

**STORAGE NAME:** hb1095.ca

**DATE:** November 24, 1997

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**BILL #:** HB 1095

**RELATING TO:** Creation of the Florida Community Outreach Partnership Act of 1997

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Crist

**COMPANION BILL(S):**

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
  - (2) FINANCE & TAXATION
  - (3) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

I. SUMMARY:

This bill directs the Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs to carry out a five-year demonstration program to determine the feasibility of fostering partnerships between state universities and communities to solve urban problems. This bill also authorizes grants to state universities to establish Florida Community Partnership Centers and provides requirements regarding state and nonstate share of grants. This bill provides for application and selection criteria for universities desiring to establish community partnership centers. This bill was carried over from the 1997 Session.

This bill authorizes an unspecified amount of general revenue funds to be set aside for the purpose of implementing the grant program.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

In 1992, the U.S. Congress authorized a five-year demonstration program to establish Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPCs) on university campuses. A COPC is expected to play an active and visible role in community revitalization by the following:

- Applying research to real urban problems;
- Coordinating outreach efforts with neighborhood groups;
- Acting as local information exchange centers;
- Galvanizing support for neighborhood revitalization;
- Developing public service projects and instructional programs; and
- Collaborating with other COPCs.

Currently, there are two federally funded Community Outreach Partnership Program grants awarded in Florida. In 1994, the University of South Florida was awarded \$370,417 and in 1995, the University of Florida was awarded \$500,000.

**University of South Florida's COPC:**

In 1994, the University of South Florida (USF) was awarded a three-year federal grant of \$370,417 to provide comprehensive outreach to four neighborhoods - East Tampa, the University of South Florida, Florence Villa, and Tarpon Springs. Specific activities to be undertaken included the following:

- A local employer job development program;
- One-stop employment and career development counseling;
- Training for small business owners;
- Community empowerment through expansion of community-based organizations; and
- Development of a plan for improvement of neighborhood infrastructure and transportation.

The USF COPC has undertaken the following activities:

- Established partnerships between the COPC and neighborhood based organizations in each of the four neighborhoods;
- Organized one stop job development centers in three of the four neighborhoods;

- Assisted local minority business people in securing over \$120,000 in loans from public and private resources to improve and expand their businesses in their neighborhoods;
- Completed comprehensive needs assessments for neighborhood jobs, health, and economic issues;
- Facilitated inter-agency coordination, reallocation of resources and identification of new resources within the neighborhoods;
- Collaborated with three major hospitals located in close proximity to the neighborhoods to conduct comprehensive health assessments and to design wellness programs (immunization, testing, prenatal and neonatal care; and to prevent diabetes, cancer, HIV, etc.) within the neighborhoods;
- Developed linkages with neighborhood schools to provide mentoring to middle and high school students; and
- Developed proposals for affordable housing and commercial redevelopment within Tampa's Enterprise Zone.

The USF COPC has established partnerships with the following organizations: University Community Hospital; Winterhaven Hospital; GTE; Tampa Bay Community Reinvestment Corporation; Citizens Alliance for Progress, Inc.; USF Area Community Civic Association; The Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security; The Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County; Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc.; and Florence Villa Community Development Corporation.

**University of Florida's COPC:**

In 1995, the University of Florida (UF) was awarded a two-year federal grant of \$500,000 to establish an urban, inner city extension service in East Gainesville. Specific activities to be undertaken included the following:

- Plans for a small business incubator and other business development activities;
- Neighborhood improvement;
- Home ownership support and assistance;
- Update of the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan for the City of Gainesville;
- Social service delivery coordination in the target community; and
- Establishment of youth and family resource centers.

The UF COPC has undertaken the following activities:

- Feasibility studies and preparation of business plans;

- Small business support Center;
- Home buyer training;
- Post-purchase assistance to new home buyers;
- Training in home repair and codes;
- Neighborhood clean-up and work days;
- Housing clearinghouse;
- Targeted housing research;
- Leadership and management training;
- Building resident associations; and
- Established programs for youth and families.

The UF COPC has established partnerships or conducted activities with the following organizations: The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing; IFAS, UF College of Business, Santa Fe Community College, the Gainesville Housing Authority, the Neighborhood Housing Development Corp., and the Seminary Residence Council.

**B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

Currently, COPCs are primarily funded as a federal demonstration project. Additional funds are provided through partnerships with state agencies, local governments, nonprofit agencies, and commercial businesses. The federal program was designed as a demonstration project and does not provide for continued funding of the centers. The effect of this bill is to establish a **five-year state general revenue funded grant** demonstration project for the continuation or development of community partnership outreach centers by state universities. The state's share of a grant is no more than 50% of the cost of establishing and operating a center's applied research activities, and no more than 90% of the cost of establishing and operating a center's outreach activities and technical assistance.

**C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:**

1. Less Government:

- a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

- (1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

Yes. This bill authorizes the Department of Community Affairs to select and award grants to state universities seeking to create community outreach partnership centers.

