



ARA-PP-01: RURAL COUNTY PROGRAMS AND FUNDING

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: NOT ADOPT; COVERED BY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PROPOSED POLICY: SUPPORT the protection of rural county programs, increase base-line funding, and revenue sharing programs beneficial to rural communities

BACKGROUND: The State of Florida provides a significant amount of funding through agency grant programs that are important to local communities. It is requested that the Legislature continue these programs and increase funding levels to high valued programs and revenue sharing programs that are beneficial to small counties and rural communities, including, but are not limited to, Revenue Sharing, Small County Road funding; Fiscally Constrained programs; State Aid for Local Libraries; Rural Transportation funding; Regional Planning Councils; Small County Solid Waste Grants; Housing funds; County Health Department Funding and Rural Health Initiatives; Aerial Photography; Small County Water Projects; Payment In Lieu of Taxes; Courthouse and infrastructure projects.

ANALYSIS: This statement is an ongoing priority and could be reflected in FAC Standing Policies or Guiding Principles. It is submitted for emphasis on the importance of these programs to the ability of counties, specifically small fiscally constrained counties, to provide services. It is understood if the FAC policy process recognizes these as part of a standing policy or a guiding principle.

FISCAL IMPACT: Revenue neutral at minimum and/or revenue positive for counties

FAC STAFF NOTES:

- **FAC 2022 Policy Conference:**
 - The Committee recommended to not adopt ARA-PP-01, as it is already covered by FAC Guiding Principles
- **FAC Guiding Principles:**
 - The proposed policy highlights several existing state programs beneficial to local governments. ARA Guiding Principles 1 and 2 recognize the unique challenges of fiscally constrained counties:
 - ARA 1. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes the unique fiscal challenges of Florida's rural counties and state-designated fiscally constrained counties. The Association is dedicated to preserving established programs that provide critical resources for essential programs and infrastructure needs of these counties.



- ARA 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports enhancing programs to increase funding for rural infrastructure, job growth, and workforce development policies and efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships, new technologies, and collaboration with local stakeholders.

SUBMITTING COUNTY AND CONTACT: Levy – John Meeks

ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: ARA

BOARD SUPPORT: N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE: NO

PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE: YES