

April 2023



## FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

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### President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

It may come as no surprise that I am still rejoicing over our wonderful time at the annual conference. Our fellowshipping and networking alone were enough to fill my heart. If you were in attendance, you can echo my sentiments on how our keynote speakers, sessions and sponsors unleashed a wealth of knowledge and insight to help us as local elected officials in our municipalities.

The yearning to learn from our speakers and their willingness to share their time and expertise makes me excited and hopeful about next year's annual conference and the future of FBC-LEO.

May is National Mental Health and Hypertension Awareness Month. We don't always know the feelings or situations of another person, so please be mindful to do weekly check-ins with family, friends, co-workers and those we come in contact with.

Final membership dues invoices will go out on April 18th. If you have not remitted payment, please do so. If you have not received an invoice, please contact staff at [fbcleo@flicities.com](mailto:fbcleo@flicities.com).

Our next General Membership Meeting will be on May 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom. Please register below.

[Register Here](#)



President Morris West  
Commissioner, City of Haines City

## Final Dues Notice



**The Final FBC-LEO dues invoices will go out on April 18th.**

On June 1st, members with unpaid dues will be marked inactive and no longer receive FBC-LEO member benefits, including the FBC-LEO newsletter, event notices, webinars and inclusion in the FBC-LEO directory. Contact [fbcleo@flicities.com](mailto:fbcleo@flicities.com) if you have questions.

Thank you for your membership. We appreciate your continued support of FBC-LEO.

## FBC-LEO WEBINAR

**Grants and Funding**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**  
**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET**



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**Program Summary:**

Federal agencies offer a wide array of financial assistance, tax incentives and investment programs across the community economic development spectrum. In this webinar, representatives from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development will provide an overview of the funding being made available for broadband buildout in unserved and underserved areas and to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services in small and rural communities here in the State of Florida.

Please join host Jeff Branch, Liaison to FBC-LEO, and panelists as they delve into how our cities and municipalities can benefit from grants and resources available by the State.

**Panelists:**

**Lakeisha Hood**, State Director for Florida/U.S. Virgin Islands, USDA Rural Development

**Carlos Nathan**, Federal Program Officer, Florida, US Department of Commerce, NTIA

[Register Here](#)

## Member News



### **Welcome the newest FBC-LEO Member:**

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

- Mayor Tim Murry, City of Clermont

## Legislative Update





Thank you to everyone who traveled to Tallahassee to participate in the League's 2023 Legislative Action Days!

This week stood out as an outlier and appeared to be slower than usual, mainly because of the shortened week resulting from Passover and Easter. The Legislature directed most of its attention toward floor actions and spent comparatively less time in committee meetings. As we look ahead and gear up for Week 6, we expect the pace to resume its usual speed with a full agenda.

Please share your feedback by taking a brief survey to help improve your experience.

[\*\*Click Here to Provide Feedback\*\*](#)

## Events and Training Opportunities

### FLCitiesConnect



Reserve Your Seat for IEMO in Palm Beach Gardens June 9-11

The **Florida League of Cities** and the **John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government** are proud to bring you the **Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO)**.

This educational program is specially designed for newly elected officials and those with less than one term in office. IEMO is a two-day program held Friday through Saturday and is offered four times per year at several locations throughout the state.

This intensive academic program offers a comprehensive overview of Florida municipal government, presented by a faculty of top professionals in the field. IEMO I will be held June 9-11 in Palm Beach Gardens.

[Register Here](#)

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### FLC Contest Highlights Youth Councils' Community Service

The **Florida League of Cities (FLC)** is holding its annual community service contest for youth councils. Youth councils may submit current projects addressing a local need. All work must be submitted through an online form at [flcities.com/municipal-youth-councils](http://flcities.com/municipal-youth-councils). **The deadline is May 31.** The contest is open only to youth councils sponsored by a city, town or village government that is a member of the FLC. For more information, contact [Ervin Russell](#).

**May 18**  
**2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

[FLC Post-Legislative Session Webinar](#)

**June 9-11**

**Palm Beach Gardens**

[Institute for Elected Municipal Officials](#)

**June 20**

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

[FLC University Quarterly Ethics Webinar](#)

*\*\*All times Eastern unless otherwise noted\*\**



This summer, the [National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials \(NBC-LEO\)](#) is excited to host its annual conference in the jubilant “city with soul,” Jackson, Mississippi! Join your peers June 13-16, 2023, for four days of empowering conversations, leadership development, mobile tours, and a chance to connect with local leaders like yourself while exploring issues unique to your role as an African American local elected official.

[Register Here](#)

**From our Partners**



The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is pleased to announce that the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for Hurricane Ian DR-4673 has been published in the Florida Administrative Register and is available on our state HMGP page ([link below](#)). Given the impact of this unique event, every county in the state is eligible for Tiers 1 & 2. There will not be a Tier 3.

We ask that everyone take the time to read through the entire NOFA, as there are some changes for this event. The Division will continue to use the FDEM Portal for digital application submissions. Additional details are in the attached NOFA and FDEM Portal Community User Guide. The application deadline for this event is **May 31, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. (EDT)**.

Do note that if submitting through the FDEM Portal, FDEM must receive your access request by 5:00 p.m. (EST) on May 31, 2023. We look forward to working with you all. Feel free to contact Jared Jaworski or the Hurricane Ian Mitigation email inbox with any questions (contact info below).

Jared Jaworski  
(850) 544-8372



**Jared.jaworski@em.myflorida.com**

FDEM Hurricane Ian Mitigation Questions  
**IanMitigation@em.myflorida.com**

**[Register Here](#)**

## **Elected Officials Wanted as Ambassadors**

**LOCAL  
VOICES  
UNITED**

Elected officials: Are you ready to defend local decision-making and take action for local communities? Become a Local Voices United (LVU) Ambassador and help build support for local decision-making.

The **LVU Ambassador Program** is designed for elected officials who wish to educate and engage their residents and business and community leaders in support of local self-government.

As an LVU Ambassador, you'll lead and inspire a new generation of local grassroots advocates to fight for Florida's towns, cities and villages. Watch the **video** to learn more about becoming an LVU Ambassador, and register below.

**[Register Here](#)**

## **2023 Meetings and Events**

**SAVE THE DATE**

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

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
5:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

**General Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

**Annual Breakfast Meeting  
Registration opening soon**

**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!**



**Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected  
Officials**