

2000 Annual Report



Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council
Bringing Communities Together

Chair's Message

Bringing communities together to ensure our quality of life

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During my five-year tenure on the Council, I have been continually struck by the fact that the Council is very involved at the policy level, technical level, and direct level in most of the trends, events, and activities that benefit the region and its quality of life.

And that is as it should be. In following its mission, the Council strives to ensure a vibrant future for our communities and their citizens. We continued to do that through our efforts to bring about a collaborative and comprehensive vision for Northeast Florida. We provided technical assistance and services to our member governments. And, most importantly, we fostered cooperation and consensus among our various constituencies on regional issues.

Among the highlights you will read about in this report:

- In planning, we hosted two state forums for public input into revising the state's growth management laws.
- In economic development, our Business Development Corporation expanded into Duval County, and our member governments utilized our economic modeling service extensively in assessing the impact of new projects.
- In health services, The Magnolia Project, a new Healthy Start initiative, opened its doors in March 2000.

The Council continues to be the best vehicle for creating a culture that fosters regional initiatives in support of shared visions, values and goals. And I am confident that under the 2000-01 Chair, The Honorable Linda D. Myers, the Council will exceed your expectations.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alberta Hipps".

The Honorable Alberta Hipps
Chairman 1999-2000

Planning & Development

Realizing the vision for a sustainable and prosperous future

Land Use and Community Development

The Council plays a pivotal role in shaping and directing the region's growth and quality of life through strategic, comprehensive, and project planning.

Growth Management

In conjunction with the Florida Department of Community Affairs, the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council hosted two public meetings to gain input on the future of Florida's growth management system, which is under review by the state. Twenty-two Regional Forums on Growth Management were held in 13 Florida cities during early 2000.

More than 150 people attended the Northeast Florida workshops and presented testimony on topics ranging from economic development, land-use, water preservation, urban sprawl, transportation, evacuation routes, and citizen participation. Prior to the public sessions, the Council hosted a break-

fast reception for DCA Secretary Steve Seibert and the region's chief elected officials.

Also during the year, Governor Jeb Bush created a Growth Management Study Commission to assess the effectiveness of Florida's growth management laws and determine necessary revisions. He appointed Council Chairman Alberta Hipps, who is also president of the Jacksonville City Council, to the commission. The group's report to the Governor and Legislature is due in February 2001.

Strategic Planning

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, each regional planning council must assess the successes or failures of their Strategic Regional Policy Plans and prepare necessary changes. The Council held a series of public workshops during the year in preparing the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) for *Strategic Directions: Northeast Florida's Strategic Regional Policy Plan*.

*The Council hosted
two public forums
on Florida's growth
management laws*



Council Chairman Alberta Hipps welcomes DCA Secretary Steve Seibert to the Northeast Florida Regional Forum on Growth Management.



Orange Park Town Manager John Bowles (left) and Janis Fleet of Fleet and Associates listen intently to public comments at the Regional Growth Management Forum.

Adopted in 1997, *Strategic Directions* guides Council activities in bringing communities together to meet the challenges and opportunities of growth and development. The five sections being reviewed are Emergency Preparedness, Economic Development, Regional Transportation, Affordable Housing, and Natural Resources. Staff's recommendations will be brought before the Council Board in April 2001 and then forwarded to the Governor's office.

Local Comprehensive Plans

Reviewing local government comprehensive plans and plan amendments for consistency with the regional and state plans is a primary statutory responsibility of the Council.

During fiscal year 1999-2000, the Council reviewed 69 small-scale amendments, 32 transmitted amendments, and 28 adopted amendments. These included transmitted and adopted semi-annual amendments as well as amendments based on Developments of Regional Impact and exempt amendments, such as those creating school siting criteria.

In addition, staff assisted local governments in developing comprehensive plan amendments, and provided guidance and data in preparing EAR-based amendments, which are required by the state for adopted comprehensive plans.

Other comprehensive plan activities:

- Archived comprehensive plan amendments from 1991-98 and created a filing system for all amendments since 1998 to facilitate public access and review.
- Completed an application for a large-scale, land-use map amendment for Baker County.
- Assisted the Clay County Development Authority in

preparing a large-scale amendment application.

- Finished a countywide environmental lands assessment for Putnam County.
- Assisted Crescent City, Interlachen, St. Augustine Beach, Jacksonville Beach, and Pomona Park with comprehensive plan amendments, and revised Future Land-Use Maps for Crescent City, Fernandina Beach, and Interlachen.
- Completed Baker County sector plan, which was adopted by the county, for the area north of Macclenny and Glen St. Mary.

Planning 101

To help local governments understand growth management, staff developed a "Planning 101" seminar on the comprehensive plan process. Staff conducted the training at the Glen St. Mary Town Council meeting in July.

The seminar is available to other local governments and can be tailored to meet specific needs. The seminar covers local comprehensive plan elements and the amendment process, differences between comprehensive planning and zoning, legal issues, advertising requirements, and technical assistance available from the Council.

Technical Assistance

In its role as a planning agency, the Council offers technical assistance to its member governments. Last year, that assistance ranged from data analysis to grant administration. For example, staff

- Researched and provided Beverly Beach with information on the use of buffer zones and the use of the planned-unit development-zoning category.
- Updated Pomona Park's Town Charter.
- Assisted Nassau County with groundbreaking ceremonies for its new community center at American Beach, providing decorated shovels and hard hats. The Council helped manage the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds for the project.
- Geo-coded service agencies for the Transportation Disadvantaged program in the six-counties for which the Council serves as the planning agency.
- Analyzed land uses in Putnam County to meet school siting requirements.
- Administered the second phase of a \$750,000 CDBG for potable water service to 58 homes in East Palatka. Staff also conducted door-to-door surveys to qualify houses for the free hook-ups.

Reviews

Developments of Regional Impact

The Council is charged by the state of Florida with coordinating the review of developments that could impact on the health, safety, or welfare of citizens in more than one county.

The Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) process ensures that growth remains consistent with the region's strategic plan.

Under a contract requirement with the Department of Community Affairs, the Council also reviews DRI Annual Monitoring Reports.

During fiscal year 1999-2000, pre-application conferences were held for two proposed developments:

1. **JIA Interchange**, a proposed semi-conductor manufacturing facility in northwest Jacksonville.

2. **Deerwood Town Center**, located on existing agriculture/silviculture land north of Butler Boulevard and east of St. Johns Bluff Road in Jacksonville. Preliminary plans call for 450 multi-family dwelling units, 1.5 million square feet of commercial space, 400,000 square feet of office space, and 200 hotel units.

Other developments that are still active:

- Eastbourne and Westbourne in St. Johns County.
- Nocatee in Duval/St. Johns counties.
- Freedom Commerce Centre DRI Substantial Deviation in southern Jacksonville.

In other DRI activity, staff

- Worked with the applicant and reviewing agencies in resolving the amendments to the New Duval DRI Development Order in Jacksonville.
- Reviewed changes to other existing DRIs, including St. Augustine Center (St. Johns County), Summer Beach (Nassau County), and Deerwood Park (Duval County).
- Completed review of the Bulow Plantation DRI (Flagler County), Jacksonville International Airport Substantial De-

viation DRI Development Order, and Bartram Park DRI (Duval/St. Johns counties).

