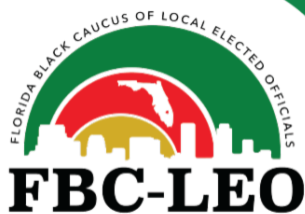


November 2022



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS  
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

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## President's Message



Greetings, FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

There are many exciting activities on the horizon for FBC-LEO.

The 2023 FBC-LEO Essay Contest is officially open. Essay contest information has been mailed to schools across Florida in an FBC-LEO member municipality. The details are located in the newsletter below. I encourage you to personally take contest information to your superintendent or guidance counselors.

Additionally, the Annual Reception will be held on November 30 at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South in Kissimmee, FL, in conjunction with the FLC Legislative Conference. The event is open to members and non-members, so invite your policy committee peers to join. The registration fee is \$25.00, and light hors d'oeuvres and libations will be served.

If you are attending a policy meeting at the conference or live in the area, please click [here](#) to register.

Let me conclude by saying I am overcome with admiration at the resiliency of Florida's communities. A fortitude was brought about by the work of Florida's elected officials and municipal staff, who have rallied to be a resource for one another at this time. As I have watched the communities impacted by Hurricane Ian throughout Florida move full steam ahead toward recovery, this quote from Maya Angelou has echoed in my heart and mind.

"I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it."

Whether you're facing hurricane recovery, a contentious election or a seemingly insurmountable hurdle in your personal life, I encourage you to remain optimistic and persist until your goal is met. Resiliency allows us to face life's adversities head-on and return stronger.

So, rather than letting the difficulties steal your resolve, find the strength to adapt and persevere. Your municipalities will be stronger for it. You will be stronger for it.

Wishing you all the best,

**Morris West**

President Morris West  
Commissioner, City of Haines City

## 2023 FBC-LEO Essay Contest

**Affordable Housing and Homelessness**

**Essay Contest for 11th and 12th Graders**

**Prize: \$1000 Scholarship**

**#FBCLEOCONTEST23**



# Essay Contest

**Deadline: January 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET**

For more information visit <https://fbcleo.org/essay-contest/>

The **Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials** is sponsoring a statewide essay contest on the connection between affordable housing and homelessness.

This contest assists 11th- and 12th-grade students in **FBC-LEO member municipalities** pursuing post-high school education. We encourage students to learn and write about affordable housing and its connection to homelessness.

**Entries must be emailed by January 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET.** Essays will be judged by a committee comprised of members from the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Board of Directors.

The winner will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship for the Florida college or technical career institution of their choice. The selected essay will be published in the association's newsletter, and the winner will be recognized at the FBC-LEO Spring Conference on March 2-3, 2023.

FBC-LEO members are asked to encourage 11th- and 12th-graders in their city to participate in the essay contest. The contest will also be promoted on our social media platforms.

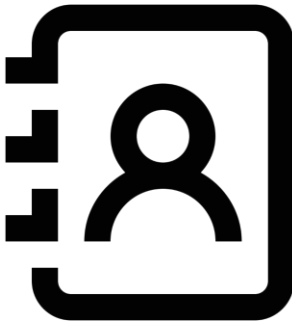
**Please promote this contest by doing the following:**

- Share the application with your school superintendent and high school principals. Encourage them to share the contest information with their schools and school counselors.
- Share the application with local 11th- and 12th-grader teachers and encourage them to share it with their students.

**Click the "Download Application" button below to view the full essay prompt and contest rules.**

**Download Application**

## 2022-2023 FBC-LEO Directory



### Directory Now Available!

The FBC-LEO is proud to offer this **NEW** member benefit. Being placed in your organization's online membership directory is a valuable membership benefit allowing members to connect and network easily.

Click the directory icon or [click here](#) to view the 2022-2023 Virtual FBC-LEO Directory.

## 2022 Annual Reception

**Space is limited! Register today!**

Annual

# FBC-LEO RECEPTION

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET**

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Orlando Lake Buena Vista South



The Annual FBC-LEO Reception will be held in conjunction with the **FLC Legislative Conference** in November. If you plan to participate in FLC activities, a separate registration is necessary.

Gather with FBC-LEO members and guests to enjoy drinks and hor d'oeuvres.

**The Annual FBC-LEO Reception registration fee is \$25.00 for members and guests.**

**The deadline to register for the reception is Friday, November 25.**

Please click the "Register Here" button below to register.

**Register Here**

**Member News**



## Welcome to our new FBC-LEO Member

Warmest welcome! We are delighted to have you as a member of the FBC-LEO organization and look forward to getting to know you.

- **Sheldon Jones, Commissioner, Palmetto**

## From Our Partners

### Florida Department of Economic Opportunity



### The application window is now open!

Dear Broadband Stakeholders,  
The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has opened the application window for the Broadband Opportunity Program, a \$400 million grant program created to

expand broadband Internet service in unserved areas of the state. On September 28, 2022, DEO's Office of Broadband submitted its notice of proposed rulemaking to the Florida Administrative Register and commenced the 30-day online posting of application and scoring materials required in Section 288.9962, F.S., on [www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband).

**The last day to submit a grant application will be at 5:00 PM Eastern Time (ET) on December 2, 2022.**

The Broadband Opportunity Program funds the installation and deployment of broadband Internet infrastructure in unserved Florida communities, providing valuable telehealth, economic, educational, and workforce development opportunities to offer a brighter future for all Floridians. Eligible applicants for the program Broadband Opportunity Program include corporations, limited liability companies, general partnerships, and limited partnerships that are organized under the laws of this state or otherwise authorized to transact business in this state, political subdivisions, and Indian Tribes.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Events & Training Opportunities

### FLCities Strong Webinar

**Monday, November 14, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m. ET**  
**GoToWebinar**

Join your Florida colleagues for November's webinar, which will highlight best practices for mutual aid and interlocal agreements.

Whether it is hurricane season or not, these tools can be valuable, and our guest panelists will share their Hurricane Ian experiences: William Whitson, city manager of Flagler Beach and Ed Lavalley, city manager of Venice. The second segment showcases the third winner from the League's 2022 Municipal Achievement Awards - Village of Miami Shores and their Spirit award-winning program.

[Register Here](#)



## 2022-2023 Meeting and Events

# SAVE THE DATE

Be sure all of the upcoming FBC-LEO events are on your calendar.

<b>Annual Membership Reception</b>	Wednesday, November 30, 2022 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET Embassy Suites Orlando (In conjunction with FLC Legislative Conference) <a href="#">Register Here</a>
<b>General Membership Meeting</b>	Tuesday, January 10, 2023 6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom
<b>2023 FBC-LEO Spring Conference</b>	March 2-3, 2023 Embassy Suites Orlando
<b>Annual Breakfast Meeting</b>	Friday, August 11, 2023 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. ET Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek (In conjunction with FLC Annual Conference, August 10-12, 2023)

**Find Us on Social Media**





**Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter!**

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**Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials**