9, 2026 as Small Business Week in Palm Beach County. The proclamation underscored the county’s commitment to supporting small businesses, recognizing their contributions to economic vitality, community identity, and local job creation. It also affirmed the county’s dedication to expanding access, equity, and opportunity for entrepreneurs across all industries. The proclamation set the tone for a week centered on partnership, empowerment, and community pride.



Throughout the week, OSBD delivered a series of targeted programs that met business owners exactly where they are, whether launching, scaling, or preparing for government contracting. Highlights included: the Small Business Week Kickoff Breakfast, SBE Goods and Services Tradeshow, PBC Special Taxing District Opportunity Forum, Networking Mixer, Food Truck Frenzy, and Hard Hats and Suits Construction Conference.

### Spotlighting the Heart of Palm Beach County’s Economy

Small Business Week is more than a calendar of events, it is a reminder that small businesses are the backbone of Palm Beach County’s economic landscape. OSBD’s programming continues to expand access to capital, strengthen supplier diversity, and ensure that local businesses have the tools to compete and thrive.

### A Collective Commitment to Community Impact

The success of Small Business Week 2026 reflects the collaborative efforts of county leadership, community partners, chambers, lenders, and the hundreds of entrepreneurs who showed up ready to learn, connect, and grow. OSBD remains committed to fostering an opportunity-rich environment where small businesses can flourish year-round.

As Palm Beach County continues to evolve, one thing remains clear: when small businesses thrive, the entire community rises with them.

## Palm Beach Partners 20th Annual Business Matchmaker Conference &amp; Expo

The 20th Annual Palm Beach Partners Matchmaker Business Conference & Expo on October 2 is shaping up to be one of the most energizing small-business events of the year, and this milestone celebration is returning to the Palm Beach County Convention Center with more opportunities, more collaboration, and more ways for local businesses to grow.

Co-chaired by the Palm Beach County Office of Small Business Development and the School District of Palm Beach County, this year's conference marks two decades of connecting small businesses with government agencies, prime contractors, and community partners. The Matchmaker has become a cornerstone of Palm Beach County's economic ecosystem, and the 20th anniversary will honor that legacy while pushing innovation forward.

The 20th Annual Palm Beach Partners Matchmaker Business Conference & Expo is powered by a strong coalition of agencies and organizations committed to expanding opportunity for small businesses across the county. Partners include InclusiFi, the City of Greenacres, the City of Riviera Beach, Palm Beach International Airport, Palm Tran, the TED Center, and the Palm Beach County Department of Housing & Economic Development and Office of Small Business Development, Solid Waste Authority of PBC, the South Florida Water Management District, the City of West Palm Beach, and the School District of Palm Beach County, all working together to create a dynamic, opportunity-rich environment where local businesses can connect, learn, and grow.

These partners play a vital role in shaping the conference experience, offering procurement insights, hosting PowerTalks, and engaging directly with local businesses.

The 20th Annual Matchmaker Conference isn't just an event, it's a testament to the power of collaboration, community investment, and economic opportunity. Whether you're a startup, a seasoned contractor, or a community partner, this year's conference promises unmatched access, insight, and inspiration.

Organizations looking to elevate their visibility and support the region's small business ecosystem can still join as sponsors. For details, contact Bruce Lewis at 561-236-2185.

#### What Attendees Can Expect Workshops

**Workshops:** actionable sessions led by industry experts, procurement teams, and business leaders.

**PowerTalks:** rapid-fire, high-impact conversations that give small businesses direct access to decision-makers.

**Exhibitors:** agencies, primes, and resource partners showcasing opportunities and services.

**Luncheon:** a celebratory gathering recognizing the partners and businesses driving economic growth.

# SAVE~THE~DATE

FRIDAY  
OCTOBER, 02



BUILDING *Bridges* ★ *CREATING Futures*

Palm Beach Partners

## BUSINESS MATCHMAKER

[www.pbmatchmaker.com](http://www.pbmatchmaker.com)

Conference and Expo



### WEST PALM BEACH

## STAYING STORM READY

### A Guide to Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane season in Palm Beach County runs from June through November, a period when residents must stay alert and prepared for storms that can develop quickly. Each year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides seasonal forecasts, storm tracking, and critical weather updates that help communities anticipate potential impacts. These forecasts guide local planning efforts and support the County's mission to keep residents safe.

#### How Palm Beach County Prepares

Palm Beach County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operates year-round but becomes fully activated when a storm threatens the region. The EOC coordinates emergency response across county departments, law enforcement, fire rescue, utilities, and community partners. During a storm, the EOC serves as the central hub for decision-making, resource deployment, and public information.

Residents can stay informed by following updates from the EOC and monitoring NOAA advisories through the National Hurricane Center.