Ten-year Site Plans

As required by Florida Statutes, the Council annually reviews Ten-Year Site Plans for electric utilities. In 2000, the Council reviewed the Jacksonville Electric Authority Site Plan, which was approved by the Board in July for transmittal to the Public Service Commission and the Department of Community Affairs. The plan includes the re-powering of Northside Units 1 and 2 slated for completion in April 2002

IC&R Process

Through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process, the Council acts as a clearinghouse for all regional project applications for federal assistance. During the fiscal year, the Council reviewed and approved 87 applications for funding consideration. The funding requests totaled \$512 million (including

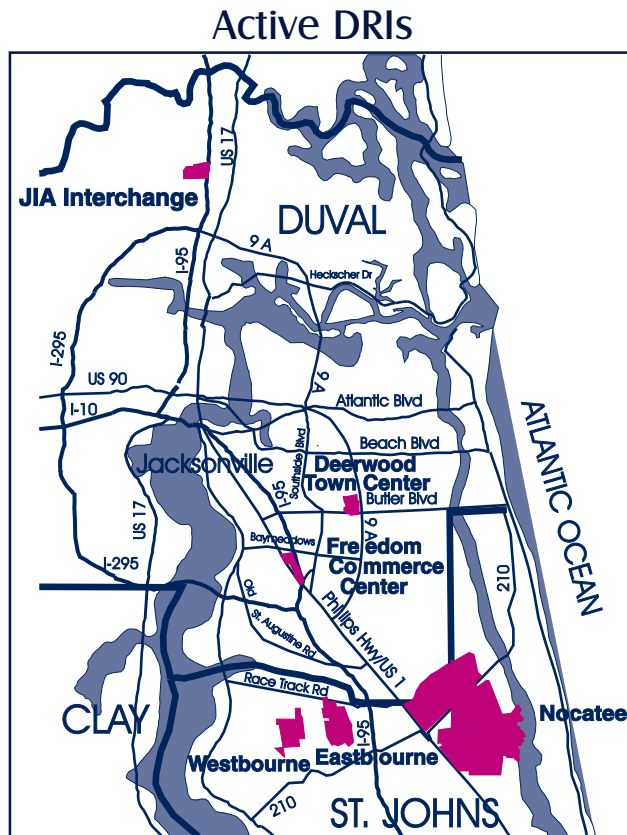
\$317 million for a power plant in Duval County).

Dispute Resolution

As part of its state-empowered mediation obligations, the Council implemented a Regional Dispute Resolution Process in 1994-95 to help resolve conflicts on regional issues.

At the request of the St. Johns County Growth Management Department, staff used its dispute resolution expertise to facilitate a group of citizens and interested parties in developing a recommendation to the county commission for a new Wetland Buffer Ordinance.

The effort brought together large and small land owners, developers, business interests, residents, environmental interests, agency personnel, and other interested parties in an attempt to reach consensus on what should be included in the new ordinance.



Economic Initiatives

Impacting the region's business vitality and tourist development

Small business loans, economic modeling, and eco-heritage tourism were among the Council's economic development initiatives.

Business Development



Financing dreams that turn into real business is what the Business Development Corporation

(BDC) of Northeast Florida does.

As a Certified Development Company of the U.S. Small Business Administration, BDC serves as a financing link between small businesses and the SBA 504 Debenture Loan Program. During 2000, SBA granted approval for BDC's expansion into Duval County, bringing its service territory to the following 10 counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, St. Johns, Lake, Seminole, and Volusia.

Through September 30, 2000 (fiscal year end), BDC's servicing portfolio topped \$25 million with 87 approved loans. Established in 1994 with the Council's financial and administrative assistance, BDC continues to impact the area's economic vitality through

its R.E.A.L. (Real Estate Asset Loans) Program offering commercial and industrial financing for the small business.

The year's highlights follow:

■ During the fiscal year, SBA approved 12 BDC loans. Total project costs were more

than \$17 million. In addition, 107 new jobs were created with an economic impact of \$4 million for the Northeast Florida area. Business ventures assisted were varied, ranging from a preschool and a bed and breakfast to a hardware store and a health food store.

■ At BDC's annual meeting in April, First Coast Community Bank received the BDC Soforenko Credit Reinvestment Award for outstanding efforts in community development through the SBA loan program in conjunction with BDC. Other awards recognized a Lender of the Year and Loan Officer of the Year for SBA loans completed with BDC. Those awards went to First Federal Bank of Northeast Florida (St. Augustine office) and to Loan Officer Joe Hennessy.

■ BDC debuted its web site, complete with loan forms. Visit www.bdcjaxnfl.org

■ The Lender's Network was initiated in January to help lenders keep up with regulatory loan information. Two meetings were held during the past year.

■ Under contract with Nassau County, BDC also services the county's SHIP (State Housing Initiatives Partnership) second mort-

BDC Loans by County	
Fiscal Years 1994-2000	
St. Johns	23
Volusia	17
Nassau	16
Clay	7
Putnam	7
Flagler	7
Duval	4
Baker	3
Lake	2
Seminole	1
TOTAL	87

BDC Portfolio		
	1999-2000	1994-2000
Loans approved	12	87
New Jobs	107	956
Total Project costs	\$17,163,987	\$90,070,867
New property taxes	\$222,882	\$1,487,291
Economic Impact*	\$4,007,150	\$35,802,200
Bank loans	\$7,993,142	\$44,246,356
504 loans	\$6,118,700	\$31,132,700
Private dollar/ public dollar ratio	1.81:1	1.92:1

*Multiplier effect based on new jobs

SBA approved

BDC's expansion

into Duval County

during 2000



Bill and Debbie Gibbs financed the Ace Home Center (above) in Melrose through the Business Development Corporation using the SBA 504 Loan Program in 2000. It is the couple's second location. The Ace Hardware (right) in Interlachen was financed in 1998, also using the 504 through BDC.



Ace Home Center was one of 12 BDC loans approved

gage program that provides affordable housing. In 1999-2000, BDC closed on 15 SHIP loans, bringing its portfolio to 95 loans.

Economic Modeling

Requests for economic impact modeling, using the Council's computer model NEFREM (Northeast Florida Regional Economic Model), took off during the past year. Designed specifically for Northeast Florida by the Regional Economic Models Inc., NEFREM was purchased by the Council in 1999 to assist its local governments in assessing economic and demographic impacts of proposed projects.

Member governments have used the results in making decisions on development incentives and in supporting grant applications for economic development funds. The service is also available to the private sector.

Baker County used NEFREM to assess the economic and demographic impacts of the new \$40 million Wal-Mart Food Distribution facility that plans to locate in the county.

Putnam County utilized the service to analyze the benefits of three projects, and to support a successful application for a state economic development grant.

Nassau County used NEFREM information to approve Florida Fine Flooring, Inc., for ad valorem tax incentives. It was the first time the county ever authorized incentives for economic development. NEFREM results also supported the county's successful application for a state economic grant for the new manufacturing plant.

Clay County used NEFREM analyses to decide on the use of development incentives. It offered its first financial

incentives to a Southern Bell service center that plans to locate in the county. But the county decided against incentives for another project because requested incentives outweighed the benefits.

Staff is also working with the **Agency for Workforce Innovation** to develop a NEFREM pilot model to assess the impact that a hurricane would have on the economy of the region as well as on individual counties. Once developed, the model would be applicable to other counties and regions in the state.

The NEFREM model was also used to assist private consultants working with **St. Johns County** to develop a sector plan for the northwest portion of the county.

