



**2023 State of the County**





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**Frederick Heid  
Superintendent  
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**Dr. Joy Jackson**  
**Director**  
**Florida Department of**  
**Health in Polk County**



# **Text Questions**

# **863-888-2911**





**2023 State of the County**



# Today's Themes

- Growth and more Growth
- Today's Economic Climate
- Challenges and Actions
- Infrastructure Planning for the Future



# Polk by the Numbers

1

Fastest growing  
County in Florida

5

Fastest growing  
County in the U.S.

4.2

Percent population  
growth from  
previous year



# Polk by the Numbers

**602,095**

2010 Census

**725,046**

2020 Census

**787,404**

July 1, 2022  
(U.S. Census Bureau)



4<sup>th</sup> Largest County in Florida (2,011 square miles)

- Rhode Island - 1,214 sq. miles
- Delaware - 1,982 sq. miles



Population Rank

- **Polk County 787,404\***
- North Dakota 779,261
- Alaska 733,583
- District of Columbia 714,153
- Vermont 647,064
- Wyoming 581,381

\*Polk passed North Dakota in 2022





# Polk by the Numbers

## 2022 U.S. Census Estimate – Top Ten Counties



4.2% Increase



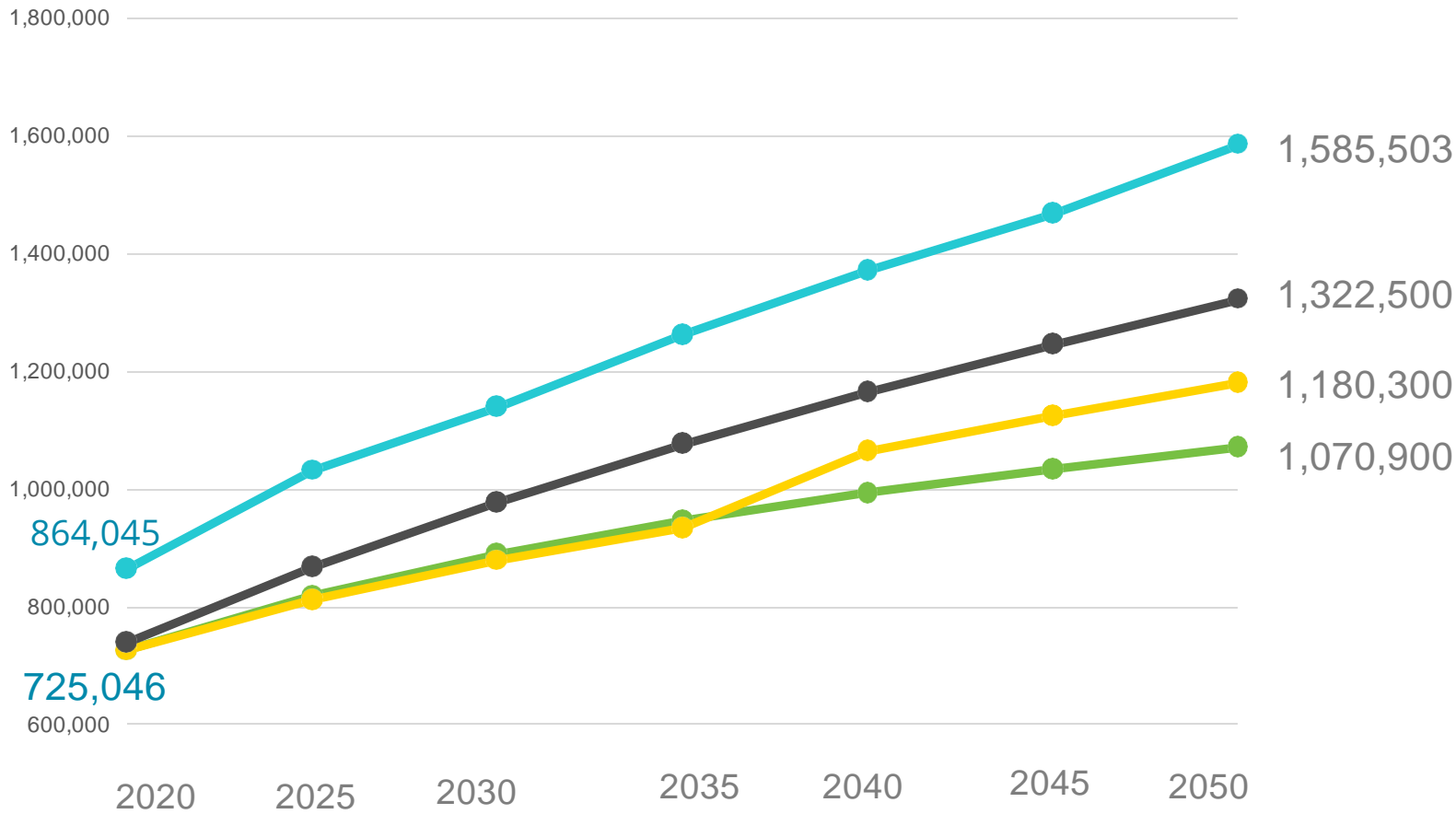
7<sup>th</sup> last year

| Rank | State   | County                 | April 1, 2020<br>(Est. Base) | July 1,<br>2021 | July 1,<br>2022 | Numeric<br>Growth |
|------|---------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1    | Arizona | Maricopa County        | 4,420,574                    | 4,494,693       | 4,551,524       | 56,831            |
| 2    | Texas   | Harris County          | 4,731,129                    | 4,735,287       | 4,780,913       | 45,626            |
| 3    | Texas   | Collin County          | 1,066,465                    | 1,114,450       | 1,158,696       | 44,246            |
| 4    | Texas   | Denton County          | 906,405                      | 943,857         | 977,281         | 33,424            |
| 5    | Florida | Polk County            | 725,041                      | 755,179         | 787,404         | 32,225            |
| 6    | Florida | Lee County             | 760,820                      | 790,676         | 822,453         | 31,777            |
| 7    | Texas   | Fort Bend County       | 822,779                      | 860,124         | 889,146         | 29,022            |
| 8    | Florida | Hillsborough<br>County | 1,459,773                    | 1,484,455       | 1,513,301       | 28,846            |
| 9    | Texas   | Bexar County           | 2,009,322                    | 2,030,895       | 2,059,530       | 28,635            |
| 10   | Texas   | Montgomery<br>County   | 620,451                      | 650,261         | 678,490         | 28,229            |