#### Strengthen Your Home Before a Storm

Taking steps early can significantly reduce storm damage. Key actions include:

- Secure outdoor items to prevent debris hazards
- Trim trees safely to reduce falling branches
- Protect windows and doors with shutters or impact-rated coverings
- Review insurance coverage, including flood insurance

These measures help protect your property and support community safety.

#### Build a Family Emergency Kit

A well-stocked emergency kit ensures your household can remain safe and self-sufficient after a storm. Include:

- Water and non-perishable food
  - Medications and medical supplies
  - Flashlights, batteries, and chargers
  - Important documents in a waterproof container
- Supplies for infants, seniors, and pets

A full checklist is available through the Ready.gov Hurricane Guide.

Hurricane names are repeated every six years, unless a storm is so destructive, then the name is retired. Retired names are replaced with a new name starting with the same letter six years later.

#### Recently Retired Names:

Dennis  
Katrina  
Rita  
Stan  
Wilma

### **Small Business Hurricane Preparedness**

Palm Beach County's small businesses are vital to the local economy, and storms can disrupt operations quickly. Business owners should take proactive steps to protect their employees, customers, and assets:

- Create a business continuity plan outlining how operations will continue before, during, and after a storm
- Back up critical data off-site or in the cloud
- Review insurance policies, including coverage for equipment, inventory, and business interruption
- Secure your facility by protecting windows, elevating equipment, and safeguarding important documents
- Communicate with employees about expectations, closures, and safety procedures

Prepared businesses recover faster, and help the entire community bounce back more quickly.

### **Stay Connected and Informed**

Reliable communication is essential before, during, and after a storm. Residents should:

- Sign up for AlertPBC, the County's emergency notification system
- Follow Palm Beach County Emergency Management on social media
- Keep phones charged and have backup power sources ready

Staying connected ensures you receive timely updates on evacuation orders, shelter openings, and recovery resources.

### **Prepared Communities Recover Faster**

Preparedness is a shared responsibility. Check on neighbors, especially seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families with young children. Encourage friends and coworkers to review their plans early. When communities prepare together, recovery is faster and more resilient.

### **HED's Commitment to Community Resilience**

The Department of Housing & Economic Development supports residents through housing programs, community partnerships, and long-term recovery initiatives. By preparing now, residents help protect their homes, neighborhoods, and the overall economic stability of Palm Beach County.



Learn more about the Palm Beach County Emergency Notification System  
<https://member.everbridge.net/892807736726195/new>

# PALM BEACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Building stronger communities. Creating opportunities.

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

## HURRICANE SEASON 2026

**BE PREPARED. STAY INFORMED. STAY SAFE.**

Palm Beach County is beautiful, but hurricanes can be powerful. **Preparation today** protects your home, your family, and our community.



### STAY INFORMED

Sign up for alerts and updates.

- ✓ PBC Emergency Alerts
- ✓ Palm Beach County Website
- ✓ Local News & NOAA Weather Radio

## 5 STEPS TO GET READY

**1**

### MAKE A PLAN

- ✓ Know your evacuation zone and nearest shelters.
- ✓ Plan evacuation routes.
- ✓ Identify a safe place for your pets.
- ✓ Make a communication plan for your family.

**2**

### BUILD A KIT

Assemble a 7-10 day supply of essential items:

- ✓ Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- ✓ Non-perishable food
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Flashlight & batteries
- ✓ First aid supplies
- ✓ Important documents
- ✓ Cash

**3**

### PREPARE YOUR HOME

- ✓ Secure windows and doors.
- ✓ Trim trees and remove debris.
- ✓ Bring in or secure outdoor items.
- ✓ Review your insurance coverage.

**4**

### PROTECT IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Store documents in a waterproof container or scan them.
- ✓ Include ID, insurance papers, deeds, and medical records.

**5**

### HELP OUR COMMUNITY

- ✓ Check on neighbors, especially seniors and those with special needs.
- ✓ Support local resources and stay involved.

### WE'RE HERE TO HELP

The Department of Housing and Economic Development connects residents with resources before, during, and after a storm.



#### HOUSING RESOURCES

Information on affordable housing and assistance programs.



#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Supporting local businesses and building a stronger economy.



#### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Working together for a resilient Palm Beach County.

**STRONGER TOGETHER.  
PREPARED TOGETHER.**

*Palm Beach  
County Strong!*



**LEARN MORE**



[pbcgov.com/housing](http://pbcgov.com/housing)



[housinginfo@pbc.gov](mailto:housinginfo@pbc.gov)



561-233-3600

**HURRICANE SEASON 2026**



Palm Beach County Department of Housing & Economic Development  
Office of Small Business Development

# MIND YOUR BUSINESS 7th

Annual Youth Entrepreneurship Forum

**JULY 7th**

FROM 9AM THROUGH 4PM

**FOUR POWER-PACKED SESSIONS FOR TEENS!**

**AT**  
RIVIERA BEACH MARINA EVENT CENTER  
190 E. 13th Street



**TRADES / EXECUTION**  
BUILD IT. MAKE IT. LAUNCH IT.  
Hands-on skills.  
Real-world impact.

**STEM / INNOVATION**  
SOLVE PROBLEMS. CREATE SOLUTIONS.

Explore tech, science, and future careers.