Regional Summit

Regional finance and economic development were the themes of the Third Annual Northeast Florida Regional Cooperation Summit held in September at St. Johns Convention Center at the World Golf Village. St. Johns County and the Council co-sponsored the event that drew nearly 100 local government and economic development officials.



The Council's 2000-01 Chair-elect Linda D. Myers welcomed Summit attendees.

St. Johns County Administrator Ben W. Adams, County Commission Chairman James Bryant, and Council Vice Chairman Linda D. Myers welcomed the group, which also heard from



The third annual Northeast Florida Regional Cooperation Summit drew nearly 100 local government and economic development officials. This year's Summit was again co-sponsored by St. Johns County and the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council. The theme was regional finance and economic development.


three speakers on funding trends, opportunities, sources, and strategies. Speakers included Sarah Bleakley, special counsel for finance & tax for the Florida Association of Counties; Mary Helen Blakeslee, chief analyst for Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development; Bob Goforth, partner with Leak-Goforth Company consultants.

Keynote Speaker Jerry Mallot, executive director of Cornerstone, the Jacksonville Chamber's regional economic development initiative, spoke on the Cornerstone's marketing program to attract businesses to the First Coast.

Tourist Development

A joint effort continued among the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Council, Lowcountry Council of Governments, Berkley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, and Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia to develop a Coastal Heritage Corridor along U.S. 17/A1A from Charleston, S.C., to beyond St. Augustine, Fla., into Flagler County.

The group's goal is to enhance economic opportunities for rural governments by attracting tourists to visit the many natural, cultural, and historic resources along the corridor. The federal Economic Development Administration awarded the initiative a \$50,000 grant last year (to be matched by the partners) that will assist in developing the corridor plan.

Seventy representatives from state and regional agencies, local governments, public/private tourist interests, and the public attended a kick-off meeting in Savannah in June to begin a strategic plan for the effort. A second tri-state meeting is scheduled in early 2001. 



Summit Speaker Mary Helen Blakeslee (2nd from left) chats with St. Johns County Commissioner Mary Kohnke and Ms. Ginger Barber, both Council board members, and Council staffer Mike Brown.

Human Services

Meeting maternal/child health and affordable housing needs

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Northeast Florida KidCare, Healthy Families Jacksonville, and two SHIP programs were staffed by the Council.

Healthy Start

The past year was another great year for the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition



Inc., which is part of the statewide Healthy Start Initiative to provide maternal and child

health services and care coordination to all at-risk pregnant women and infants to age 1. The Coalition serves the five county area of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns.

Infant Mortality Work Group

A three-year rise in black infant mortality in Duval County prompted the formation of a special Healthy Start work group. The group examined factors contributing to poor outcomes, formulated strategies, and launched a community action plan with a goal of cutting racial disparities in half by 2005.

The plan addresses needs in an at-risk area of Jacksonville (zip codes 32202, 04, 06, 08 and 09) that accounts for more than 60 percent of the black infant deaths.

Healthy Start already has a presence in the target area through The Magnolia Project, which aims to reduce racial disparities in birth outcomes. (See below.)

The work group was a collaborative effort involving the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Duval County Medical Society, Duval County Health Department, Shands Jacksonville, Mayo Clinic, National Medical Association (NE Florida Chapter), Planned

Parenthood of Northeast Florida, Jacksonville Children's Commission, Florida Department of Children and Families, and St. Matthew Church.

Work group efforts prompted these actions, which will be monitored by the coalition and its community partners to determine their impact:

- Establishment of Grand Park Place, a community outreach and education center funded by Healthy Start to provide specialized case management services to women with specific risk factors during pregnancy.

- Formation of the Perinatal Partners of North Jacksonville to promote improved coordination of clinical services, outreach, and case management in the target area.

- Development of a Perinatal Services Inventory to assist providers in making patient referrals.

- Success by St. Matthew Church in obtaining state funding to implement Hold Out the Lifeline, a faith-based outreach, education, and awareness campaign aimed at reducing infant mortality.

Magnolia Project Opens

The Magnolia Project, a special Healthy Start initiative to reduce racial disparities in birth



outcomes in Duval County by improving the health of

women before pregnancy, opened its doors in March 2000. Named for the surrounding northwest Jacksonville neighborhood, the project provided services to more than 300 women during its first six months of operation, increasing their chances of having a healthy baby.

The Magnolia

Project, a special

Healthy Start

initiative, opened its

doors in March

Magnolia Opens

Magnolia Project partners and friends participate in the opening of the new women's clinic. From left are Patricia Davis-Scott, PeJay Jackson, Jacksonville City Councilwoman Gwen Yates, Robert Relford, Ken Grady, and Jean Pettis.



More than 150 community leaders and area residents attended a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Magnolia Project's new home and women's clinic in April. Located in the heart of the target community, the facility was renovated with \$98,000 in funding from the City of Jacksonville's Community Development Block Grant program. City Councilwoman Gwen Yates was keynote speaker at the event.

The Magnolia Project provides outreach, well-woman and prenatal care, dental care, case management, and related services to women at-risk of a poor outcome when they become pregnant. Any woman age 15-44 who resides in the project area (32202, 04, 06, 08, 09) is eligible for services.

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition received \$2 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1999 to implement the unique pre-



U.S. Congresswoman Corrine Brown visits with Shanouya Tiyona Boyance while touring

conceptional initiative. Magnolia Project partners include the Jacksonville Community Health Center, the Duval County Health Department, Healthy Families Jacksonville, St. Matthew Baptist Church, the UF Nurse Midwifery Program, and the UNF Center for Community Initiatives.

Medicaid Pilot A Success

A yearlong pilot project to test the impact of a simplified enrollment process resulted in a 38 percent increase in the number of women in Northeast Florida insured by Medicaid during their pregnancies. This increase followed three years of declining enrollment.

The pilot was spearheaded by the Florida Departments of Children and Families and Health; DC&F District IV; local health departments in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties; and the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition. More than 2,600 simplified applications were submitted and processed during the project. The state is currently considering statewide implementation of the simplified process based on project results.

Healthy Start Services

More than 8,307 pregnant women and 5,164 infants received care coordination and related Healthy Start services in Northeast Florida during 1999-2000.

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition allocated more than \$2.8 million to health departments in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties, and to other agencies, including Shands Jacksonville, Childbirth Education Association, and Healthy Families Jacksonville, to implement Healthy Start programs in their communities.

Families eligible for Healthy Start were linked with needed support and related services in their communities. Community health nurses, social workers, health educators, and other staff deliver services through home visits and phone contact and in community clinics.

Provider Guide Published

A step-by-step guide to linking pregnant women and infants with Healthy Start and other community services was published by the coalition and distributed to all area health care providers. Tips and resources for addressing substance abuse, domestic violence, child and sexual abuse, and SIDS are included, along with information about the Florida Medicaid program. The guide is part of coalition efforts to promote and support Healthy Start screening by prenatal and infant care providers.

Outreach activities by coalition staff with physicians, clinics, and hospitals contributed to high screening rates for pregnant women and newborns in Northeast Florida during 1999-2000. Sixty percent of women in the five-county area were screened for risk factors during their pregnancies, compared to 56 percent statewide. Ninety percent of infants were screened in Northeast Florida, compared to 75 percent statewide.

