

Resource Guide

For Relocating + Expanding
Businesses In Palm Beach
County



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOARD



PALM BEACH
COUNTY'S

Economic
Development
Resource



West Palm Beach cityscape

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Resource
Guide

How the BDB Can Help Your Company

The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County is the official public/private economic development organization for Palm Beach County, and Palm Beach County partner of Enterprise Florida. Founded in 1982 as a not-for-profit corporation, our primary purpose is to attract and retain a spectrum of new industry, business investment, high-quality jobs, and workforce development through corporate relocations, expansions, and international trade, stimulating economic energy, promoting business diversity, and enriching the County's vitality. The Business Development Board is essentially your one-stop resource for information on relocating your business to or expanding in Palm Beach County.

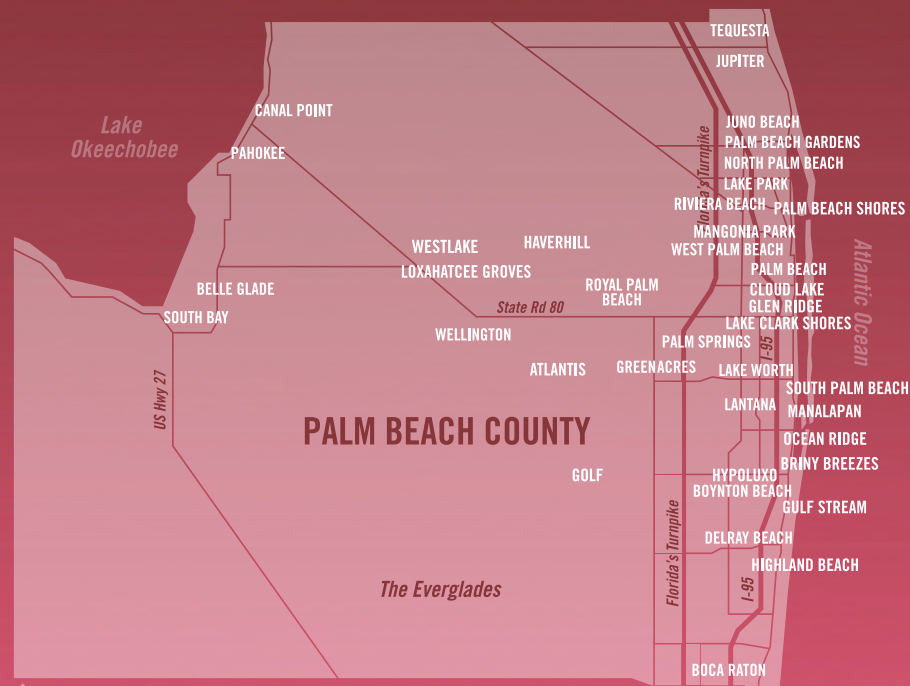
The BDB offers free and confidential services, including:

- Confidential project management assistance
- Site inventory on available industrial buildings, land, and office space
- Site tours conducted by our relocation and expansion staff
- Information on grants, financial assistance, and financial incentives available through the State of Florida, Palm Beach County, and local municipalities
- Introductions to CareerSource Palm Beach County employee-training programs
- Tours of public and private educational institutions
- Introductions to government and business leaders
- Provide information on housing and cost-of-living data
- Information on government zoning and permitting
- Local buyer and supplier information
- Demographics and labor market information
- Available services and rates for utilities, communications, and transportation
- Overview of Palm Beach County's lifestyle, including recreational and cultural amenities for relocating families

For incentive applications and additional information:
 Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Inc.
 310 Evernia Street
 West Palm Beach, FL 33401
561.835.1008
www.BDB.org

The BDB's economic development programs are in partnership with Palm Beach County's Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Economic Sustainability.

www.discover.pbcgov.org



During the past five years, the BDB assisted relocation and expansion projects that helped create and retain more than **13,300** direct jobs with average salaries greater than **\$68,000**, resulting in more than **\$627 million** in capital investment to Palm Beach County and an overall economic impact exceeding **\$6.95 billion**.

