



Putnam County Economic Development Activity Report

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

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 2024 is furnished.

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

- Maintained/Enhanced working relationships with FloridaCommerce/SelectFlorida, 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), Site Selectors Guild, and the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC).
- 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
- Elected to serve as Florida's Board Representative on the SEDC Board of Directors
- Member – SEDC Education Advisory Committee
- Member – NREDA Membership Committee

2. New & Existing Business Development Activity

- Responded to 36 requests for information from firms looking to locate in Putnam County, up from 35 in 2023.
- Hosted 7 on-site visits, down from 8 in 2023.
- Worked on 22 active projects in 2024, with a combined estimate of 4,045 jobs and \$2.3 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. 2024 Highlights

Conducted a highly successful capital fundraising campaign to fund the implementation of the *Elevate Putnam Strategic Growth Plan 2024-2028*

- Putnam County Unemployment Rate at 3.4% (December, 2024)
- Continued the PCEDC Quarterly Investor Meetings. Four (4) Investor Luncheons, with Keynote Speakers, were held in March, June, September and December. Average attendance at the luncheon meetings was 58 people.

4. Other Activities

- Placed multiple full-page advertisements in Site Selection Magazine, Industry & Trade Development, and Business Facilities Magazine
- Maintained/Posted Content on the LinkedIn Page for Putnam County Economic Development Council (PCEDC)
- Created a PCEDC Page on Facebook to further promote the message of Putnam County.
- 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, to enter data/survey results for CareerSource Northeast Florida.
- Maintained *Site Selectors Database*, listing site consultants and commercial realtors in the USA
- Continued to utilize *ProTrack+*, a project software platform to track active development projects
- Continued to work with local SBDC Director on entrepreneurial development.