KidCare

Northeast Florida KidCare, also an umbrella organization under the Council, saw significant growth in enrollment over the past year. The Northeast Florida regional office provides outreach services for Florida KidCare, the state's free or low-cost health insurance for uninsured children and teens. The regional office serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

As of September 30, 2000, Northeast Florida's enrollment was 65,049 in the four KidCare insurance components (908 in MediKids; 6,486 in Healthy Kids; 135 in Children's Medical Services Network; and 57,520 in Medicaid) that cover children through age 18. This represents a 38 percent increase over the September 1999 enrollment of 46,993.

With the opening of Healthy Kids enrollment in Baker, Clay and Nassau counties, all four components of the state's insurance program are now available to Northeast Florida's children. Additionally, the Healthy Kids program in Duval reopened its enrollment in January 2000.

Among KidCare outreach activities last year, 200,000

1999-2000 Healthy Start Agencies Funding & Participants

Agencies	1999-2000 Budget	Healthy Start Participants	
		Pregnant Women	Infants
Baker County Health Department	\$100,290	193	71
Clay County Health Department	\$216,633	439	499
Duval County Health Department	\$1,931,278	5,937	4,244
Nassau County Health Department	\$144,614	318	44
St. Johns County Health Department	\$172,502	523	306
Shands Jacksonville	\$100,095	897	
Baptist Medical Center-Nassau	\$1,500		
Healthy Families Jacksonville	\$71,945		
NE Florida Healthy Start Coalition	\$102,500		
TOTAL	\$2,841,357	8,307	5,164

applications were distributed to students with the cooperation of local schools, 100 organizations agreed to be resource sites for KidCare outreach, 111 training programs were conducted, and more than 200 community events were attended or co-sponsored by KidCare staff.

Healthy Families Jacksonville, Inc.

During 2000, the Council continued its partnership with the Jacksonville Children's Commission to provide administrative and staffing functions as well as office and meeting space for the Healthy Families Jacksonville (HFJ) program. HFJ is a free, voluntary family support program designed to ease the transition to parenthood and to improve the health and well being of mothers, infants, and young children in Duval County. It provides in-home family support and education for pregnant women and children up to age 5 who live in 18 targeted zip codes of Jacksonville.

HFJ is the largest Healthy Families America site in the nation. During the past year, it was awarded the National Healthy Families America credential for the maximum time of four years.

The Jacksonville Children's Commission reported that HFJ served 6,007 families during its fiscal year. Of those families:

- 1,510 received Intensive Home Visitation.
- 2,428 babies were born weighing 2500 grams or more.
- 248 children were on target for receiving immuniza-



tions, with 43 children under 2 years old being fully immunized.

Affordable Housing

The Council administers the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) programs for Nassau and Putnam counties, as well as three weatherization programs for Nassau County. The programs assist very low-, low-, and moderate-income households.

Through these programs, the Council has helped bring affordable housing funds of more than \$3.2 million to Putnam and \$2.5 million to Nassau at no direct cost to the counties. These funds, in turn, have leveraged more than \$16 million for Putnam and \$11.6 million for Nassau from other private/public sources.

Putnam County

Putnam County SHIP received \$613,378 during the SHIP Fiscal Year 1999-2000 (July-June). The total includes \$509,898 from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, \$83,148 in program income from the county's Loan Trust Fund, and \$20,332 in recaptured funds.

Projects completed or obligated during this period total 53 units, including 30 rental units, 10 home purchases, 1 rehabilitation, and 12 emergency repairs.

Since its inception in 1992 through June 2000, Putnam SHIP has assisted 437 households.

In addition, the Kay Larkin Apartments in Palatka were completed during 2000. Through a unique public/private partnership, a SHIP grant of \$213,000 helped support construction of the moderate-income units.

Putnam SHIP - 1992 through June 2000

Total Households Assisted -----	437
Total Funding -----	\$3,234,069
Leveraged Funds -----	\$16,007,301

Nassau County

The Council administers four housing programs for Nassau County: SHIP and three weatherization programs (Weatherization Assistance Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Low-Income Emergency Home Repair Program).

Nassau County SHIP received \$500,232 during SHIP fiscal year 1999-2000 (July-June). The total includes \$392,622 from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, \$18,681 in program income, \$87,387 in recaptured funds, and \$1,542 carryover from the previous year.

Weatherization monies coupled with funds from private lenders and partnerships with other community organizations allowed the SHIP program to leverage twice the amount of funds it expended.

The combined housing programs assisted 51 households: 11 with down payment assistance and 40 with emergency repairs. Since its inception in 1992 through June 2000, Nassau SHIP has assisted 405 households.

Through the Council's Business Development Corporation, Nassau County provides a mortgage instrument by which low-interest SHIP loans are collected (approximately \$180,000 to date) and recycled into the county's SHIP program, ensuring ongoing funding for home purchases and dwelling unit improvements. BDC closed 15 SHIP loans during its fiscal year (ending September 30, 2000), bringing its portfolio to 95 loans. 🏠

Nassau SHIP 1992 through June 2000

Total Households Assisted -----	405
Total Funding -----	\$2,557,359
Leveraged Funds -----	\$11,613,363

Transportation Planning

Working to create regional mobility across county boundaries

Three counties
expanded their
bus service to the
transportation
disadvantaged

In partnership with transportation professionals and government officials, the Council continued proactive efforts to foster regional cooperation on transportation issues.

Regional Planning

During the past year, the Council's transportation committee met with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Jacksonville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Jacksonville Port Authority, and Jacksonville Transportation Authority and county transportation officials to seek innovative solutions to regional transportation issues.

Among topics discussed:

- Regional transportation funding, and options available to local governments.
- An ongoing mass transit study in Nassau County.
- I-95 rule variance in Flagler County.
- Possible additions to the regional transportation network
- Potential future roadway alignments in the region, including an additional bridge over the St. Johns River between Clay and St. Johns counties.

In addition, the Council, in partnership with the Florida DOT, hosted a workshop in Jacksonville in March on the Florida Transportation Plan 2020 Update. Staff also served as a member on the MPO Technical Coordinating Committee, and as an ex-officio member of the Clay County Transit Committee.

Traffic Studies

Under an ongoing agreement with Clay County, the Council reviewed and/or prepared 14 traffic studies to meet concurrency require-

ments for the county, bringing to 97 the total studies reviewed and prepared since the advent of the contract in 1992.

Staff also finalized the Transportation Element of the EAR-based (Evaluation and Appraisal Report) amendments for St. Johns County's Comprehensive Plan.

Bike Maps

The Florida Planning and Zoning Association presented its 2000 Award for Public Awareness to Council for the Northeast Florida Bicycle Maps. The maps were published in September 1999 with a grant from the state Department of Transportation.

TD Program

The Council serves as the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Transportation



Disadvantaged (TD) Program in six of the region's seven counties—Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns—

where it is estimated more than 40,000 "transportation disadvantaged" persons reside.

The statewide program provides transportation services to individuals "who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities."

As the official planning agency, the Council is responsible for 1) recommending local community transportation coordinators to the

state TD Commission that oversees the program, 2) performing annual coordinator evaluations, and 3) appointing and staffing local coordinating boards.

Highlights of TD's 1999-2000 program year:

Trips. The program furnished more than 614,000 one-way passenger trips, an increase of 12 percent over the previous year. The bulk of this increase occurred in Clay County, which experienced a 66 percent increase in system-wide trips, due primarily to the addition of Headstart transportation services.

Expenses. Total program expenses were \$4.9 million. An additional \$313,000—a 6.8 percent increase—was spent on TD services across the region, continuing a three-year trend. Significant increases in the cost of fuel, maintenance, and labor put added strain on the program.