**AI & BUSINESS CREATION**  
THINK SMART. BUILD BIG.  
Use AI to launch your business idea.

**MEDIA / PODCAST / INFLUENCE**  
TELL YOUR STORY. INSPIRE OTHERS.

Create content. Build your brand.



**AGES 10 TO 18**

**LUNCH PROVIDED**



**SCAN TO REGISTER!**

Partners include Digital Vibez, Florida Mentoring Network.

**FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER!**

<https://survey.pbcgov.com/s3/7th-Annual-Mind-Your-Business-Youth-Entrepreneurship-Forum>



**PALM BEACH COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**HOUSING &**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**DEVELOPMENT**

**JULY IS**   
*National*  
**PARKS &**  
**RECREATION**  
**MONTH** 

**WHERE COMMUNITY THRIVES!**

**WE PROUDLY RECOGNIZE THE**  
**PALM BEACH COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION** 

Your commitment to creating and maintaining beautiful parks, recreational facilities, trails, and open spaces makes Palm Beach County an extraordinary place to *live, work, and play.* 

*Thank You* 

for all you do to make our communities stronger, healthier, and more vibrant!



**PARKS & RECREATION:**



**ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE**

Beautiful spaces for relaxation, connection and fun.



**BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES**

Bringing people together and fostering a sense of belonging.



**SUPPORT HEALTH & WELLNESS**

Encouraging active lifestyles and mental well-being.



**PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Preserving natural resources for future generations.

**STRONG PARKS. STRONG COMMUNITIES.**  
**STRONGER PALM BEACH COUNTY.** 




**Palm Beach County Department of Housing & Economic Development**  
Creating opportunities. Strengthening communities.  
Building a brighter future for all.



 [pbcgov.com/housing](http://pbcgov.com/housing)

 [pbcgov.com/economicdevelopment](http://pbcgov.com/economicdevelopment)

 561-233-3600

**FOLLOW US**

    @PBCGOV

**LIVE**  
**WORK**  
**INVEST**  
**BELONG**



## SBE Spotlight: Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium Renovation

Palm Beach County’s commitment to small business participation continues to deliver real impact. Jupiter Stadium Limited (JSL), the partnership between the Miami Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals, recently completed major renovations at Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium, and certified Small Business Enterprises played a central role in the project’s success.

The renovation included clubhouse upgrades, new social and retail spaces, two state-of-the-art Player Development Centers, a Cardinals Pitching & Hitting Lab, expanded facilities operations space, and two new AiPP art installations.

As part of the County’s Development and Construction Management Agreements, the project set a 20% SBE participation goal. That goal was exceeded early, and JSL’s own direct-contracted work achieved 28.5% SBE participation, totaling roughly \$5 million awarded through competitive solicitations.

Two standout SBE firms, Peerson Audio Inc. (Audio/Visual) and Jade Communications Inc. (Structured Cabling, WiFi, and Security), delivered exceptional performance, meeting every milestone, coordinating seamlessly with larger contractors, and demonstrating the value of including SBEs as strategic partners.

Project Director Gabe Vilar shared that after more than a decade in the industry, he continues to see SBEs excel when they are engaged early, supported, and empowered. The stadium renovation is a strong example of how SBEs contribute to delivering projects on time, on budget, and with outstanding quality.





## COMMUNITY RESOURCE PARTNERS

### **The TED Center**

Provides business incubation, technical assistance, entrepreneurial training, and support for minority- and women-owned businesses. Offers workshops, coaching, and access to capital programs. 561-265-3790 | <https://tedcenter.org/>

### **InclusiFi**

A mission-driven community development financial institution (CDFI) offering affordable, flexible loan products and hands-on technical assistance for small businesses. Services are designed to support entrepreneurs who may not qualify for traditional bank financing. 561-845-8055 | <https://inclusifi.org/>

### **SCORE Palm Beach County**

Free, confidential mentoring for small businesses, plus workshops, business planning tools, and expert guidance from retired executives and industry professionals. 561-981-5180 | <https://www.score.org/fl/palm-beach-county/>

### **Valley Bank**

Offers small business banking, lending solutions, financial literacy workshops, and community reinvestment programs that support local entrepreneurs. 561-653-3700 | <https://www.valley.com/>

### **211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast**

A 24/7 helpline connecting residents to housing assistance, food programs, mental health services, crisis support, and community resources. 866-882-2991 | <https://211palmbeach.org/>