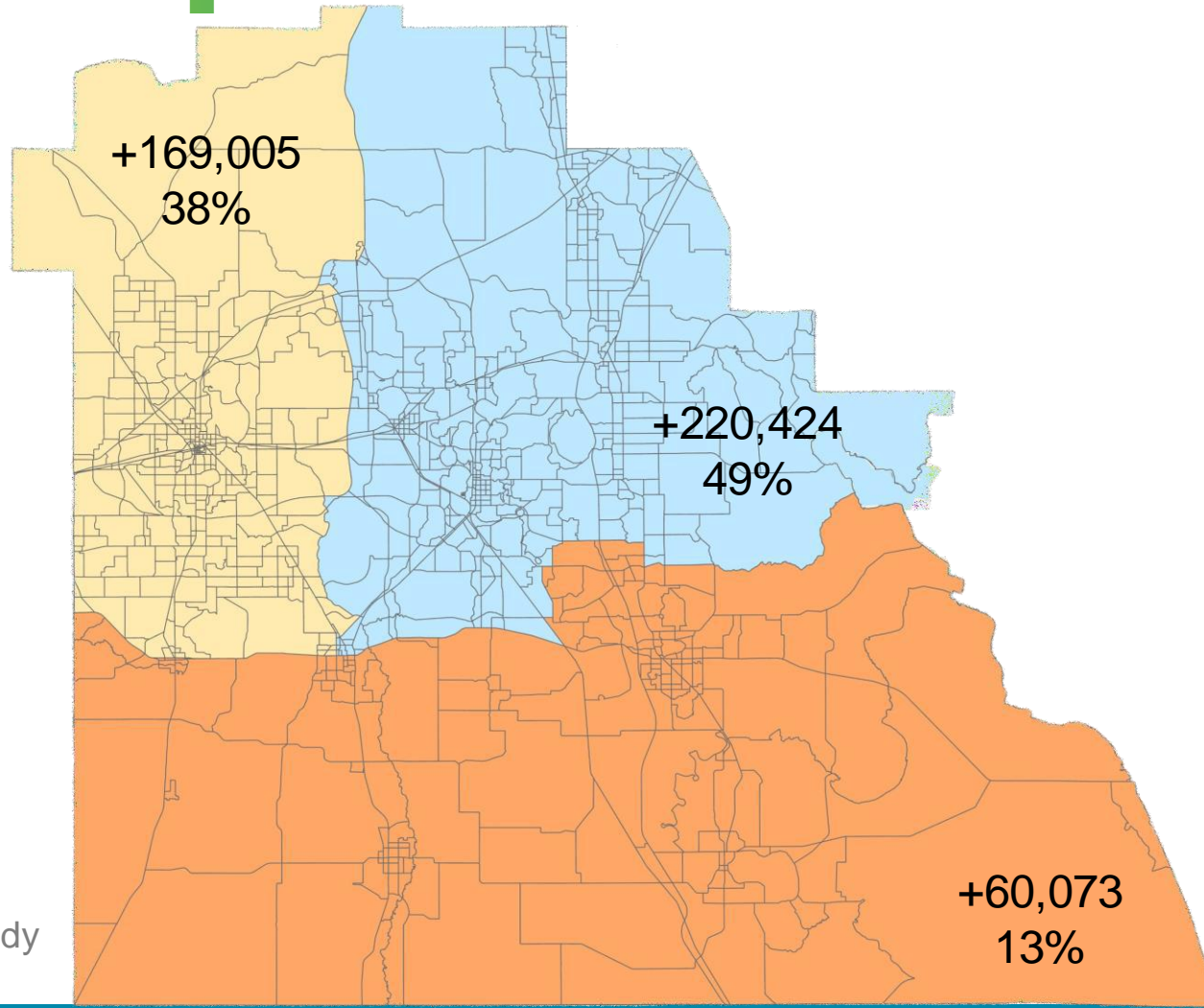
# Population Growth Forecast

- Assumed Forecast w/seasonal and tourists
- BEBR High
- Assumed Forecast
- BEBR Medium