Revenues. Combined revenues of \$4.9 million—from federal, state, local sources—grew by approximately 8.6 percent. Numerous shifts in funding streams occurred, including a significant rebound in Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) funds, a drop in funding from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, and a hefty increase from other sources, such as Headstart and local governments.

Expanded services. Three counties expanded their bus service to the transportation disadvantaged.

The St. Johns County began the Sunshine Bus Company with scheduled routes throughout St. Augustine and the beaches. The service, open to the public, is largely underwritten by a \$245,000 FDOT service development grant and a \$172,000 contribution from the St. Johns County Commission.

Baker County launched the B-Line Express, also a scheduled service open to the public, in the Macclenny and Glen St. Mary/Sanderson areas. Initial financial support came from



Desiree Painter, transportation director of the Baker County Council on Aging, shows off the new B-line Express, a new service for the transportation disadvantaged.

a \$60,000 FDOT service development grant and matching in-kind donations from the Baker County Commission, City of Macclenny, and county judicial system.

Putnam County introduced the region's first "Dirt Bus," a retired city bus that was extensively modified to handle the county's rural dirt roads. The new bus also saves on repairs to conventional vehicles that were routinely damaged by the rural road conditions. The "Dirt Bus" was financed by an FDOT service development grant. 🚗

Transportation Disadvantaged Performance Data 1999-2000

County	Coordinator	Trips	Vehicle Miles	Expenses	Revenues
Baker	Baker Co. Council on Aging	24,130	341,131	\$453,274	\$463,631
Clay	Clay Co. Council on Aging	204,930	721,433	\$904,985	\$923,236
Flagler	Flagler Co. Senior Services	76,367	526,523	\$612,064	\$588,331
Nassau	Nassau Co. Council on Aging	55,717	419,819	\$629,710	\$625,173
Putnam	Ride Solution Inc.	124,589	643,664	\$1,228,704	\$1,235,822
St. Johns	St. Johns Co. Council on Aging	128,545	740,652	\$1,115,174	\$1,122,243
TOTAL		614,278	3,393,222	\$4,943,911	\$4,958,436

Emergency Preparedness

Focusing on the safety of our Northeast Florida communities

While the region was spared any major hurricane activity during 2000, there was no letup on disaster planning.

Regional Evacuation

After the Hurricane Floyd evacuation in 1999, one of the areas targeted for improvement was the role of the Regional Evacuation Coordinator, which is a Council function for 12 north Florida counties. That role—seriously tested for the first time during Floyd—is to disseminate timely information on emergency activities within each county in the area.

Realizing that much of the evacuation coordination process depends on this flow of information between counties, the North Florida Area (Area 3) of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association requested the Council to create the North Florida Area Evacuation Information Utility. The utility is a web-based tool that allows instant communication between authorized users during emergency activations.

A key feature of the utility is a Rolling Status Report Strip that will be maintained by the Regional Evacuation Coordinator. The

strip will include the latest updates on such things as traffic problems and shelter openings in each county in Area 3. The utility, which resides on the association's Area 3 web page, was tested during the statewide hurricane evacuation exercise last May. It was ready for operation during the 2000 hurricane season, but thankfully did not have to be activated.

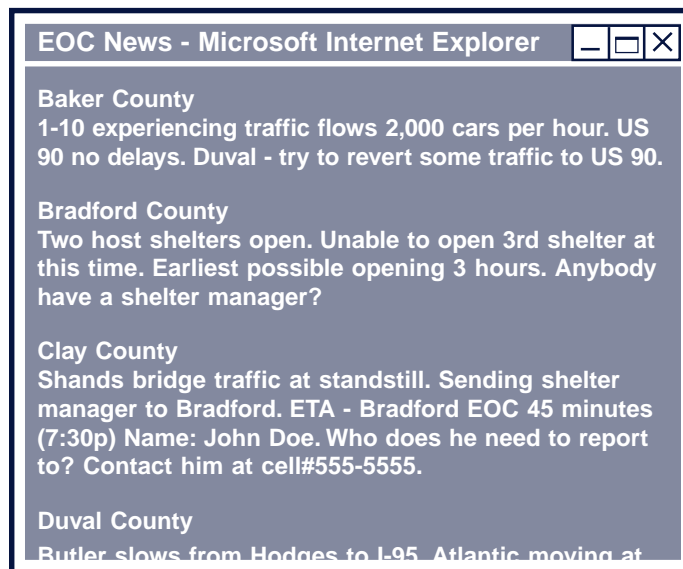
Another area targeted for improvement after Hurricane Floyd was regional evacuation procedures.

With the endorsement of north Florida's counties, staff submitted a grant application to the state in December 2000 to create a regional evacuation plan that would more fully develop regional coordination

procedures and opportunities. Awards will be announced in 2001.

North Florida's experience with coordinating regional evacuation during Hurricane Floyd was explored at two state conferences in 2000, the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association and the Governor's Hurricane Conference. The topic is on the program again for the Governor's Hurricane Conference in 2001.

Staff also gave a presentation at the Na-



An example of the Rolling Status Report Strip of the new North Florida Evacuation Information Utility.

Council develops

web-based utility

for emergency

communications

tional Hurricane Conference last April on the “Changing Role of Fire Departments in the Emergency Management Structure.”

Clay Hurricane Flyer

In another hurricane-related activity, staff produced 10,000 new Hurricane Survival Information and Tracking Charts for Clay County’s Department of Public Safety for distribution to county residents. This was the third update and printing for the brochure designed by Council staff in 1996.

Hazardous Materials Planning

The Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), District 4, is a state-appointed committee staffed by the Council. The committee is charged with facilitating regional hazardous materials (hazmat) emergency response and compliance with hazardous materials reporting laws under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

LEPC serves as a public access repository for annual inventory reports submitted by facilities that deal with hazardous chemicals, and the LEPC assists companies in becoming compliant with the law.

Among the year’s highlights:

- Sponsored an Abbottville tabletop training exercise for more than 50 regional emergency responders from 16 agencies.

Abbottville is a scale model city capable of producing mini explosions and fires to simulate accident scenarios.

- Provided funds for four Duval County HazMat team members to attend HazMat Emergency Response School and for four City of Palatka firemen to attend HazMat Incident Management Class.

- Sponsored a 40-hour Hazardous Materials Incident Management Class for St. Johns County.


- Purchased 20 Hazardous Materials Field Guides for Nassau County’s HazMat team, 10 Level A training suits for Clay County’s HazMat team, and \$1,000 worth of Hazardous Materials tests for use with detection equipment training.

Mitigation Strategies

The five Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plans that the Council assisted in developing for Baker, Clay, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties were approved by the state in early 2000. The plans identify methods to reduce impacts that can be anticipated from a disaster.

During the past year, staff participated in the final meetings of all five LMS Task Force Committees, which approved the LMS plans and transmitted them to their county commissions for adoption.

Staff also took part in workshops sponsored by the Department of Community Affairs in each county for LMS Task Force members, emergency management personnel, elected officials, planning department staffs, and police and fire department officials. The workshops discussed imple-

mentation and funding sources for LMS as well as the future of the LMS process. 



Some 50 emergency responders from 16 agencies tested their readiness at the Abbottville tabletop training exercise sponsored by the LEPC in March.

Information Services

Providing value-added benefits to our governments and citizens

As an advocate of regionalism, the Council offers value-added, tangible and intangible benefits to its member governments and to the community.

