



## SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Protect the Existence and Creation of Community Redevelopment Agencies

The Florida League of Cities calls on the Florida Legislature to protect a city's right to use community redevelopment agencies to upgrade infrastructure, create jobs, strengthen public safety and build community.

### KEY POINTS

- **CRAs are uniquely local.** The conditions of blight look different from community to community. CRAs give cities the flexibility they need to implement uniquely local solutions.
- **CRAs improve communities without additional taxes.** CRAs improve communities without additional taxes. CRAs reinvest local property taxes from a designated area back into that same area, solving local challenges with local dollars.
- **CRAs promote stability.** CRAs develop long-term plans that are compatible with an area's comprehensive plans. Businesses are, therefore, more confident in their decision to relocate or invest in the area.
- **CRAs operate with transparency.** Currently, CRAs report annually to state and local government on their activities, budget and administration. They are required to complete five annual reports. Any new investments must conform to the redevelopment plan.

Community redevelopment agencies and tax increment financing have been integral tools for municipalities to provide improvements to run-down urban cores for more than 30 years. There are 222 active CRAs in Florida. They were established to encourage new investment and job creation in urban areas that were blighted as a result of substantial growth moving away from the urban core. Under Florida law (Chapter 163, Part III), local governments are able to designate areas as CRAs when certain conditions exist: the presence of substandard or inadequate structures, a shortage of affordable housing, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient roadways and inadequate parking.

CRAs often play a significant role in creating affordable housing. CRAs have built flood-control, water and sewage projects that protect neighborhoods. CRAs transform streetscapes by eliminating traffic obstacles, adding features that attract people, encouraging new business and discouraging crime.



**CRAs are critical to Florida's economy, safety and quality of life. Preserve this vital tool.**

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