






JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jackson County Receives \$4.68 Million Grant for Affordable Workforce Housing Development



Jackson County, FL – Jackson County is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in its commitment to economic growth and community well-being. **Governor Ron DeSantis** has awarded **\$4,680,059** to Jackson County through the **Florida Job Growth Grant Fund (JGGF)**. These vital funds are earmarked for workforce development and infrastructure improvements, specifically aimed at expanding access to workforce housing.

This transformative grant will facilitate the construction of a new 1.3-mile, two-lane road connecting a workforce housing development on **Pooser Road** with an industrial area. This project is not only set to create at least 400 new jobs but also expected to generate an impressive economic impact of **\$12.5 million**. Such initiatives are a testament to our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Jackson County residents.

Jackson County Board Chairman **Paul Donofro Jr.** expressed his heartfelt gratitude and excitement upon receiving the award. Addressing the press and Governor DeSantis on July 1st at Pensacola State College, Chairman Donofro remarked:

“This job growth grant that we’re receiving today will go a long way in helping us with economic development in Jackson County. Two of the things we battle . . . are workforce housing, attainable housing, affordable housing . . . and also our workforce. Through this job growth grant, we are going to be able to pave the western end of Pooser Road, which will pay immediate dividends in the development of new business at the intersection of Pooser Road and Hwy 276 . . . This will allow us to develop [a minimum of] 250 housing units, which will go a long way in helping us provide quality workforce attainable, affordable housing.”

This substantial investment builds on Jackson County's track record of securing over \$23 million in strategic funds, including more than \$15 million through the Rural Infrastructure Fund, over \$7 million through the Broadband Opportunity Program, and \$1.5 million through the Florida Small Cities Community

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Development Block Grant program. These efforts collectively drive job creation, capital investment, and economic development, laying a robust foundation for a prosperous future.

A special thank you goes to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Jay Trumbull, State Representative Shane Abbott, Secretary Alex Kelly and the Florida Commerce team, David H. Melvin, Inc. Consulting Engineers, and our dedicated team at the BOCC administration for their unwavering support and hard work in making this a reality. This state investment not only benefits the local economy but also opens new opportunities for families across Jackson County. Together, we are building a brighter future for Jackson County!

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