Palm Beach County offers a competitive business climate, a well-educated workforce – and a great place to raise a family.

Innovation. Works. Here.

Florida's stable and highly favorable tax climate provides advantages that make a Florida location profitable for every type of business. Progressive legislation also ensures Florida remains competitive as a worldwide hub for new and expanding businesses.

FLORIDA HAS...

- NO corporate income tax on limited partnerships
- NO corporate income tax on sub chapter S-corporations
- NO state personal income tax (guaranteed by constitutional provision)
- NO corporate franchise tax on capital stock
- NO state-level property tax assessed
- NO property tax on business inventories
- NO property tax on goods-in-transit for up to 180 days
- NO sales and use tax on goods manufactured or produced in Florida for export outside the state
- NO sales tax on purchases of raw materials incorporated in a final product for resale, including non-reusable containers or packaging
- NO sales/use tax on co-generation of electricity
- NO sales tax on purchases of manufacturing equipment

FLORIDA OFFERS SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTIONS ON:

- Machinery and equipment used by a new or expanding Florida business to manufacture, produce, or process tangible personal property for sale
- Labor, parts, and materials used in repair of and incorporated into machinery and equipment
- Electricity used in the manufacturing process
- Certain boiler fuels (including natural gas) used in the manufacturing process
- Semiconductor, defense, and space technology based industry transactions involving manufacturing equipment
- Machinery and equipment used predominantly in research and development
- Labor component of research and development expenditures
- Commercial space activity — launch vehicles, payloads, and fuel, machinery, and equipment for production of items used exclusively at Spaceport Florida
- Aircraft parts, modification, maintenance and repair, sale or lease of qualified aircraft
- Production companies engaged in Florida in the production of motion pictures, made-for-television motion pictures, television series, commercial music videos, or sound recordings

As your business grows, it is critical to find a location that affords you every opportunity to be successful, and Palm Beach County excels in all of these areas: a well-educated workforce, a competitive business climate, access to high-quality healthcare, a strong and stable housing market, and a great place to raise a family.

Let Us Show You Why Palm Beach County is a World-Class Location for Your Corporate Headquarters.

Palm Beach County is an ideal corporate headquarters location with an ever-increasing number of major companies based here. We welcome you to our pro-business environment that includes a robust workforce, low business and living costs, best-of-class education and training opportunities, solid infrastructure systems and, of course, wonderful weather year-round.

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS:

- Agribusiness
- Aviation, Aerospace & Engineering
- Business & Financial Services
- Corporate Headquarters
- Distribution & Logistics
- Equestrian
- CleanTech
- Healthcare
- IT / Telecommunications
- Life Sciences
- Manufacturing
- Marine Industries

The economic development professionals at the Business Development Board provide resources and answer your questions as we work to bring quality jobs and capital investment to Palm Beach County. But we have to admit, the greatest proponents of our area are the companies already headquartered under our beautiful skies.

COMPANIES WITH CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 3Cinteractive | Office Depot, Inc. |
| ADT | OpenPeak, Inc. |
| Airspan Networks, Inc. | Oxbow Corporation |
| Biomet 3i, a Zimmer/Biomet Company | Promise Healthcare, Inc. |
| Bluegreen Corporation | PSM Ansaldo Energia Group |
| Campus Management Corporation | Purity Wholesale Grocers, Inc. |
| Cancer Treatment Centers of America | QEP Co., Inc. |
| Careers USA | Sancilio & Company, Inc. |
| Chromalloy | SBA Communications Corporation |
| Crossmatch | Shoes for Crews |
| DePuy Synthes, a Johnson & Johnson Company | Successories |
| Florida Crystals Corporation | Sun Capital Partners, Inc. |
| Florida Turbine Technologies, Inc. | TBC Corporation |
| G4S | The GEO Group, Inc. |
| GardaWorld | The Learning Experience |
| Hollander Home Fashions | Thomas Produce, Inc. |
| Infinity Sales Group | TMS Health |
| Locus Traxx Worldwide | TravelPro International |
| LRP Publications | Tyco Integrated Security |
| MDVIP, Inc. | Ulysse-Nardin |
| NCCI | Yachtico, Inc. |
| NextEra Energy, Inc. | Yurcor |

West Palm Beach skyline, as seen from The Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach. Sculpture "Intetra" by Isamu Noguchi.

Palm Beach County offers everything from a **desirably pro-business environment** to a wonderful climate year-round.



SolarTech Universal, Riviera Beach

Palm Beach County Business Incentives

Your company may qualify for certain incentives as it relocates or expands in Palm Beach County, depending on your industry classification, the average salary, and number of jobs created. Each program below contains a brief summary of specific eligibility requirements. The BDB can help you determine which incentive programs are most applicable to your relocation or expansion. For more specific and detailed information about these and other incentive programs, visit our website, www.BDB.org, or call the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County at **561.835.1008**.

PALM BEACH COUNTY JOB GROWTH INCENTIVE FUND GRANT APPLICANTS MUST:

- Create and/or relocate 50 new, non-retail, full-time jobs,
- Create jobs in a maximum period of up to 36 months,
- Apply prior to making the decision to expand or relocate,
- Create jobs with average salaries of 115% of the county or industry average, and
- Provide financial statements for most recent three years or federal tax returns.

The base award is from \$500 to \$2,000 per job created.

PALM BEACH COUNTY AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION:

This program provides an exemption of up to 100% of the County portion of ad valorem taxes for up to 10 years.

- Exemption shall not accrue to improvements included on tax rolls prior to the effective date of the ordinance specifically granting a business an exemption

- Exemption applies only to taxes levied by Palm Beach County
- \$1,000 non-refundable filing fee

Companies applying for this exemption must meet the definition of a new or expanding business as defined in Section 196.012, Florida Statutes. It is within the sole discretion of the Board of County Commissioners to grant an exemption to those businesses that qualify under 196.012, Florida Statutes. Retail operations are ineligible for ad valorem tax exemptions, including a retail business presently in or locating to an Enterprise Zone.

New business is defined as one of the following:

- A manufacturing or target industry business creating 10 or more full-time jobs
- Any business establishing 25 or more jobs with 50% or more of sales outside of Florida
- Any office space housing 50 or more full-time employees which is owned and used by a business newly domiciled in Florida, provided this office begins operations separate from any other operation owned by the same business
- Any business located in a designated Enterprise Zone or Brownfield Area that first begins operations on a site clearly separate from any other operation owned by the same business
- Any business while situated on property annexed to a municipality may receive economic development ad valorem tax exemption from the county

Expansion of an existing business is defined as one of the following:

- A manufacturing or target industry business creating 10 or more full-time jobs
- Any business establishing 25 or more full-time jobs with 50% or more of sales outside of Florida, that also:
 - Increases operations on a site co-located with a commercial or industrial operation owned by and under common control with the same business,
 - Resulting in a net increase of employment by at least 10% , and
 - Resulting in a net increase in productive output or sales of at least 10%.
- Any business located in a designated Enterprise Zone or Brownfield Area that increases operations on a site co-located with a commercial or industrial operation owned by and under common control with the same business

EMPLOYED WORKER TRAINING GRANT:

This grant provides funding for companies with the intent of advancing current employees' wages and positions, and to assist companies in retaining jobs that provide self-sufficient employment. This program is administered by **CareerSource Palm Beach County. 561.340.1061.**
www.careersourcepbc.com

EXPEDITED PERMITTING:

Many municipalities in Palm Beach County and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners provide expedited permitting processes for new and expanding companies seeking to renovate existing facilities or construct a new facility. The Business Development Board coordinates regulatory agencies, authorities, and government departments to concurrently review projects as a way to cut delays and costs during project development.

State of Florida Business Incentives and Assistance Programs.

QUALIFIED TARGET INDUSTRY TAX REFUND PROGRAM:

- Provides tax refunds of \$3,000 per new job created or \$6,000 in a Rural Area
- Additional awards available for projects meeting specific criteria, such as: higher average wages, business within designated high-impact sector, business increasing exports of its goods through a Florida seaport or airport, or business located in a Brownfield Area
- Refund is for state taxes paid on corporate income, sales, ad valorem, insurance premiums, and certain others
- \$5 million per qualified applicant cap; no more than 25% of total refund can be approved in any single year
- Must apply prior to decision to locate or expand in community
- Must create at least 10 new jobs in Florida in a target industry business and increase employment by at least 10%
- Must pay an average annual wage of at least 115% of area local wages
- 20% of total tax refund must come from local community or government source
- Tax refund based on new jobs created, not retained
- Tax refund paid out over a minimum of four years

FLORIDAFLEX:

- Eligible projects are companies relocating to, or expanding in, Florida that produce exportable goods or services, create new jobs, and employ Floridians requiring customized entry level skills training
- Training services are provided through Florida's community colleges, school districts, area vocational-technical centers, state universities and, when approved, licensed and certified post-secondary private institutions; training limited to 24 months or less
- Program instructors are full- or part-time educators, or professional trainers from the business
- Trainee selection is the business's responsibility
- New positions are expected to be high-quality jobs paying at least 115% of county or state wages, whichever is lower

INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING GRANT:

- Business must have at least one full-time employee, be in operation for a minimum of one year prior to application date, and require training for existing employees
- Business must demonstrate financial viability and be current on all state tax obligations
- Training services provided through Florida's community colleges, school districts, area vocational-technical centers, state universities, licensed and certified post-secondary private institutions, and subject matter experts, consultants, or trainers from the business
- Training conducted at business's own facility, at training provider's facility, or a combination of sites
- Business must provide a matching contribution to the training project
- Training must be completed within 12 months of the approved date



Clean room, KRS Global Biotechnology, Boca Raton

Manufacturing and Agribusiness are but two of the 12 business clusters in Palm Beach County.



TKM Farms, Belle Glade

In addition to the Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund, FloridaFlex, and Incumbent Worker Training Grant, the State of Florida offers other incentive programs for qualified projects. The other programs offered by the State of Florida are available to projects that are qualified defense and space contracting businesses or businesses in designated high-impact industries with high levels of job creation and capital investment.

The following programs are offered by the State of Florida for qualifying businesses:

- Qualified Defense and Space Contractor Tax Refund
- Capital Investment Tax Credit
- High-Impact Performance Incentive Grant

www.enterpriseflorida.com

SCORE:

SCORE is a non-profit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and succeed. SCORE is a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and provides a valuable network of volunteers offering small business owners confidential business counseling services at no charge. SCORE also offers workshops and events to connect small business owners with the people and information they need to start, grow, and maintain their businesses.

www.palmbeachscore.org

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER—PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE:

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is part of a national network that has more than 1,100 business development centers nationwide and is a member of the Florida SBDC Network and America's SBDC. SBDCs represent the largest service delivery network of the U.S. Small Business Administration and are a cooperative effort of the private sector, the educational community, and federal, state, and local governments. SBDC provides small businesses with management and technical assistance, and trained and experienced Certified Business Analysts (CBAs) who assist entrepreneurs and small business owners with high-quality counseling, training, and information in virtually all areas of business management.

www.palmbeachstate.edu/smallbusiness

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT (FPL):

Another advantage to doing business in Palm Beach County is Florida Power & Light Company's discounted electric rates for new or expanding commercial and industrial businesses. FPL's economic development rate provides significant advantages – above and beyond the company's already competitive rates, which are the lowest of all 55 utilities in Florida, and below the national average.

Businesses that add a minimum of 350 kW demand of new electric load and create at least 25 new jobs per 350 kW demand of added load can apply for the new economic development rates. Business customers who qualify for the program receive declining discounts on their electric rates over four years: 20% in the first year, 15% in the second, 10% in the third, and 5% in the fourth. As an additional incentive to target the reuse of existing vacant property, FPL will offer an additional 5% discount and another year of discounted service. Typical-size businesses that might qualify for this program include supermarkets, department stores, manufacturing facilities, hospitals, and hotels.

www.PoweringFlorida.com



Tropical Shipping, Port of Palm Beach, Riviera Beach



The Scripps Research Institute – Scripps Florida, Jupiter

Financing and Access to Capital.