# 2050 Population Growth Forecast\*



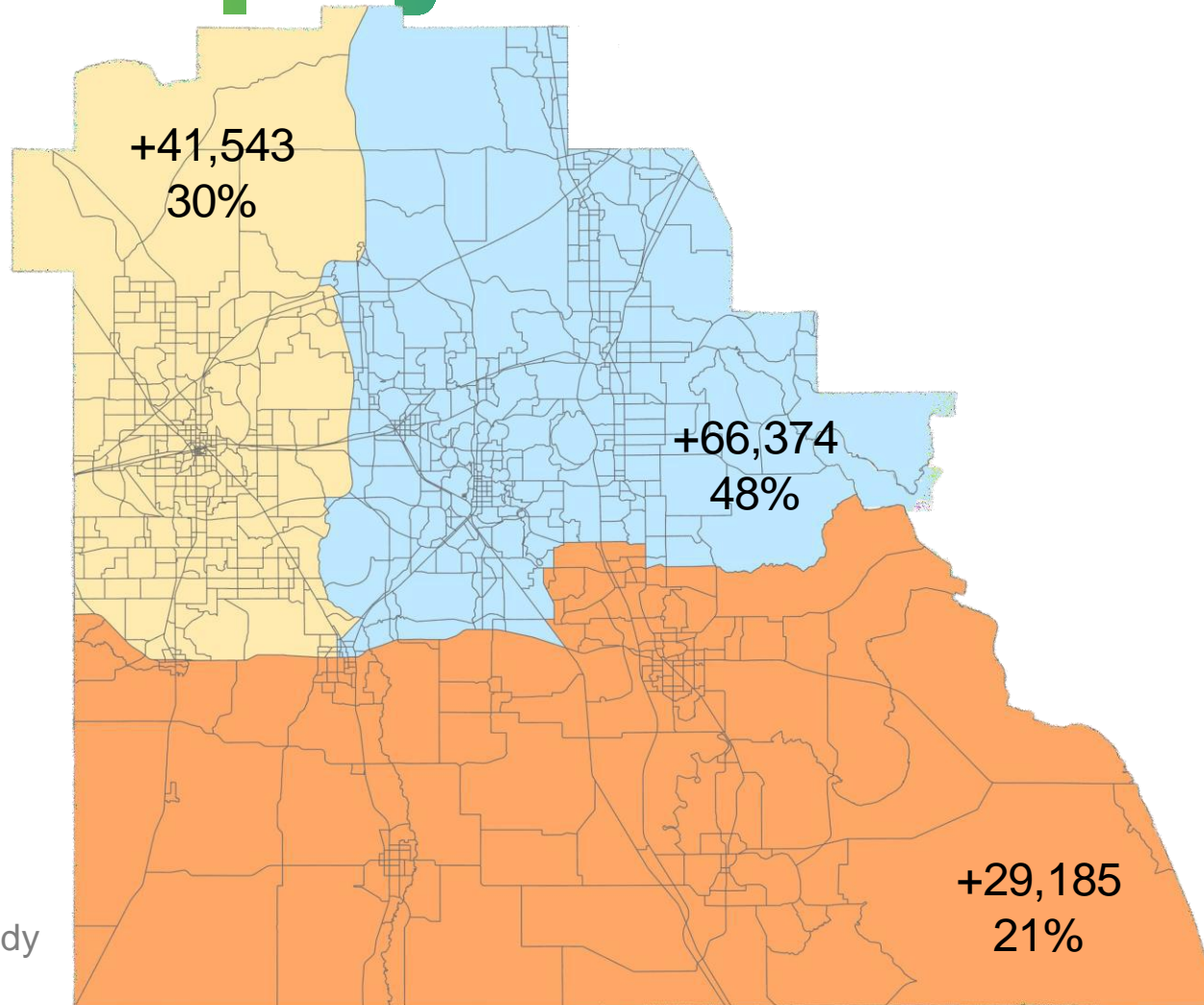
\*Commissioned Study  
by Kimley-Horn

| Region    | Population |
|-----------|------------|
| Northwest | 465,505    |
| Northeast | 547,819    |
| South     | 151,150    |





# 2050 Employment Growth Forecast\*



\*Commissioned Study  
by Kimley-Horn

# Economic Development

17.75%

FY 22/23 Property  
Value Increase

12.7%

Employment Growth  
Across all Nonfarm  
Industries

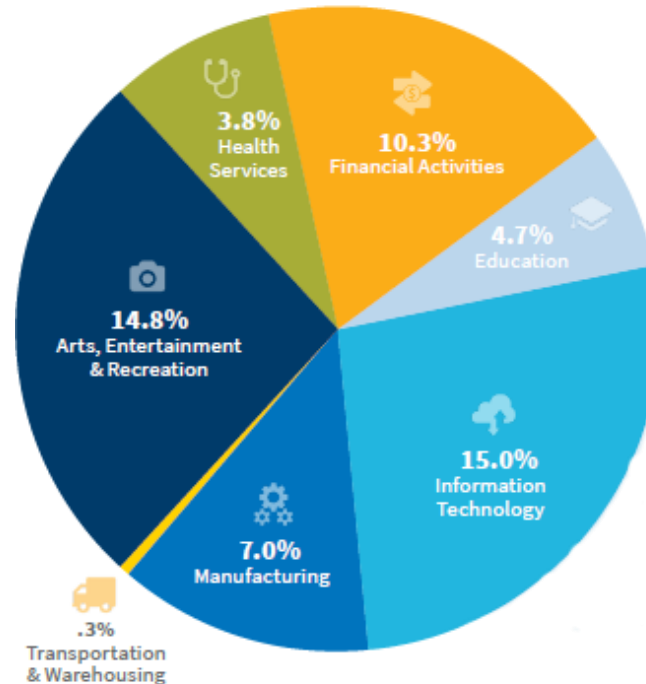
10<sup>th</sup>

Best County for  
Talent Attraction

- U.S. Census Bureau  
Polk County is the fastest growing county in the state
- Chief Executive Magazine  
Best state for business
- Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Florida leads the nation in college affordability
- Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Best state for business startups

## County Job Growth by Industry

Source: JobsEQ, 2022 Q2



## JOB CREATION & INVESTMENT

2021-2022



New Square Footage  
**559,250**



Capital Investment  
**\$268,500,000**



Total Jobs  
**898**



# Tourism and Sports Marketing

**300+**

Number of Events Hosted  
in 2022

**5.5 million**

2022 Visitors to Polk County

**\$180 million**

Economic Impact in 2022

Water Ski and  
Wake Sports Lake



- Completed in April 2023
- County Investment - \$1.5 million

Lake Myrtle Stadium



- Completed in April 2023
- County Investment - \$4.6 million

# Tourism and Sports Marketing

“24 consecutive months of record-breaking  
tourist development tax revenue”

- **Eleven new hotels** are in the pipeline, creating more than **1,000 rooms**
- New Partnership with FHSAA - Polk County will now **host 7 State Championships annually**
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Sun ‘N Fun** in 2024
- **Visitors** to Polk County **saved each household \$726** in state and local taxes



# Is a Recession in our Forecast?\*

2023 BoCC Board Retreat



## U.S. Forecast

The U.S. economy is currently in or on the brink of a(nother) recession.

Multiple Indicators point to recession:

- The Conference Board Leading Economic Index
- Inverted yield curve
- Anxious Index
- Wall Street Journal Economic Survey

Institute for Economic Forecasting



## Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA (Polk County)

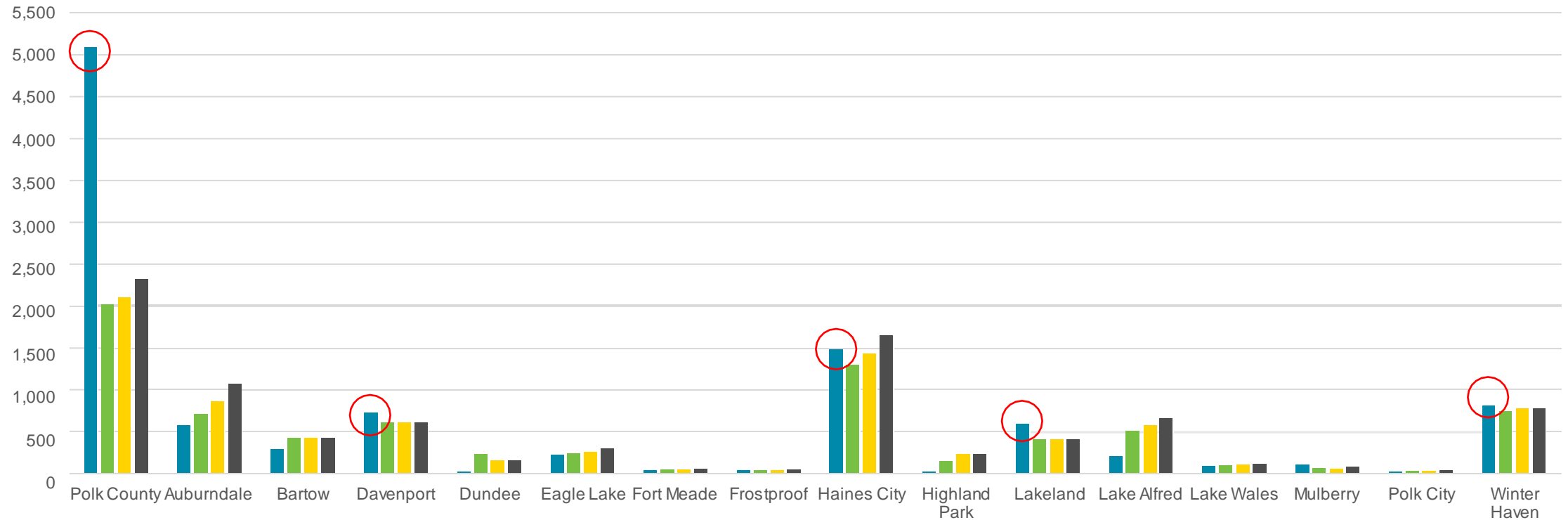
|                           | January 2022 | January 2023 | Percent change |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Closed Sales              | 976          | 716          | -26.6%         |
| Median Sale Price         | \$310,000    | \$324,900    | 4.8%           |
| Median Days on Market     | 11           | 37           | 236.4%         |
| Inventory (Months Supply) | 0.9          | 2.7          | 200.0%         |