- (2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

Yes. This bill creates new responsibilities for the Department of Community Affairs including the following:

- Selecting state universities' programs to award grants;
- Establishing a State Advisory Committee to disseminate the results of the research/outreach activities of the centers and act as a clearinghouse for recipients;
- Establishing a State Clearinghouse to disseminate information resulting from the research and successful outreach activities of the centers; and
- Submitting annual reports to the House and Senate Committees on Community Affairs containing the summary of activities, findings, and conclusions drawn from the activities of the centers.

- (3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

No.

- b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

- (1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

N/A

- (2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

N/A

- (3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

N/A

2. Lower Taxes:

- a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

N/A

- b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

N/A

- c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

N/A

- d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

N/A

- e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

N/A

3. Personal Responsibility:

- a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

N/A

- b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

N/A

4. Individual Freedom:

- a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

N/A

- b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

N/A

5. Family Empowerment:

a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

(2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A

b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

N/A

c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

(1) parents and guardians?

N/A

(2) service providers?

N/A

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

N/A

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:

**Section 1:**

Section 1 of the bill does the following:

- Creates the “Florida Community Outreach Partnership Act of 1997”;
- Creates a 5-year demonstration program, consistent with the Strategic Plan for Florida, to determine the feasibility of facilitating partnerships between institutions of higher education and communities to solve urban problems;
- Creates a state grant program to establish and operate Florida Community Outreach Partnership Centers to do the following:
  - ▶ Conduct applied research and investigations on practical problems in large and small cities; and
  - ▶ Facilitate partnerships, technical assistance, and outreach activities between institutions of higher education, local communities, and local governments to address urban problems;
- Creates an application and selection process for state universities based on the following criteria:
  - ▶ Demonstration of applied research and outreach resources available to carry out the purposes of this Act;
  - ▶ Capability of applicant to provide leadership in solving community problems and in making state contributions to solving long-term and immediate urban problems;
  - ▶ Demonstrated commitment of the applicant to support urban applied research and outreach programs by providing matching contributions from other sources;
  - ▶ Demonstrated ability of the applicant to disseminate results of research and successful strategies to other centers and communities;
  - ▶ The proposed projects and activities;
  - ▶ The effectiveness of the applicant’s strategy to provide outreach to the community;
  - ▶ The extent of need in the community to be served;
  - ▶ The evaluation design’s ability to measure tangible outcomes; and



- ▶ Other criteria deemed appropriate by the secretary.
- Limits state grant share to no more than 50% of the cost of establishing and operating a center's applied research activities and to no more than 90% of the cost of establishing and operating a center's outreach activities and technical assistance;
- Permits Nonstate grants of cash, or the value of noncash contributions deemed appropriate by the secretary;
- Requires centers to do the following:
  - ▶ Employ applied research and outreach resources of its sponsoring institution to solve specific urban problems identified by the community;
  - ▶ Establish outreach activities in areas identified in grant application;
  - ▶ Establish a community advisor committee;
  - ▶ Coordinate outreach activities in communities;
  - ▶ Facilitate public service projects in communities;
  - ▶ Act as clearinghouse for information;
  - ▶ Develop instructional programs, convene conferences, and provide training for local community leaders;
  - ▶ Exchange information with other centers; and
  - ▶ Design and implement an evaluation process.
- Creates an unpaid State Advisory Council appointed by the secretary of DCA. The council will consist of 12 members, three from state and local government; three from state universities receiving grants, three from organizations that possess significant expertise in urban issues, and three from local community advisory committees created by this bill. The council will do the following:
  - ▶ Disseminate the results of the research and outreach activities carried out by the centers;
  - ▶ Act as a clearinghouse house between grant recipients and other institutions of higher education; and
  - ▶ Review and evaluate programs;
- Creates a State Clearinghouse to disseminate information resulting from the research and successful outreach activities;
- Designates the use of Funds within the Department of Community Affairs; and

- Establishes annual reporting requirements of the Department of Community Affairs to the House and Senate Committee on Community Affairs.

**Section 2:** Provides that the act shall take effect upon becoming law.

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

Indeterminate. No specific dollar amount is appropriated for this bill. However, the bill authorizes the use of funds (no specific source cited) for the Department of Community Affairs to utilize to implement this program. Currently one-time federal grant awards for two university community outreach partnership centers have totaled \$870,417 (or an average of \$435,208 per center). This bill could potentially authorize community outreach partnership centers by all 10 state universities.

2. Recurring Effects:

Indeterminate. There is no basis on which to predict anticipated costs as federal funding was a one-time occurrence. However, recurring fiscal impacts are anticipated to include the following:

- Travel Expenses for Advisory Council Members;
- Administrative expenses related to dissemination of research results; and
- Administrative expenses related to Advisory Council meetings.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

Indeterminate.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

Indeterminate. See "Comments" section.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

N/A

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

N/A

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

N/A

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

N/A

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

N/A

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

N/A

V. COMMENTS: None

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VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

HB 1095 was carried over from the 1997 Legislative Session. The following technical amendment to the bill is offered by the Sponsor changing the year from 1997 to 1998:

On page 1, line 25, delete the year "1997" and replace it with the year "1998"; and appropriate title amendment.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

Prepared by:

Legislative Research Director:

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Tonya Sue Chavis, Esquire

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