Companies in need of venture capital, investment, or other financial support can find the assistance they need to succeed in Palm Beach County. Whether your company is a small, locally owned enterprise or a larger company interested in tapping international markets, the BDB can refer your organization to the institution that can provide the assistance you need to grow your business. While the Business Development Board does not offer any direct financing, our organization has a growing list of financial resources to assist a wide variety of companies.

NEW WORLD ANGELS:

New World Angels (NWA) is a group of private investors dedicated to providing equity capital to early- and mid-stage entrepreneurial companies. Their focus is on companies based in South Florida.

www.newworldangels.com

ANGEL FORUM OF FLORIDA:

Angel Forum of Florida is a not-for-profit organization that facilitates interaction between individual investors and local entrepreneurs through member networking and its monthly meetings and presentations.

www.aiffl.org

FAN Fund:

FAN Fund is an early stage fund that invests in high-growth companies in the technology and life sciences sectors.

www.thefan.fund

FLORIDA ANGEL NEXUS:

Florida Angel Nexus connects Florida entrepreneurs with angel investors, and provides programs and assistance for both.

www.floridaangelnexus.com

GOLD COAST VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION (GCVCA):

GCVCA provides a forum to share information and to develop relationships among entrepreneurs, investors, and service providers. Programing includes speakers, pitch meetings, and start-up expos.

www.gcvca.org

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BONDS:

Through the issuance of Industrial Development Revenue Bonds, Palm Beach County provides below-market interest-rate financing for fixed-asset projects. For qualified borrowers, loans ranging from \$2 million to \$10 million for terms up to 20 years are available at interest rates approximating 75% of the prevailing New York prime rate. Eligible projects include manufacturing, assembly, printing, food processing, and others in which raw material is converted or combined with other raw material to produce a finished or semi-finished product. Eligible costs can include the purchase of land, construction of new buildings, and purchase and installation of new equipment. The purchase and rehabilitation of an existing facility may also qualify.

Contact: Department of Economic Sustainability, 561.233.3600

www.discover.pbcbgov.org/DES/pages



Technology businesses range from the Aviation, Aeronautics & Engineering cluster to the wide array of Life Sciences companies.



BLACK BUSINESS INVESTMENT FUND (BBIF):

BBIF Florida specializes in providing loans and financial and technical assistance training to minorities and underserved small businesses. The BBIF Florida is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and Community Development Enterprise (CDE) certified by the U.S. Department of Treasury. BBIF Florida is a non-traditional lender that specializes in providing loans to black, minority, and underserved small businesses. BBIF Florida is certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as a Community Advantage Lender.

www.bbifflorida.com

CENTER FOR ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITY:

The Center for Enterprise Opportunity (CEO) is a private, non-profit corporation organized under Florida Statutes 112 to improve the economies in distressed communities by lending to small businesses and sponsors of community development incentives that benefit low- and moderate-income people. As a Certified Development Financial Institution (CDFI), the CEO is eligible for significant federal equity grants and other awards from the U.S. Department of Treasury to support its lending and programs. The CEO raises capital from public and private investors, e.g. government, banks, individuals, corporations, and philanthropic organizations, and then deploys these funds primarily for lending to small businesses and community development entities. CEO identifies borrowers' financial and management weaknesses that limit or prohibit access to traditional business financing, and provides the extensive technical assistance to help its borrowers resolve these business issues and achieve their business goals.

www.ceoventures.org

FLORIDA GROWTH FUND:

The Florida Growth Fund manages \$500 million in capital dedicated to prudent investment in technology and growth-related businesses with a significant presence in the State of Florida. The Florida Growth Fund seeks to enhance Florida's capacity for development, growth, and innovation while simultaneously generating an attractive return for the Florida Board of Administration.

Contact: Florida Growth Fund Team at Hamilton Lane, 954.745.2780
www.floridagrowthfund.com

FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY FUND:

The Florida Opportunity Fund was created to realize significant long-term capital appreciation by investing in high-quality venture capital funds, businesses, and infrastructure projects that will provide lasting benefits to Florida. The Florida Opportunity Fund is sponsored by Enterprise Florida and managed by Florida First Partners (FFP).

Contact: Florida Opportunity Fund, 407.838.1400
www.floridaopportunityfund.com

PALM BEACH COUNTY REVOLVING ENERGY FUND LOAN PROGRAM:

The Palm Beach County Revolving Energy Fund Loan Program is a financing tool under the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) authorized by the U.S. Department of Energy to promote energy savings and efficiency. This program assists for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations in carrying out energy audits and retrofits to effectuate savings in utility costs and reduce fossil fuel consumption.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Private, for-profit businesses in operation for at least two years
- Non-profit economic development organizations with projects involving the renovation/construction of commercial/industrial buildings
- Note: working capital is not available to non-profits

Contact: Department of Economic Sustainability, 561.233.3600
www.discoverpbcbgov.org/DES/pages

ENTERPRISE BOND PROGRAM:

Offers tax-exempt, low-interest bond financing to qualified manufacturing and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations through Florida Development Finance Corporation. This program improves low-cost capital availability to Florida's manufacturers and non-profit companies that qualify for tax-exempt finance under IRS rules, allowing these companies to be more competitive in the global and domestic marketplace. Loan amounts ranging between \$800,000 and \$2,000,000 are usually put in a pooled transaction where the bond-issuance costs are shared by the borrowers, thus lowering front-end costs for bond finance. Bond amounts up to \$20,000,000 are available for qualifying manufacturers. Transactions that do not meet IRS qualifying rules for Tax-Exempt Finance can be financed with taxable bonds through Florida Development Finance Corporation.

Contact: Manager, Capital Programs, Enterprise Florida, 407.956.5607
www.enterpriseflorida.com



KRS Global Biotechnology, Boca Raton

FLORIDA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

The Florida Business Development Corporation (FBDC) is the Certified Development Corporation (CDC) authorized by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide 504 financing for real estate purposes. The FBDC provides fixed-asset financing (primarily for real estate acquisition) to qualified businesses in conjunction with participating banks.

www.fbdc.net

HUD SECTION 108 LOANS:

The Palm Beach County Section 108 Loan Program enables existing businesses and appropriate community based agencies to conceive and implement business ventures that will create jobs, revitalize communities, and enhance overall quality of life for all Palm Beach County residents. The loan program provides subordinated financing to eligible borrowers to fill a financing gap beyond the amount of private participation and equity investment that can be raised in the form of long-term, fixed- or variable-rate financing at interest rates lower than conventional financing.

Eligibility:

- Applicant business must be a private, for-profit business engaged in industrial, retail, or distribution activities for at least two years, and able to demonstrate sufficient profitability
- An applicant must be a sole proprietorship, an incorporated business, a partnership, or any other legally organized business registered with the State of Florida
- The business must do at least one of the following:
 - Offer 51% of new jobs created under this program to Palm Beach County residents that have a low-to-moderate income
 - Assist in preventing or eliminating slums or blight
 - Meet a critical community need.

Contact: Department of Economic Sustainability, 561.233.3600

www.discover.pbc.com/DES/pages

PARAGON:

Paragon's venture loan fund provides loans of between \$10,000 and \$200,000 to qualified Palm Beach County businesses seeking startup growth or expansion capital.

www.paragonfl.org

THE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA:

The Enterprise Development Corporation of South Florida (EDC) is a nonprofit organization that provides advisory and support services to entrepreneurs, investors, and partners. It provides a venture mentoring program, introductions to capital providers, and management of incubator programs.

www.edc-tech.org

STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE:

The State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) is a federal initiative that encourages states to establish or strengthen programs that support lending to small businesses. SSBCI funds are used for programs that leverage private lending to help finance small businesses that are creditworthy, but are not getting the loans they need to expand and create jobs. Florida's SSBCI programs address capital access, venture capital, small business loan support, and expert support.

www.floridajobs.org



Palm Beach County residents enjoy an average annual temperature of 78° F / 25 ° C and approximately 234 days of sunshine year-round.