\*Sean Snaith, Ph.D., UCF Institute for Economic Forecasting



# Single-Family Residential Building Permits

Includes townhomes and duplexes

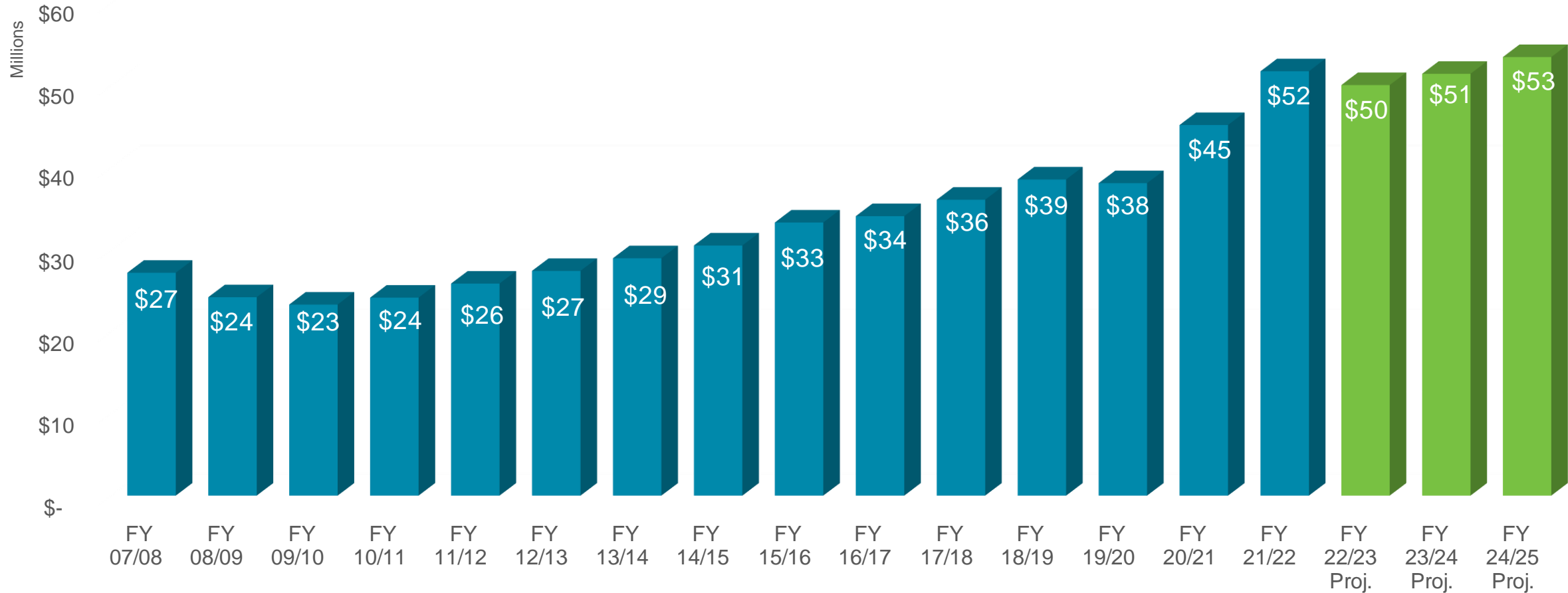


\* Lake Hamilton is built out

■ FY21/22 ■ FY22/23 ■ FY23/24 Proj. ■ FY24/25 Proj.



# Projected Sales Tax







# Challenges And Actions





# Affordable Housing

## Multi-Family Development

| HOME ARP   |                     | Awarded            | Total Units | HOME Units |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| Shag Grove Manor Apts – Winter Haven Housing Authority | \$27,152,168        | \$2,300,000        | 84          | 11         |
| Blue Sky Communities / Florence Place                  | \$27,102,237        | \$2,000,000        | 88          | 11         |
| Blue Sky Communities / Swan Landing                    | \$25,835,534        | \$ 500,000         | 88          | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$80,089,939</b> | <b>\$4,800,000</b> | <b>260</b>  | <b>25</b>  |
| SHIP   |                     | Awarded            | Total Units | SHIP Units |
| Blue Sky Communities / Swan Landing                    | \$25,835,534        | \$ 500,000         | 88          | 3          |
| Green Mills Holdings / Auburn Village                  | \$12,874,265        | \$ 354,000         | 102         | 10         |
| NuJak- Lakeland Housing Authority (pending)            |                     | \$1,000,000        |             |            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$38,709,709</b> | <b>\$1,854,000</b> | <b>190</b>  | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>Total HND Grant Funds</b>                           |                     | <b>\$6,654,000</b> |             | <b>38</b>  |



# Affordable Housing Strategies

## Housing and Neighborhood Development

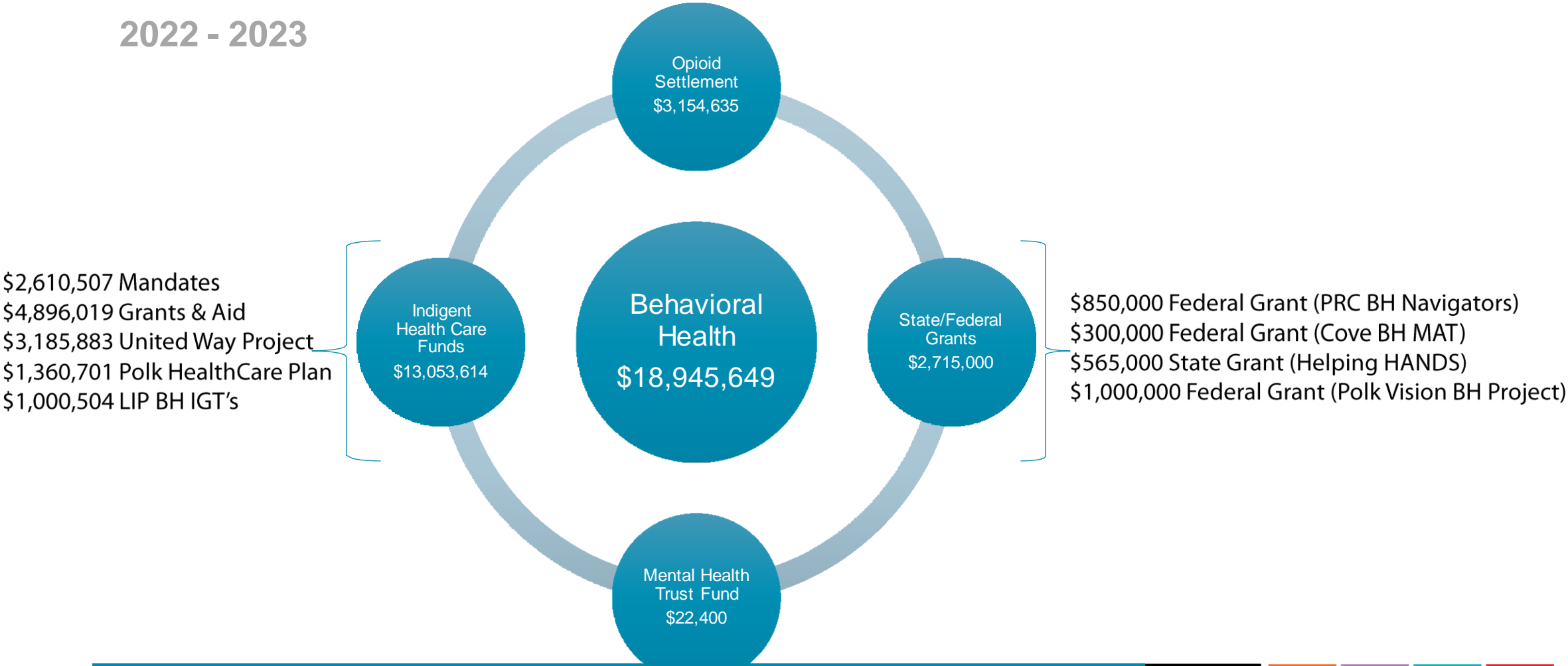
|  | FY 2019/20 |                       | FY 2020/21 |                       | FY 2021/22 |                       | Source of Funds |
|--|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
|  | Units      | Expense               | Units      | Expense               | Units      | Expense               |                 |
| Demolition/ Reconstruction                               | 21         | \$2,417,934.72        | 10         | \$1,253,248.80        | 10         | \$1,478,965.30        | HOME/SHIP/CDBG  |
| New Construction   |            |                       |            |                       | 3          | \$511,098.00          | SHIP            |
| Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Minors - \$50,000 or less  | 25         | \$256,801.14          | 30         | \$355,383.71          | 26         | \$404,010.69          | SHIP/CDBG       |
| Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Majors - \$110,000 or less | 1          | \$78,778.04           | 4          | \$246,594.92          | 2          | \$181,312.70          | SHIP/CDBG       |
| Down Payment Assistance                                  | 28         | \$367,000.00          | 42         | \$643,381.25          | 53         | \$955,504.14          | SHIP            |
| Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)                    | 47         | \$296,517.88          | 50         | \$358,223.81          | 51         | \$375,155.67          | HOME            |
| Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)        | 2          | \$249,478.00          |            |                       | 2          | \$250,000.00          | HOME            |
| SHIP Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)                       | 620        | \$2,918,690.72        | 118        | \$538,755.05          |            |                       | SHIP            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |            | <b>\$6,585,200.50</b> |            | <b>\$3,395,587.54</b> |            | <b>\$4,156,046.50</b> |                 |





# FY 2022/23 Behavioral Health Funding

2022 - 2023



# Opioid Funds

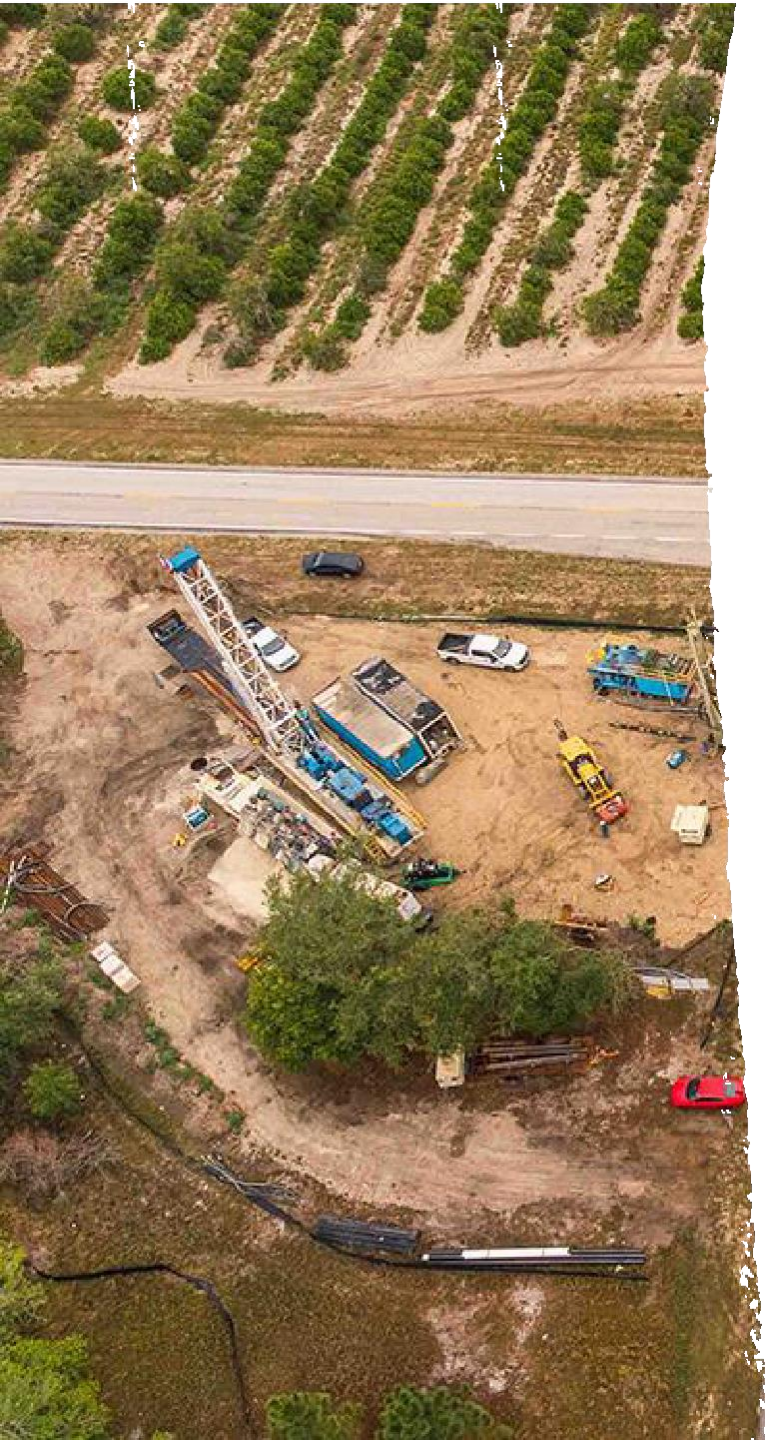


—  
Estimated to receive \$30 million over the next 18 years

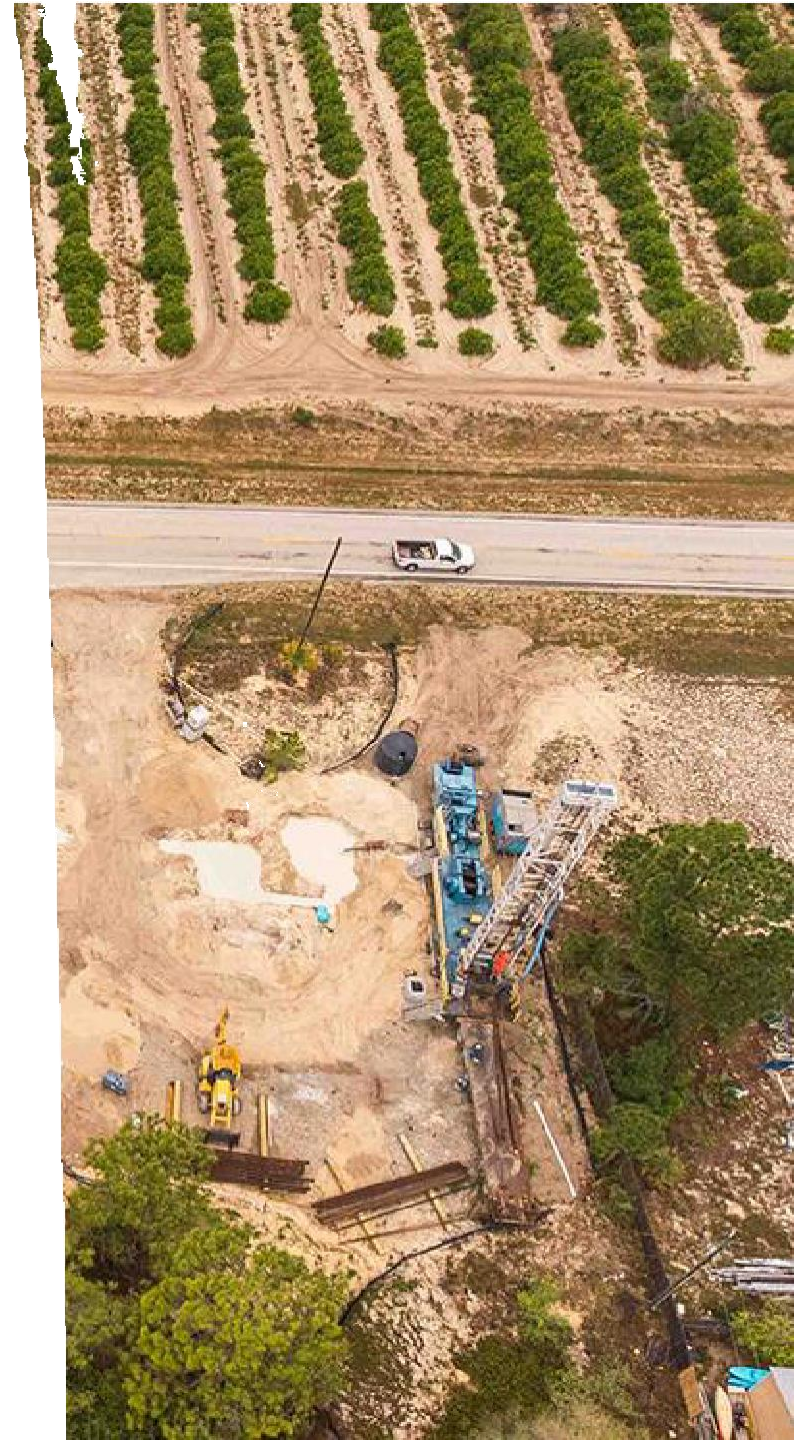
## Success:

- One of the first counties in Florida to convene an Opioid Task Force in early 2020
- Task Force, comprised of 15 local & state stakeholders
- Initial settlement payment of \$396,030 was recently received