Return on Investment

Among the tangible benefits reaped by member governments is a \$45/1 return on their county dues investment. Following is a breakdown of selected services for the Council's seven-county region:

■ Yielded a \$20,926,842 direct/indirect return on investment for dues of \$451,180 by member counties, a 45/1 ratio.

■ Supported economic development with 8 small business loans totaling \$4,084,000 in 504 loans through the Business Development Corporation, adding 75 new jobs and \$137,663 in new ad valorem taxes. (BDC also covers three counties not in the Northeast Florida region, but those loans are not included here.)

■ Provided \$3,635,602 in contract monies to member county agencies and organizations for maternal/infant health care.

■ Approved for funding consideration \$512,029,547 in federal/state/local government and private monies for 87 regional programs and projects.

Staff to Local Boards

In addition to its own board, the Council lends its expertise to the following 14 boards or committees by providing staffing and other services:

■ Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, Inc.

■ Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

■ Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee.

■ Six Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards (Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties).

■ Healthy Families Jacksonville, Inc.

■ Florida KidCare Oversight Committee.

■ Nassau County Local Housing Partnership.

■ Putnam County Affordable Housing Committee.

■ East Palatka Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee.

Regional Advocacy

In an effort to promote a regional identity, the Council brings communities together in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation and communication to identify and address regional issues. Its activities during the year 2000 varied widely.

Growth Management Forums

The Council co-sponsored with the Florida Department of Community Affairs two meet-

Numerous Council

activities supported

intergovernmental

cooperation and

communication

Counties' Return on Investment

Baker	\$ 55/1
Clay	\$ 13/1
Duval	\$ 27/1
Flagler	\$ 80/1
Nassau	\$ 71/1
Putnam	\$ 33/1
St. Johns	\$ 200/1
REGION	\$ 45/1

Region's Elected Officials Honored at November Reception



Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney shares a laugh with State Representative Don Davis, St. Johns County Commissioner Mary Kohnke, and State Senator Jim King Jr.



LEFT: Duval School Board Member Martha Barrett with Kevin Delaney of HealthScreen America and Jacksonville City Councilwoman Gwen Yates. RIGHT: Putnam County Commission Chair and 2000-01 Regional Planning Council Chair Linda D. Myers with Green Cove Springs Mayor Jerry Williams.



ings to gather public comments on the state's growth management process under review by a state commission. (See Planning section of this report.)

St. Johns County Regional Summit

With St. Johns County, the Council co-hosted the summit, which considered regional finance and economic development. (See Economics section of this report.)

Honoring Elected Officials

A "meet and mingle" reception to honor elected officials in the seven county-region was a huge success according to the nearly 175 persons who enjoyed the event at The Outpost of the Ponte Vedra Inn. The region's Chambers of Commerce co-hosted the social affair held shortly after the November 2000 election to include newly elected officials.

In welcoming the guests, The Honorable Alberta Hipps and The Honorable Linda D. Myers, the Council's 1999-2000 chair and 2000-01 chairs respectively, called the event "an opportunity to expand the dialogue among the region's elected officials in a new era of interlocal cooperation."

Event sponsors, who helped make the evening possible, were Mayo Clinic (the title sponsor); BellSouth; Blue Cross

and Blue Shield; Presentation Resource; PGA TOUR; Bessent, Hammack & Ruckman Inc.; Compass Bank; CSX Transportation; Pappas Metcalf Jenks Miller & Reinsch; Rogers, Towers, Bailey, Jones and Gay.

Cooperative Purchasing Plan

The Council implemented a Regional Cooperative Purchasing Program in response to a need identified by the region's chief administrative officers. The program's goals are to provide cost savings on bulk purchases of common items and services, and to save time and cost by sharing and rotating responsibilities associated with Request For Proposals (RFPs).

A key component of the plan is a future web page for the region's purchasing agents to share information and learn about educational opportunities related to purchasing. The web page will be linked to the Council's web site.

JCCI Regional Cooperation Study

Staff participated as committee members and as presenters in the Jacksonville Community Council Inc.'s annual study on "Improving Regional Cooperation in Northeast Florida."

The study's report, issued in summer 2000, suggested a heightened role for the Council in regional planning and

recommended the Council continue its cooperation efforts in transportation, economic development, environment, emergency services, and health and human services.

In support of the regional effort, the report also recommended that the Council develop a regional database for coordination and planning purposes. The Council has already embarked upon this task.

Better Jacksonville Plan

The Board endorsed Mayor John Delaney's Better Jacksonville Plan in a resolution stating the plan would "enhance the City of Jacksonville's long-term economic, environmental, and cultural vitality—a vitality that is critical to the welfare of the Northeast Florida region as a whole...."

Quarterly Meetings

Under the auspices of the council, Northeast Florida's chief administrative officers, planning directors and GIS (Geographic Information System) Users Group all continued their quarterly meetings to discuss issues of concern and to share information of mutual interest.

Data Center

The Council is an invaluable resource for economic, demographic, development, and mapping data for the region. Staff responded to an average of 50 requests per month for information from local citizens, member governments, the media, and other organizations.

Requests for the Council's GIS services continue to grow as more and more agencies turn to this powerful tool. Using this technology to organize and display data on maps, users can visualize and analyze information by showing relationships, patterns, and trends.

Among GIS mapping projects completed last year:

- Asset mapping of child abuse reports and existing services for the Florida Department of Children and Families, Neighborhood Partnership for Protection of Children.




Council Chair Alberta Hipps presents the Council's resolution in support of the Better Jacksonville Plan to Michael Munz of Mayor John Delaney's staff.

- Angler's Guide to Saltwater Fishing Access Sites for the Georgia Division of Natural Resources.

- Maps plotting infant mortality data and used by the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition in a successful grant application to address this problem.

- Analysis of land development to track growth trends and loss of habitat in selected counties for The Nature Conservancy.

Staff participated in the second worldwide GIS Day in November 2000 with a program geared to non-profit agencies on using mapping technology as a planning tool.

GIS staff also earned kudos with a first place award in a poster contest at the 2000 Florida Joint Mappers Conference. The poster illustrated the use of GIS in developing the atlas maps for the 1998 Hurricane Storm Surge Study. 

Natural Resources

Protecting our environment through responsible stewardship

Nature-based tourism continued to be a focus of the Council's environmental activity last year. Staff is involved in two such projects.

St. Johns River Corridor

As part of the American Heritage River Initiative for the St. Johns River, the Council is partnering with the communities and agencies along 310 miles of the St. Johns to develop economic opportunities through additional tourism. The St. Johns River Corridor will celebrate the cultural, historical, natural, and outdoor recreational significance of the river.

This project has been identified as a "key-stone project" for the St. Johns American Heritage River by the St. Johns American Heritage River Initiative Steering Committee. The Council's executive director serves on the Planning Committee for this initiative. Staff helped develop an action plan for the effort, and is working with the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council to inventory and map the river's assets that would attract tourists.

U.S.17/A1A Heritage Corridor

In a cooperative tourism promotion, the Council continues to work with regional councils in Georgia and South Carolina and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government to develop a U.S. 17/A1A Coastal Heritage Corridor. The endeavor aims to promote both nature-based and heritage activities between two history-rich cities, Charleston S.C. and St. Augustine, Fla. (See Economics section of this report.)