City Place, Shopping & Dining Center, West Palm Beach

Workforce Development, Education, and Training.

Palm Beach County attracts an abundance of skilled personnel who are drawn by an exceptional quality of life. Our workforce is hard-working and industrious. A key element in enhancing worker development is utilizing business and community partners to ensure skilled and reliable employees are ready for Palm Beach County companies. The Business Development Board works closely with our local workforce board, CareerSource Palm Beach County, the School District of Palm Beach County, and our private schools, colleges, and universities to ensure that successful job preparation is available. Florida is one of only a few right-to-work states, as stipulated in the state's constitution.

CAREERSOURCE PALM BEACH COUNTY:

CareerSource Palm Beach County is a private, non-profit organization providing a crucial link between businesses searching for qualified employees and local residents in need of career-advancing employment. Working closely with representatives from business, government, education, and community agencies, CareerSource Palm Beach County successfully balances the needs of both employers and potential workers. CareerSource Palm Beach County helps ensure Palm Beach County's ability to compete in all economic markets. It provides valuable services for employers including recruitment, assessments/referrals of qualified candidates, facilities for accepting applications, screening and interviewing candidates, and grant applications for training new or existing employees.

www.careersourcepbc.com

PALM BEACH COUNTY K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS:

The School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) is the eleventh-largest in the nation and the fifth-largest in the State of Florida with 185 schools, serving more than 183,000 students who speak 150 languages and dialects. As the largest employer in Palm Beach County, the school district has nearly 21,000 employees, including more than 12,000 teachers.



Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter Campus

What's Great About SDPBC Schools...

- Top-performing urban school district in Florida
- Palm Beach County has a higher percentage of "A" and "B" district-operated elementary and middle schools compared to the state and the state's largest urban school districts, according to the 2014 School Grades
- Ten District schools earned *Newsweek's* Best High Schools In America 2013
- *Education Week* recognized the District as having the eighth-highest graduation rate in the nation
- Fully accredited by AdvancED, the world's largest education community using International Standards and it is the third-largest School District in the world to receive this distinction
- Palm Beach schools offer 279 award-winning Choice Programs and Career Academies
- Schools offer instruction in several languages including Chinese, French, Italian, Latin, Spanish, and American Sign Language

www.palmbeachschools.org

Palm Beach County is also home to many well-respected private schools and faith-based schools of various denominations. These schools offer an array of educational opportunities for parents and students. They include alternative schools, schools with religious affiliation, academic academies, prep schools, independent schools, music-and-art-oriented academies, Montessori education, and many others.

www.pbcedu.org

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS:

Recognizing that the key to a strong labor force lies in education and training, Palm Beach County is well-equipped to handle the ever-changing needs of contemporary students, anchored by...

- Florida Atlantic University
- Keiser University
- Lynn University
- Nova Southeastern University
- Palm Beach Atlantic University
- Palm Beach State College

Our local post-secondary educational opportunities are varied and reflect the growing high-tech and innovative programs needed at local companies.



Infrastructure. It's All Here.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

Palm Beach County's strategic location between Miami and Orlando is ideal for trade, and within easy reach of all of the major air and sea ports in the State of Florida. Palm Beach County is part of the Miami Customs District, which is utilized by much of Latin America and the Caribbean as the first destination for goods to be distributed to the rest of the United States and Europe, and vice versa. Increasingly, many Asian firms are also using the Miami Customs District to ship goods for similar purposes, with China one of the region's top five trading partners.

TRANSPORTATION:

Palm Beach County has a state-of-the-art transportation and logistics system that includes I-95, Florida's Turnpike, commercial and private airports, and the Port of Palm Beach, with easy access to two major railways, FEC and CSX. In addition, Tri-Rail and Palm Tran are commuter-friendly transportation systems. Tri-Rail is the award-winning passenger rail system of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, with service from Miami to Fort Lauderdale and the Palm Beaches. Brightline, a new express train, will launch service between Miami and West Palm Beach in 2017, with service from Miami to Orlando following.

PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PBIA):

Palm Beach International Airport, centrally located in West Palm Beach and easily accessible from I-95, was recently voted third-best airport in the U.S. and sixth-best in the world by the readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*. PBIA's services include a U.S. Customs and Immigration Port of Entry that is capable of processing 300 passengers per hour and handling aircraft up to the size of B747-400, private aircraft maintenance, air cargo, and international air. Twelve airlines currently offer nearly 160 daily scheduled flights from PBIA to destinations throughout the continental U.S., Puerto Rico, and direct international flights to the Bahamas and Canada. On average, about six million people a year pass through PBIA. Commercial airlines, including commuter aircraft, fly in and out of the airport about 57,000 times a year. General aviation, freight, and other flights average nearly 86,000 a year.

www.pbia.org

PORT OF PALM BEACH:

The Port of Palm Beach is the fourth-busiest container port in Florida and one of the top 20 busiest ports in the United States. The approximately 160-acre port is a full-service, diversified landlord port that provides services through its private sector partners and is responsible for facilitating economic development within Palm Beach County and the State of Florida. The Port of Palm Beach is estimated to generate approximately 2,400 jobs in its community. It has three slips, 17 berths, and four roll-on/roll-off ramps for 6,500 linear feet of berthing space. The Port is an important distribution center for commodities shipped all over the world, particularly throughout the Caribbean Basin. The Port of Palm Beach is the only port in South Florida with on-dock rail capabilities. The Port also accommodates day, coastal, multi-day, and port-of-call cruises. Additionally, the Port has provided a Foreign Trade Zone to the region since 1987.

www.portofpalmbeach.com



Port of Palm Beach, Riviera Beach

Palm Beach County's strategic location is ideal for trade, supported by a robust infrastructure.



Bird's-eye view of Palm Beach County

Why Palm Beach County Shines.

Palm Beach County is larger in land area than two states: Rhode Island and Delaware. It is Florida's second-largest county in area, covering 1,977 square miles.

Palm Beach County is approximately 60 miles north of Miami and 150 miles southeast of Orlando. The Atlantic Ocean borders the eastern half of the county, creating 47 miles of beaches, stretching from north to south. The northwest part of the county includes Lake Okeechobee, the second-largest freshwater lake in the United States.

Within the County, which is also known as The Palm Beaches, there are 39 distinct cities and towns. The largest is West Palm Beach, which covers 52 square miles and has a population of 102,436. Boca Raton is second with 89,407 residents, followed by Boynton Beach, 71,097; Delray Beach, 64,072; and Wellington, 60,202.

With more than 16,000 hotel rooms throughout the county, visitors are able to choose properties based on their desired location of interest, such as directly nestled along the coast with spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean, overlooking the tranquility of the Intracoastal Waterway, or within walking distance of charming towns and historic districts.

Residents enjoy an average annual temperature of 78° F/ 25 ° C and approximately 234 days of sunshine year-round.

125 peaceful inland waterways.

Direct access to the Florida Everglades, best explored by airboat or paddle tours.

The nation's best bass fishing in the 730 square miles of Lake Okeechobee.

Proximity to the Gulf Stream provides comfortable ocean temperatures for divers and snorkelers to explore more than 20 reefs and an abundance of deep-water wrecks.

Palm Beach County's Parks and Recreation Department operates 79 parks, including two water parks.

The Palm Beaches is Florida's Golf Capital.®

Four major league teams hold spring training in Palm Beach County, the St. Louis Cardinals and Miami Marlins in Jupiter, and the Houston Astros and Washington Nationals in West Palm Beach.

There are more than 1,000 private and public tennis courts throughout the county for all skill levels. The Delray Beach Tennis Center, an 8,200-seat stadium, accommodates the annual International Tennis Championships in January and February.

The Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC), is the largest and longest-running circuit in horse sport, a 12-week show jumping competition for hunters, jumpers, and equitation held annually from January through April.



Boca Museum of Art. "Labyrinth" by Rabarara.

Private horse stables, Wellington



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