# **Alternative Water Supply**



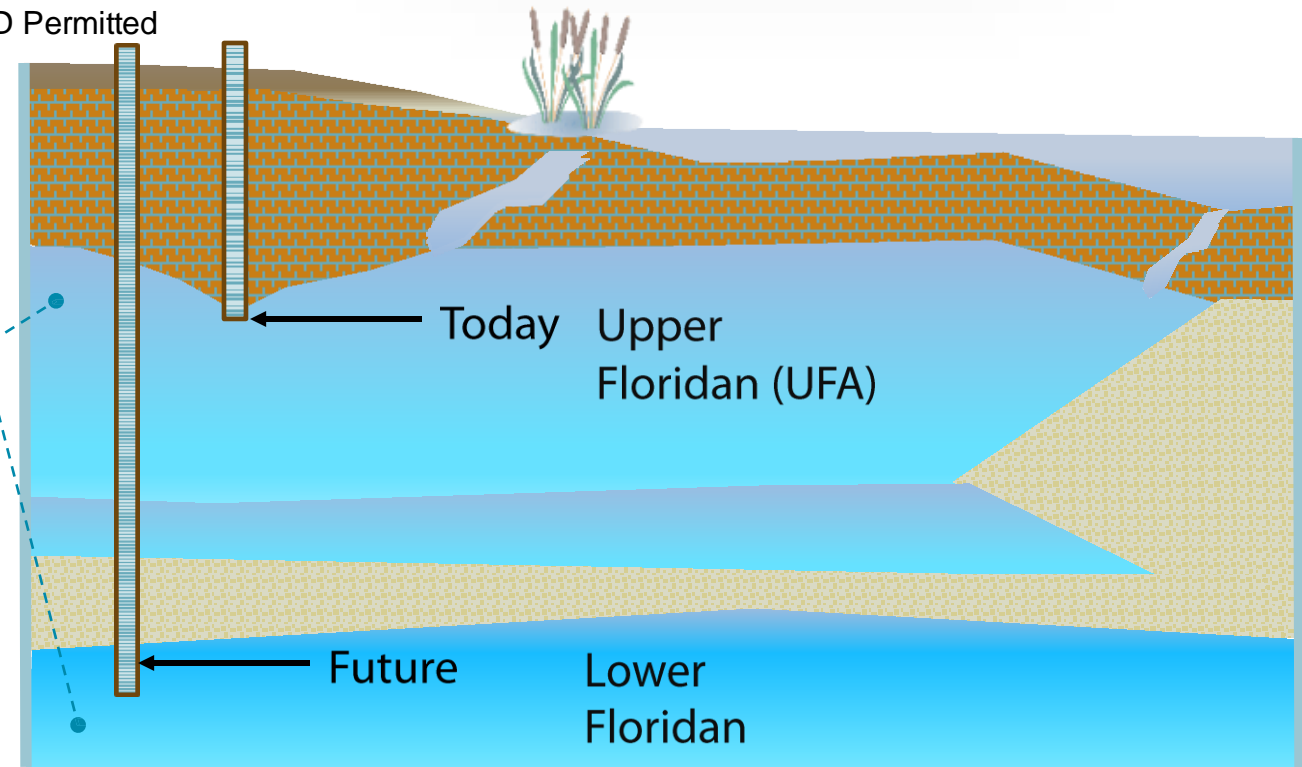
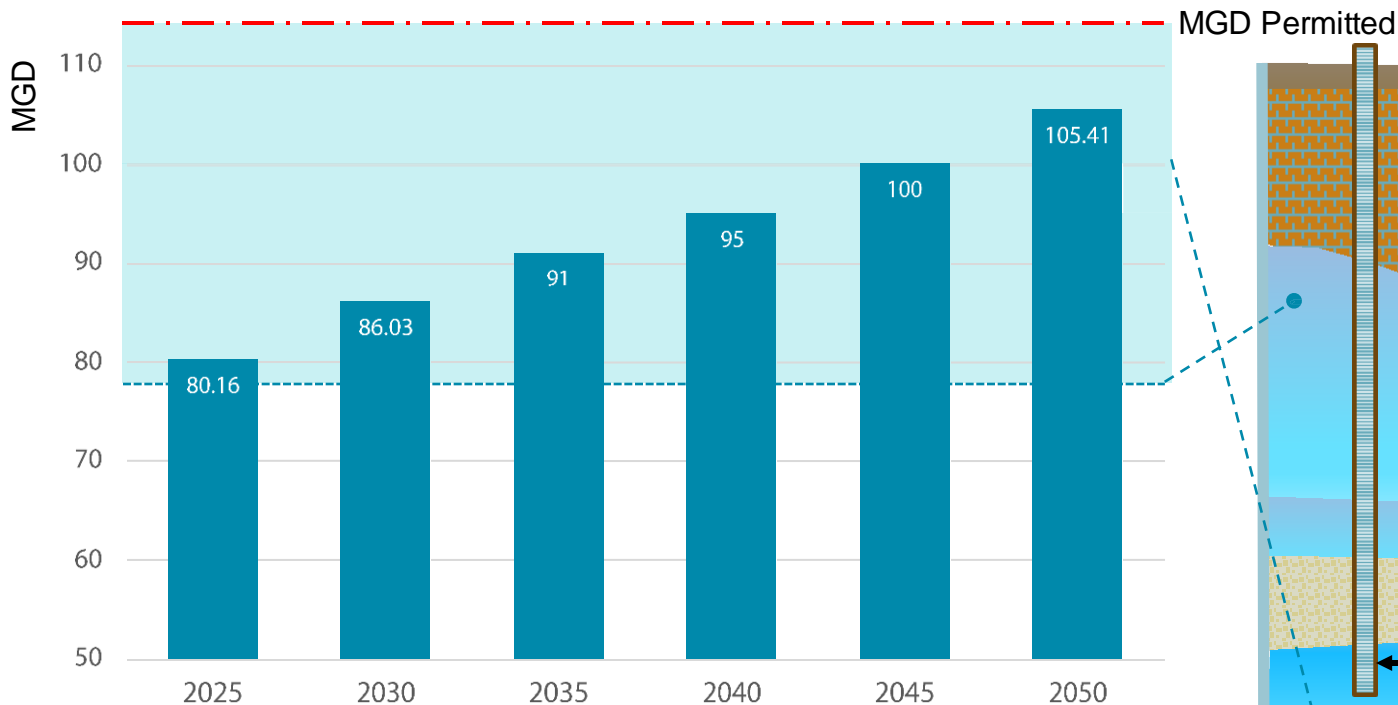




