



# HOMELESSNESS

## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2019

Located just minutes away from Orlando and bordered by the Ocala National Forest to the north and the hills of Clermont to the south, Lake County is a rapidly growing community of over 342,000 residents.

Lake County enjoys a diverse population base, with a growth rate of more than 3% in the past year. Ranked among the top 10 fastest growing counties in Florida, Lake County is expected to experience significant population growth over the coming decades as the Orlando urban core continues to approach build-out.

Forecasts predict Lake County's population to increase to more than 427,000 by 2030 and to over 484,000 by 2040.

Accessible via I-75 and Florida's Turnpike to the west and I-4 to the east, the area's unique geography, which includes rolling hills, stunning vistas and acres of preserves, stands out among its Central Florida neighbors, making it a desirable place to live, work and visit.

Lake County is served by a Board of County Commissioners representing five districts, with 14 municipalities and several distinct unincorporated communities.

Lake County is seeking consideration and support of several initiatives that relate directly to the immediate and future needs of Lake County residents. These initiatives are not only essential to improving the quality of life for residents, but would also have a profound regional impact due to Lake County's prime location.



# HOMELESSNESS

## BACKGROUND

In Lake County, there is a growing homeless population with few overnight permanent beds available.

Lake County officials, key stakeholders, service providers and agencies working directly with homeless individuals and families have determined that a solution to address homelessness in Lake County is a top priority.

Local collaborations and partnerships represent part of an integrated approach to address the gaps in services identified for our homeless population. The interagency relationships create a foundation for building an effective response to addressing homelessness.

The County recently formed a stakeholder group comprised of LifeStream Behavioral Center, Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition, The Salvation Army, The United Way of Lake & Sumter Counties, the County, and other interested partners.

The group will focus on the causes of homelessness, geographic distribution, shelter options and the services continuum, affordable housing availability, capital and operational funding, policy development and the creation of a homeless crisis response system.

Promoting a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness, the group endeavors to seek funding for efforts to quickly re-house individuals and families who are homeless, implement diversion practices, provide access to mainstream programs, and optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

In line with Housing and Urban Development's nationwide goal to end veteran homelessness, the Lake County group is working to create criteria and benchmarks to ensure that all area veterans are assisted with a path toward permanent housing. At this time, no Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers are available in Lake County, and therefore, homeless veterans must be housed in other counties.

## NEED

One potential solution the group is exploring includes working with partners to build a permanent homeless shelter to assist the entire community. To do so, the group would need to secure federal funding assistance.

The ultimate goal is the creation of a homeless service system that achieves a reduction in new instances of, length of, and returns to homelessness, while meeting the varying needs of homeless sub-populations such as unaccompanied youth, veterans and families with children.

## CONTACT

**Ron Russo, Deputy County Manager**  
352-343-9490 • [RRusso@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:RRusso@lakecountyfl.gov)





# TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2019

Located just minutes away from Orlando and bordered by the Ocala National Forest to the north and the hills of Clermont to the south, Lake County is a rapidly growing community of over 342,000 residents.

Lake County enjoys a diverse population base, with a growth rate of more than 3% in the past year. Ranked among the top 10 fastest growing counties in Florida, Lake County is expected to experience significant population growth over the coming decades as the Orlando urban core continues to approach build-out.

Forecasts predict Lake County's population to increase to more than 427,000 by 2030 and to over 484,000 by 2040.

Accessible via I-75 and Florida's Turnpike to the west and I-4 to the east, the area's unique geography, which includes rolling hills, stunning vistas and acres of preserves, stands out among its Central Florida neighbors, making it a desirable place to live, work and visit.

Lake County is served by a Board of County Commissioners representing five districts, with 14 municipalities and several distinct unincorporated communities.

Lake County is seeking consideration and support of several initiatives that relate directly to the immediate and future needs of Lake County residents. These initiatives are not only essential to improving the quality of life for residents, but would also have a profound regional impact due to Lake County's prime location.



# TRANSPORTATION

## BACKGROUND

Lake County is located in the center of the state of Florida, just 35 minutes from downtown Orlando. It is halfway between Jacksonville and Miami and a short drive to both coasts. It is accessible via I-75 and Florida's Turnpike to the west and I-4 to the east.

There are several significant road projects underway in the area, as the region continues to experience substantial growth. Transportation projects, in particular, must sustain projected growth while preserving the character of existing communities.

The County's expanding roadways are recognized as strategic intermodal systems within the state. Improvements must be made to allow these major thoroughfares to continue to provide a reliable regional transportation network and economic vitality for Florida.

Due to its central location, Lake County is also home to significant corridors of statewide importance, serving as an incident management route in evacuations. Improvements are necessary to meet current and projected travel demand in the region.

A more efficient transportation network in Lake County, including trucking routes delivering goods and services statewide, would benefit commerce throughout the state of Florida. Regional connectivity and access are cornerstones of Lake County's economic development and high-wage job growth, enabling businesses to advance prosperity and improve quality of life.

## NEED

The cost to resurface an existing 24-foot-wide road is about \$110,000 per mile. The average life cycle of an asphalt road is 20 to 25 years in ideal conditions.

Nearly half of Lake County's roads show surface aging and a need for strengthening, with close to 350 miles of roadway identified as needing resurfacing.

The benefits of resurfacing include: reducing long-term costs; minimizing hazards and protecting life safety; decreasing road noise, maintenance and repair costs; and preserving the County-maintained road network.

## CONTACT

**Ron Russo, Deputy County Manager**  
352-343-9490 • [rrusso@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:rrusso@lakecountyfl.gov)







# SAFER GRANT

# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2019

Located just minutes away from Orlando and bordered by the Ocala National Forest to the north and the hills of Clermont to the south, Lake County is a rapidly growing community of over 342,000 residents.

Lake County enjoys a diverse population base, with a growth rate of more than 3% in the past year. Ranked among the top 10 fastest growing counties in Florida, Lake County is expected to experience significant population growth over the coming decades as the Orlando urban core continues to approach build-out.

Forecasts predict Lake County's population to increase to more than 427,000 by 2030 and to over 484,000 by 2040.

Accessible via I-75 and Florida's Turnpike to the west and I-4 to the east, the area's unique geography, which includes rolling hills, stunning vistas and acres of preserves, stands out among its Central Florida neighbors, making it a desirable place to live, work and visit.

Lake County is served by a Board of County Commissioners representing five districts, with 14 municipalities and several distinct unincorporated communities.

Lake County is seeking consideration and support of several initiatives that relate directly to the immediate and future needs of Lake County residents. These initiatives are not only essential to improving the quality of life for residents, but would also have a profound regional impact due to Lake County's prime location.



# SAFER GRANT

## BACKGROUND

Lake County Fire Rescue (LCFR) includes more than 200 professional firefighters and 25 fire stations. LCFR responded to 23,765 calls for service in 2018. LCFR maintains a regional Special Operations Response Team, tanker shuttle task force and wildland fire response, and one of two Venom Response Units in the nation. LCFR belongs to the Florida Region 5 Domestic Security Task Force.

Current staffing levels are inadequate for the geographic region and population served. The majority of the stations are staffed with two personnel, which is not consistent with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) safety recommendations. When a crew arrives on-scene at a structure fire, they currently must wait for additional resources before making entry, except in cases of life/safety. LCFR has experienced three close calls with firefighter entrapment in recent years. The after-action reports identified a lack of adequate staffing as a factor in every incident.

At 1 firefighter per 1,000 residents, LCFR's staffing level is far below the national average of 1.67 per 1,000 residents. LCFR is 142 positions short of meeting the national average. This creates critical safety issues for both the firefighters and the residents to whom they provide service. Lake County had five fire-related civilian fatalities in 2017 and averages over 50 firefighter injuries per year.

Increased staffing enhancements are needed to move toward meeting NFPA recommendations concerning personnel deployment and response times to fires and medical emergencies.

## GRANT BENEFITS

- Increased safety for firefighters and residents
- Reduced property damage
- More efficient deployment of resources
- Fewer injuries and associated costs
- Potential improvement to Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating, reducing residents' insurance costs

## NEED

Lake County has applied for the 2018 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$2.85 million to fund the hiring of 15 new firefighters. These positions would be used to increase the number of firefighters on fire apparatus. Far greater staffing needs exist; however, these 15 positions are sustainable if SAFER grant funds are awarded.

## CONTACT

**John Molenda, Deputy County Manager**  
352-343-9458 • [jmolenda@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:jmolenda@lakecountyfl.gov)





## ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT (AFG)

# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2019

Located just minutes away from Orlando and bordered by the Ocala National Forest to the north and the hills of Clermont to the south, Lake County is a rapidly growing community of over 342,000 residents.

Lake County enjoys a diverse population base, with a growth rate of more than 3% in the past year. Ranked among the top 10 fastest growing counties in Florida, Lake County is expected to experience significant population growth over the coming decades as the Orlando urban core continues to approach build-out.

Forecasts predict Lake County's population to increase to more than 427,000 by 2030 and to over 484,000 by 2040.

Accessible via I-75 and Florida's Turnpike to the west and I-4 to the east, the area's unique geography, which includes rolling hills, stunning vistas and acres of preserves, stands out among its Central Florida neighbors, making it a desirable place to live, work and visit.

Lake County is served by a Board of County Commissioners representing five districts, with 14 municipalities and several distinct unincorporated communities.

Lake County is seeking consideration and support of several initiatives that relate directly to the immediate and future needs of Lake County residents. These initiatives are not only essential to improving the quality of life for residents, but would also have a profound regional impact due to Lake County's prime location.



# ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT (AFG)

## BACKGROUND

Lake County Fire Rescue (LCFR) provides fire services to over 200,000 residents and business owners, responding to a building fire every 25 hours on average. LCFR's Self Contained Breathing Apparatus are over 10 years old and are out of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliance. Replacing this equipment with NFPA-compliant Air-Paks will increase firefighter and public safety and provide interoperability.

## GRANT BENEFITS

### Firefighter and Public Safety

- Earlier low-air alarms allowing for safe exit from burning structures
- Increased cylinder capacity from 30 to 45 minutes, providing for improved search and rescue capability
- Wireless technology, improving communication with incident commander
- Decreased firefighter fatigue and heads-up display for increased safety and reduced injury

### Interoperability

- Currently incompatible with other fire agencies within Lake County
- Refill stations will be strategically located throughout the county and made available for use by municipal agencies and bordering county agencies

## NEED

Lake County has applied for the 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$1.93 million to fund the acquisition of 225 NFPA-compliant Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus with mounting brackets and four fill stations.

## CONTACT

**John Molenda, Deputy County Manager**  
352-343-9458 • [jmolenda@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:jmolenda@lakecountyfl.gov)