Princess Place Preserve, which contains the oldest standing homestead in Flagler County, would be one of the tourist attractions along the U.S.17/A1A Heritage Corridor.

Other Environmental Activities

The Council continues its stewardship of the region's environment through the goals and policies of the Natural Resources section of Northeast Florida's Strategic Regional Policy Plan and in reviewing the environmental impacts of local comprehensive plan amendments and Developments of Regional Impact.

In other environmental activities, the Council:

- Mediated a series of meetings with citizens and other interested parties, such as developers and government agencies, to develop a recommendation to the St. Johns County Commission for a new Wetland Buffer Ordinance.

- Assisted the City of St. Augustine Beach in preparing an application to the Florida Communities Trust P2000 Program. The city wants to purchase a piece of property to protect its natural resources by developing the area into a passive park.

- Provided meeting space for the St. Johns Riverkeeper, an environmental advocacy group. 🚲

Preserving our

natural resources

is one of many

Council roles


Council Funding

Maintaining our strong financial position

Our financial picture remained strong. The Council again ended the fiscal year with a balanced budget and an addition to retained earnings. As it has in the past, the Council continued to carefully monitor its budget and to pursue new sources of revenue.

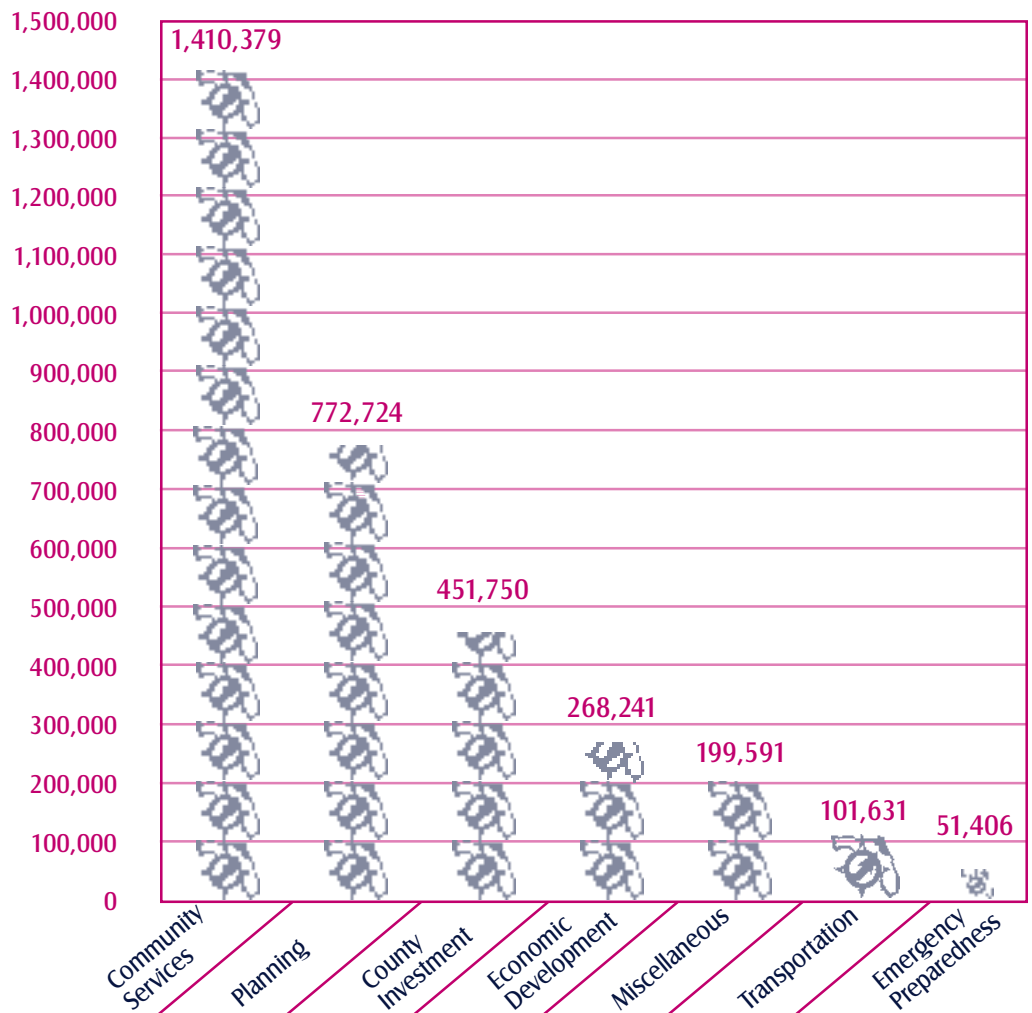
The accounting firm of Cornelius, Culpepper, Schou and Leone gave the Coun-

cil an unqualified opinion in the annual independent audit.

Operating revenues between October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000 totaled \$3,255,722 (excluding Direct Client Services of \$3,635,602 for Healthy Start.) The bar chart below depicts operating revenue sources by dollars and programs. 

Operating Revenue Sources 1999-2000 \$3,255,722

(Excludes Direct Client Services of \$3,635,602)



Operating revenue

sources topped

\$3 million during

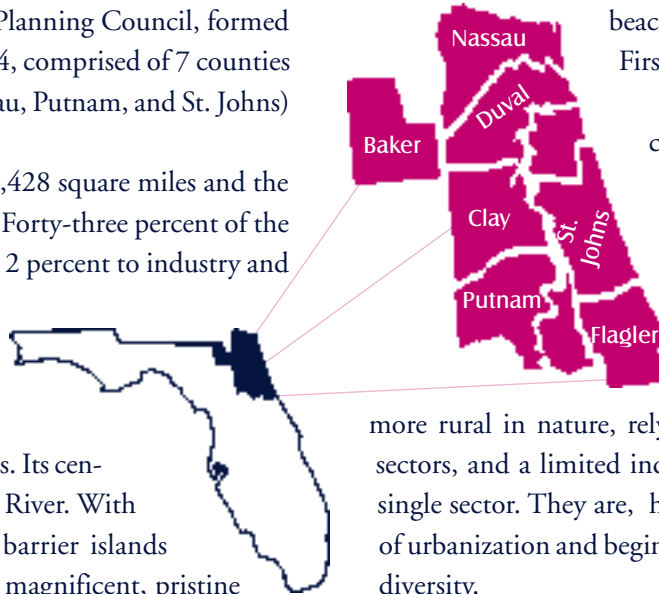
1999-2000

The Region

The Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, formed in 1977, serves Regional District 4, comprised of 7 counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns) and 27 municipalities.

The region's land area covers 4,428 square miles and the population surpasses 1.1 million. Forty-three percent of the region is dedicated to agriculture, 2 percent to industry and commercial use, and 13 percent is urbanized.

The region is characterized by an abundance of natural resources and a diversity of habitats. Its central feature is the Lower St. Johns River. With 140 miles of coastline and five barrier islands boasting some of the state's most magnificent, pristine



beaches, the region is truly "Florida's First Coast."

Jacksonville is the major urban center, with a good mix of industrial manufacturing, transportation, financial services, health care, and military employment. Land-wise, it is the largest city in the U.S.

Surrounding counties are more rural in nature, relying on agriculture and service sectors, and a limited industrial base often focused on a single sector. They are, however, increasing in their rate of urbanization and beginning to develop more economic diversity.

