



2025 City Catalyst Grants Program Winners

The Florida League of Mayors offers the City Catalyst Grants program annually. The program supports projects or initiatives that help build community and/or enhance the lives of municipal residents.

This year's recipients are:

City of Oakland Park

City of Sanibel

City of South Bay

City of Oakland Park

Mayor Tim Lonergan

Community Library & Technology Hub Enhancements

\$2,500

The City of Oakland Park is renovating the Collins Community Center through its Community Library and Technology Hub Enhancements project to better serve the area's disadvantaged residents. In today's digital world, access to technology and digital skills is essential for education, employment and social engagement. The pandemic highlighted the significant gap many underserved communities face in accessing these resources. To help bridge this digital divide, the city is creating a library and technology hub that supports workforce development, job searches in partnership with CareerSource, education and health monitoring services. The project includes a state-of-the-art technology hub designed for collaboration and creativity, along with a flexible open space furnished for studying and training. Additional features include an outdoor reading area, private Zoom Pods for confidential conversations related to health or career services and iPad minis and laptops available for public use. The center will also feature various huddle and collaboration stations throughout the building to

encourage teamwork and idea sharing. All of these services will be supported by a new broadband internet network to ensure reliable, high-speed access. As part of this effort, the city is requesting funding to purchase a Zoom Room Pod. The cost of the Zoom Room Pod is approximately \$4,750. The city is requesting \$2,500 to assist with the cost. This equipment will provide private space for residents to attend virtual medical appointments, participate in job interviews and access online learning opportunities. This investment directly supports the city's goal of expanding digital access and improving the quality of life for its residents.

City of Sanibel
Mayor Mike Miller
SanCap Resilience
\$2,500

On September 28, 2022, Sanibel and Captiva suffered a direct hit from Hurricane Ian. The storm brought near Category 5 strength winds of 150 miles per hour and a storm surge up to 12 feet causing significant damage to the region. In the wake of the hurricane, the City of Sanibel, citizens, and local non-profits came together to form SanCap Resilience, a coalition of community organizations and concerned stakeholders whose mission is “to lead a community-based initiative to build resilience and protect the vibrancy of our sanctuary islands long into the future.” Since its founding, SanCap Resilience has engaged the community in a number of ways to support recovery from Hurricane Ian and to promote efforts to plan for future resilience. Activities have included community surveys, dissemination of educational materials, presentations by experts on a variety of resilience and sustainability topics, civic engagement on policy, and more. SanCap Resilience hopes to offer 2025/2026 programming, which will span 8 months from October 2025 through May 2026. Plans for the coming season include: Online follow-up survey to assess current needs and concerns of community members, four community presentations on key resilience topics (specific topics TBD based on needs and concerns voiced in the community survey), dissemination of resilience and sustainability related information through multi-channel communications campaigns, including emails, social media, and collaboration with partner organizations, and civic engagement on a variety of City of Sanibel planning efforts currently underway, including vulnerability assessment, adaptation plan, storm water management plan,

comprehensive transportation plan, updates to the comprehensive land use plan, and more.

**City of South Bay
Mayor Joe Kyles, Sr.
Mayor's Youth Council
\$2,500**

The Mayor's Youth Council was established in 2018 by Mayor Joe Kyles. The goal of the youth council is to empower young individuals to believe in their capacity to effect positive change, while preparing them for future leadership, serving and personal growth within their communities. Currently, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Pack 605 is chartered by the city and is one of the many programs governed by the council. Mayor Kyles is seeking to assist the scout troop, by purchasing GCI master cook stations, cooking kits and lanterns for future camping excursions. The items play a key role in preparation to carry out the purpose and goals of the youth council. Camping is essential to scouting, as it is the cornerstone of scouting. It fosters teamwork, develops self-reliance and builds important outdoor skills, which all coincide with the purpose of the council.