

## **New Florida Office of Broadband Holds Virtual Workshops for Input: Register for Feb. 12 Workshop for the Tampa Bay Region**

The Florida Office of Broadband at the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is hosting a series of workshops to better understand regional needs for expanding broadband internet access across the state.

DEO is working with the Florida Regional Councils Association to host workshops that include leaders from various sectors of the state, including Libraries, K-12 Education, Colleges/Universities, Local Healthcare Providers, Private Businesses, Community Organizations, Economic Development Organizations, Local Governments, Tourism, Parks & Recreation, Agriculture, and Internet Service Providers.

**You have been identified as a regional leader in your sector, and we would appreciate your participation in the Tampa Bay region event to be held virtually on Friday February 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** The meetings will provide an opportunity for you to participate in a survey guiding future discussions, as well as provide information on the issues and challenges faced by your sector.

The Florida Office of Broadband has been directed to perform the following duties, per Section 364.0135, Florida Statutes:

1. Create a strategic plan to increase the use of broadband internet service in Florida.
2. Build and facilitate local technology planning teams, especially with community members from the areas of education, healthcare, business, tourism, agriculture, economic development and local government.
3. Encourage public use of internet service expansion through broadband grant programs.
4. Monitor, participate in, and provide input on Federal Communications Commission proceedings that are related to the geographic availability and deployment of broadband internet in Florida.

Each workshop will be hosted by DEO and facilitated by one of the ten (10) Regional Planning Councils to help direct the Office of Broadband in understanding the regional availability and accessibility of broadband internet throughout the state. This will ultimately assist in the design of state programs and resources for broadband adoption, deployment, expansion, and resiliency. The information shared during the workshops will also be used in the development of the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband.

We hope you will participate in this event and represent your sector in the conversation. We appreciate your consideration of this invitation and look forward to your response by February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**To register for the Tampa Bay regional event hosted by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, [click here](#)**