The Counties

BAKER COUNTY

County Seat: Macclenny

Population: 20,299*

Area (sq. miles): 585

Other Incorporated Communities:

Glen St. Mary

Established: 1861

Named for: James McNair, Confederate States senator and Florida judge

CLAY COUNTY

County Seat: Green Cove Springs

Population: 137,396*

Area (sq. miles): 601

Other Incorporated Communities:

Keystone Heights, Orange Park, Penney Farms

Established: 1858

Named for: Kentuckian Henry Clay, Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams

DUVAL COUNTY

County Seat: Jacksonville

Area (sq. miles): 774

Population: 768,398*

Other Incorporated Communities:

Atlantic Beach, Baldwin, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach

Established: 1822

Named for: William Pope DuVal, first territorial governor of Florida

FLAGLER COUNTY

County Seat: Bunnell

Area (sq. miles): 485

Population: 47,100*

Other Incorporated Communities:

Beverly Beach, Flagler Beach, Marineland, Palm Coast

Established: 1917

Named for: Henry Flagler, developer of the Florida East Coast Railroad

NASSAU COUNTY

County Seat: Fernandina Beach

Area (sq. miles): 652

Population: 52,769*

Other Incorporated Communities:

Callahan, Hilliard

Established: 1824

Named for: Nassau Sound

PUTNAM COUNTY

County Seat: Palatka

Area (sq. miles): 722

Population: 72,169*

Other Incorporated Communities:

Crescent City, Interlachen, Pomona Park, Welaka

Established: 1849

Named for: Benjamin Alexander Putnam (1801-69), lawyer, soldier, judge, state legislator, first president of the Florida Historical Society

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

County Seat: St. Augustine, oldest permanent settlement in U.S.

Area (sq. miles): 609

Population: 115,600*

Other Incorporated Communities:

Hastings, St. Augustine Beach

Established: 1821

Named for: St. Johns River

* 2000 BEBR Population estimates

Council Board

All members who served during any portion of the fiscal year (Oct. 1, 1999-Sept. 30, 2000) and who were appointed by the end of 2000 are listed. The Board's current 35 authorized members (as of December 2000) are listed with an asterisk.

1999-2000 OFFICERS

Hon. Alberta Hipps, Duval County, *Chair*
Hon. Linda D. Myers, Putnam County, *1st Vice Chair*
Hon. Glenn R. Lassiter, Clay County, *2nd Vice Chair*
Mr. Hugh D. Fish Jr., Baker County, *Secretary/Treasurer*

MEMBERS

Baker County

Ms. Ginger Barber, *County Commission Representative**
Hon. Tommy Dorman, *County Commissioner*
Mr. Hugh D. Fish Jr., *Municipal Representative**
Mr. Charles "Chuck" Prachar, *Gubernatorial Appointee**

Clay County

Mr. Bill Basford, *County Commission Representative**
Mr. Jesse Benton, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
Ms. Jennifer Carroll, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
Hon. Earl Harrington, *Town of Orange Park Councilman**
Hon. Glenn R. Lassiter, *County Commission Chairman**



Clay County Commissioner Glenn R. Lassiter, the Council's 2nd vice chairman, and Jacksonville City Council President Alberta Hipps, Council chairman 1999-2000.



Dr. Harry Halley welcomes the board to Nassau County.



Ms. Jennifer Carroll of Clay County and Jacksonville Beach City Councilman Mitch Kinsey.

Duval County

Ms. Betty Burney, *Gubernatorial Appointee*
Ms. Mary Louise Dungey, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
Ms. Rea Fleckenstein, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
Hon. Alberta Hipps, *Jacksonville City Council President*
Hon. Jerry Holland, *Jacksonville City Councilman**
Hon. Mitch Kinsey, *Jacksonville Beach City Councilman**
Hon. Gwen Yates, *Jacksonville City Councilwoman**

Flagler County

Hon. George Hanns, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Blair Kanbar, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Joann B. King, *Mayor, City of Bunnell**
 Ms. Mary Ann Ruzecki, *Gubernatorial Appointee*
 Hon. John W. Seay, *County Commissioner*
 Mr. Robert Sgroi, *Gubernatorial Appointee**

Nassau County

Dr. Harry Halley, *Gubernatorial Appointee*
 Hon. David Howard, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Danny R. Johnson, *Mayor, Town of Callahan*
 Hon. Robert Rogers, *Fernandina Beach City Commissioner**
 Mr. Robert Spaeth, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Hon. Floyd L. Vanzant, *County Commissioner**

Putnam County

Hon. Charles E. "Skeet" Alford, *County Commissioner*
 Hon. Hernan Azula, *Palatka City Commissioner**
 Hon. Ish Edwards, *Palatka City Commissioner*
 Mr. Chip Laibl, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Hon. Linda D. Myers, *County Commission Chairman**

St. Johns County

Ms. Clare Berry, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Hon. Raymond Connor, *St. Augustine City Commissioner**
 Hon. Pal West Howell, *County Commissioner*
 Hon. Marc A. Jacalone, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Mary Kohnke, *County Commission Chairman**
 Hon. William Lennon Sr., *St. Augustine City Commissioner*
 Mr. Harry Maxwell, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Mr. Tom Rivers, *Gubernatorial Appointee*
 Mr. Harry Waldron, *Gubernatorial Appointee*



Gubernatorial appointees Mr. Harry Maxwell of St. Johns County and Mr. Chip Laibl of Putnam County, and Mayor Earl Harrington of Orange Park.



Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Hugh D. Fish Jr. of Baker County and Ms. Rea T. Fleckenstein of Duval County.

Ex-officio Members

Mr. Ernest E. Frey, *Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection**
 Mr. Orien Pass, *Enterprise Florida**
 Mr. Aage G. Schroder III, *Florida Dept. of Transportation**
 Ms. Margaret Spontak, *St. Johns River Water Management District*

The Northeast Florida Regional Planning Board is composed of 35 members representing its seven counties, 10 of which are gubernatorial appointees and 4 of which are ex-officio, non-voting gubernatorial agency appointees. Generally, there are four members representing each county: two county commissioners or designees, one city councilman or designee, and one at-large member (gubernatorial appointee).

Council Staff

As of December 2000

Executive Director: Brian D. Teeple, AICP

Mike Brown, *Director of Special Projects*
Jeffrey Alexander, *Director of Planning Programs*
Ed Lehman, *Director of Growth Management*
Barbara Rovedo, *Director of Management Services*

Brian D. Teeple, *President of Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida Inc.*
Carol Brady, *Director of NE Florida Healthy Start Coalition Inc.*
Patricia Davis-Scott, *Director, Healthy Families Jacksonville*
Doris Barletta, APR, *Public Relations Director*

Council Affiliated Organizations

Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, Inc.
Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee
Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.
Healthy Families Jacksonville
Florida KidCare Oversight Committee
Six Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards
for Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties
Nassau County Local Housing Partnership
Putnam County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
East Palatka Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee

Mission

As a dynamic network of local governance, the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council provides visionary leadership and coordination between counties and governmental agencies to preserve and enhance the quality of Northeast Florida's natural, man-made, economic, and social environment.

The Regional Planning Council...

... Is recognized as Florida's only multipurpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in each region. *Florida Statutes 186.502 (4)1*

*Those who are victorious
plan effectively and change
decisively. They are like a
great river that maintains its
course but adjusts its flow. . .*

*Sun Tzu, Chinese Warrior
& Philosopher 100 B.C.*



**Northeast Florida
Regional Planning Council**
9143 Philips Highway, Suite 350
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

**Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler
Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns**