



FLORIDA'S
Putnam County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Putnam County
FLORIDA

Putnam County Economic Development Activity Report

January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement made and entered into between the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners and the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, this report for 2023 is furnished.

1. The Chamber has continued to represent Putnam County with the following related entities:

- Maintained/Enhanced working relationships with FloridaCommerce/Select Florida, JAXUSA Partnership, Florida Power & Light, Seminole Electric/Clay Electric, North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP), Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC), International Economic Development Council (IEDC), CSX, TECO Gas, National Rural Economic Development Association (NREDA), and the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC).
- Represented Putnam County at 2023 FREDA Rural E.D. Summit in Orlando, FL
- Attended JAXUSA Quarterly Business Development Committee and bi-monthly Partner County Meetings
- Member – NFEDA Board of Directors and Executive Committee
- Member – FEDC Advocacy Committee
- Member – IEDC Membership Advocacy Committee
- Member – SEDC Education Advisory Committee
- Member – NREDA Membership Committee

2. New & Existing Business Development Activity

- Responded to 35 requests for information from firms looking to locate in Putnam County, down from 40 in 2022.
- Hosted 8 on-site visits, up from 6 in 2022.
- Worked on 14 active projects in 2023, with a combined estimate of 3,832 jobs and \$1.793 billion in new capital investment, should they all come to fruition.
- Continued to provide technical & demographic information to businesses, including manufacturing, site consultants, warehouse & distribution, and commercial firms.

- Continued work with committees to address workforce issues, broadband initiatives, and future infrastructure needs.
- Conducted 30 Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) visits to existing Putnam County employers.
- Provided ongoing assistance to numerous local businesses and matched them with resources when needed.

3. 2023 Highlights

- Announced Project – CertainTeed Gypsum, \$235 million in capital investment and 115 New Jobs
- Putnam County Unemployment Rate at 4.18% (as of November 30, 2023)
- Putnam County BOCC/Port Authority approved a Letter of Intent (LOI) for 111-acres of land in the Putnam County Business Park for *Project Owl*.
- Relaunched PCEDC Quarterly Investor Meetings. Four (4) Investor Luncheons, with Keynote Speakers, were held in March, June, September and December. Committee had not met since 2019 due to Covid-19.

4. Other Activities

- Participated in new Regional Strategic Action Plan process with JAXUSA for the 7-county Northeast Florida region.
- Placed multiple full-page advertisements in Site Selection Magazine and Business Facilities Magazine
- Maintained/Posted Content on the LinkedIn Page for Putnam County Economic Development Council (PCEDC)
- Participated in Local Technology Planning Team on extending broadband throughout the county
- Managed online property/site inventory databases with JAXUSA & NFEDP
- Managed Salesforce (CRM), a client management software tool
- Maintained *Site Selectors Database*, listing site consultants and commercial realtors in the USA
- Acquired *ProTrack+*, a project CRM to track active development projects
- Continued to work with local SBDC Director on entrepreneurial development.