### **CareerSource Palm Beach County**

Workforce development services including job placement, career coaching, training scholarships, hiring events, and employer support. 561-340-1060 | <https://www.careersourcepbc.com/>

### **United Way of Palm Beach County**

Supports families through food security programs, financial stability initiatives, early childhood education, and community impact partnerships. 561-375-6600 | <https://unitedwaypbc.org/>

### **Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County**

Provides free or low cost legal assistance in areas such as housing, consumer rights, family law, immigration, and elder advocacy. 561-655-8944 | <https://legalaidpbc.org/>

### **Palm Beach County Library System**

Offers free access to books, digital resources, job-seeking tools, small business research databases, technology training, literacy programs, and community learning events. Many branches also host workshops and provide meeting spaces that support residents, families, and entrepreneurs. 451-233-2600 | <https://www.pbclibrary.org/>

**The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches** is a long-standing catalyst for business growth, offering networking, advocacy, and professional development that strengthen the local economy. 561- 833-3711 | <https://palmbeaches.org/>

## 211 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast



211 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast is a free, confidential helpline available 24/7 to connect residents with critical community services. By dialing 2-1-1, individuals can speak with a highly trained specialist who provides support with crisis intervention, suicide prevention, emotional distress, and referrals to local resources.

211 serves people of all ages across Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Indian River counties. Support is available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and additional languages. Residents can access help with food assistance, medical clinics, foreclosure prevention, senior services (including daily “Sunshine” calls), child and family programs, veteran support, and more.

For immediate assistance, dial 2-1-1 or visit the 211 online service database to search for local resources.

## Grow America Partnership Expands Opportunities for Palm Beach County Entrepreneurs

Palm Beach County’s commitment to strengthening small business growth continues through a powerful partnership with Grow America, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping entrepreneurs start, stabilize, and scale their businesses. Through this collaboration, local business owners now have access to world-class training, individualized consulting, and flexible, below-market financing designed to support long-term success.

The Palm Beach County Entrepreneur Academy, delivered in partnership with Grow America, provides hands-on instruction in financial management, business planning, forecasting, and capital readiness.

In addition to training, entrepreneurs receive access to free professional consulting services, including business

strategy, QuickBooks setup, marketing and digital strategy, website development, credit counseling, certification support, and procurement readiness.

One of the most impactful components of the partnership is the availability of below-market business loans, including credit-builder loans, microloans, equipment and operating capital loans, and SBA 7(a) financing. Palm Beach County businesses may also qualify for county-supported loans of up to \$20,000 at just 3% interest.

To participate, businesses must be located in Palm Beach County, have five or fewer employees, and generate no more than \$500,000 in annual sales. Once enrolled, entrepreneurs complete a

four-step onboarding process that includes a pre-loan assessment, consulting services request, Academy registration, and orientation video review. As the program guide states, *“Registration is now open, and spaces and funding are limited!”*

The Grow America partnership reflects Palm Beach County HED’s ongoing commitment to expanding economic mobility, supporting small business resilience, and fostering inclusive growth across the county. By reducing barriers to capital and providing high-quality training and technical assistance, the Entrepreneur Academy is helping local businesses build stronger financial foundations and pursue new opportunities for expansion.

For more details, contact Joe Gray at 561.537.0933.

## Palm Beach County

### Department of Housing & Economic Development

100 Australian Avenue, 5th Floor

West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

**Changing lives and transforming  
neighborhoods into balanced communities.**

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## Back to School PBC Needs You: Join the Team Powering 11,000 Students!

Back to School PBC!, sponsored by the Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization, will take place on Saturday, August 1st. As in previous years, the event will be hosted across four distribution sites: the Palm Beach County Convention Center, Village Academy, Palm Beach State College - Belle Glade Campus, and the Edna W. Runner Education Center.

With an anticipated turnout of more than 11,000 students countywide, we will have a wide range of volunteer needs throughout both setup and event days at all locations. Our greatest need, however, is for hands-on support on the main event day—Saturday, August

1st—primarily at the Convention Center and secondarily at Village Academy in Delray Beach. If you are interested in volunteering please register using the links below:

Palm Beach County Convention Center

<http://backtoschoolpbc.org/>

[volunteer](#)

Friday, July 31 – Setup Day  
First Shift: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
| Second Shift: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, August 1 – Event Day  
First Shift: 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
| Second Shift: 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
| Third Shift: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Village Academy (Delray Beach)

<http://backtoschoolpbc.org/>

[volunteerdelray](#)

Friday, July 31 – Setup Day  
First Shift: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM |  
Second Shift: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
Saturday, August 1 – Event Day  
First Shift: 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM |  
Second Shift: 10:00 AM – 12:30  
PM | Third Shift: 12:00 PM – 2:30  
PM