# Water Challenge

## Projected Water Demand

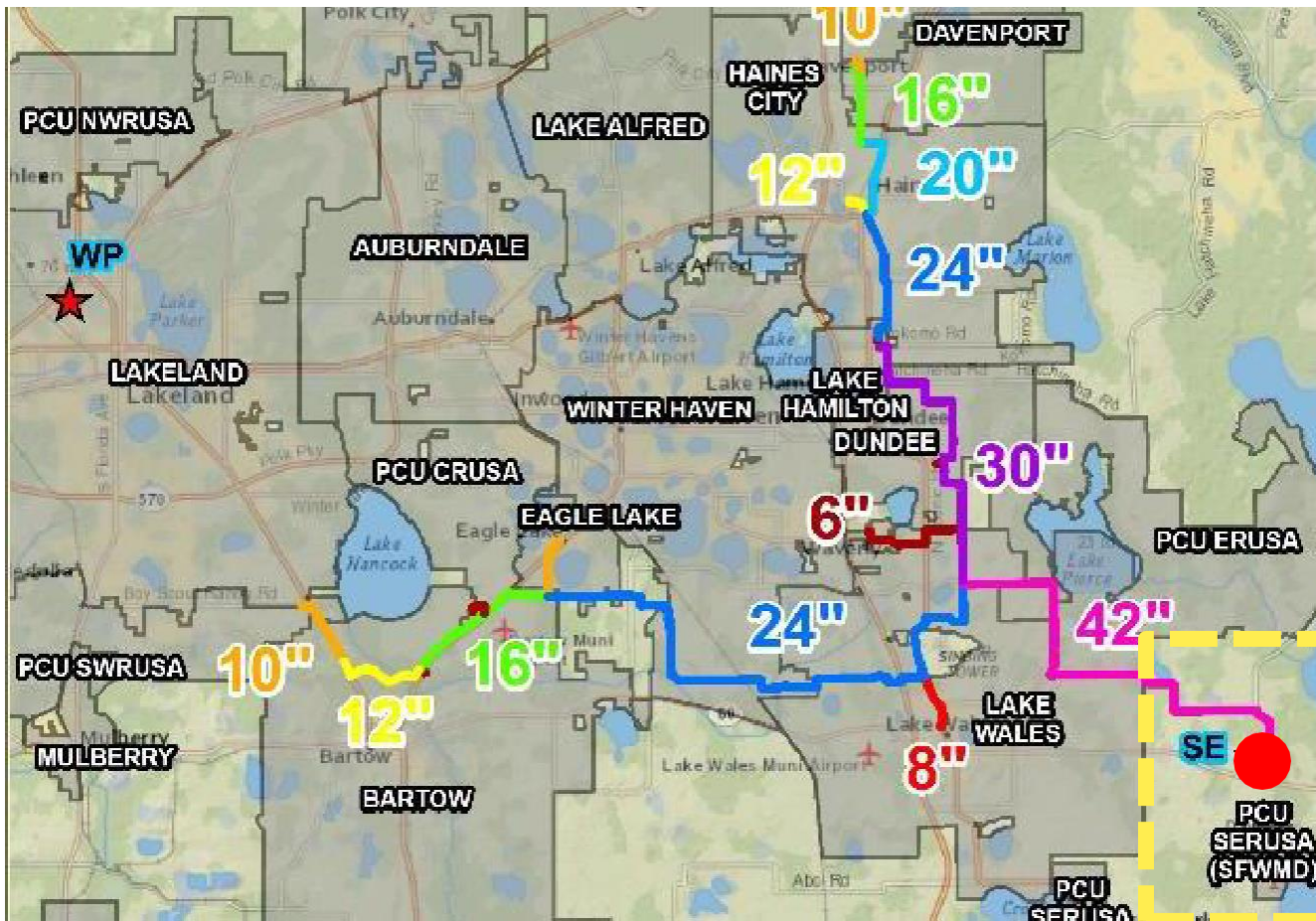
Additional demands  
satisfied by Alternative  
Water Supply will be  
costly





# Southeast Wellfield

Transmission – 15.0 MGD  
Completion – 2026/2027



## 2023

- 60% design submittal
- Injection well construction begins
- Construction manager at risk (CMAR) selected
- Third party operator selection underway



# West Polk Wellfield

Transmission – 15.0 MGD  
Completion – 2028



## 2023

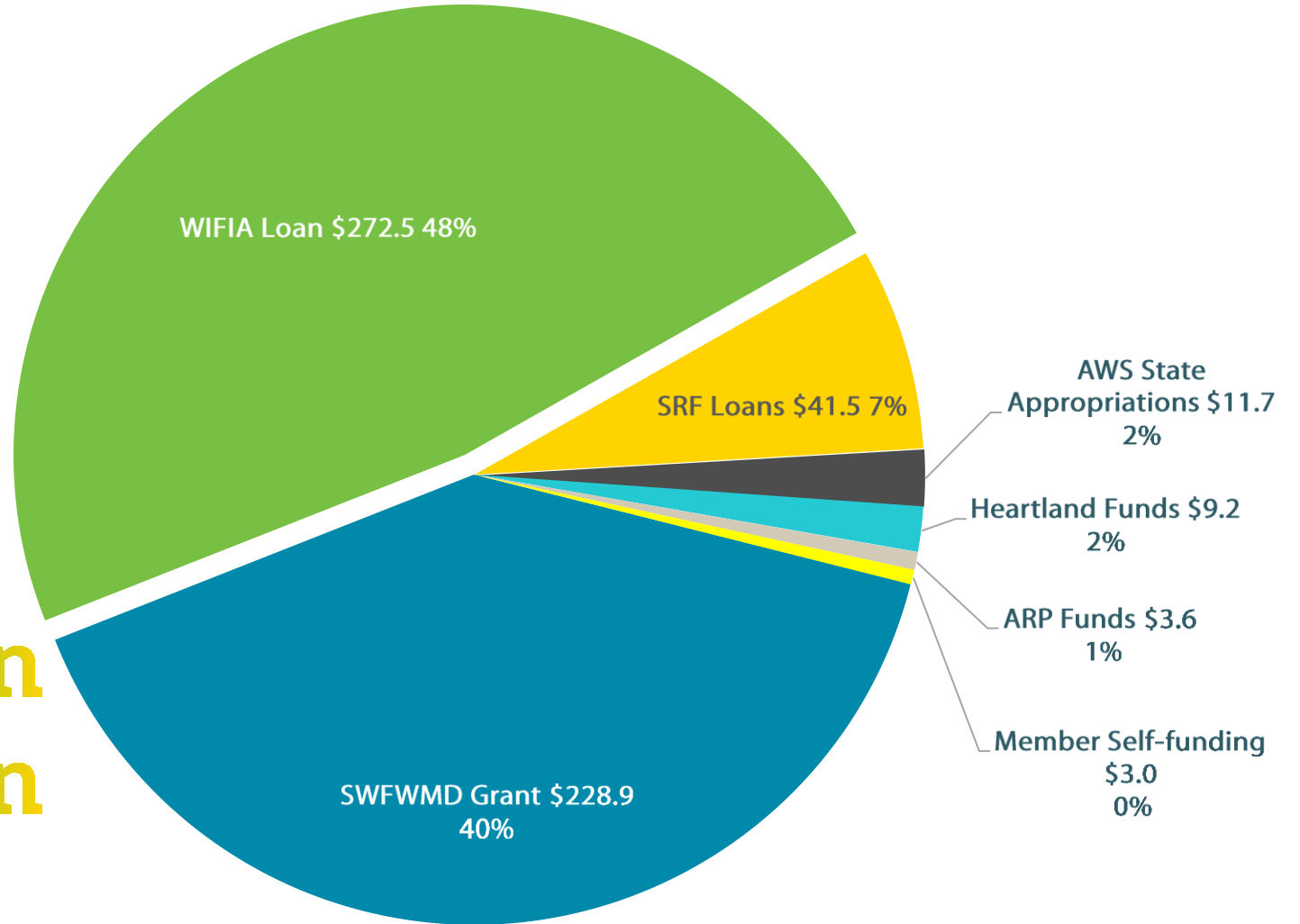
- Water use permit application submitted
- Injection well permit application submitted
- Construction manager at risk (CMAR) selected
- Third party operator selection underway





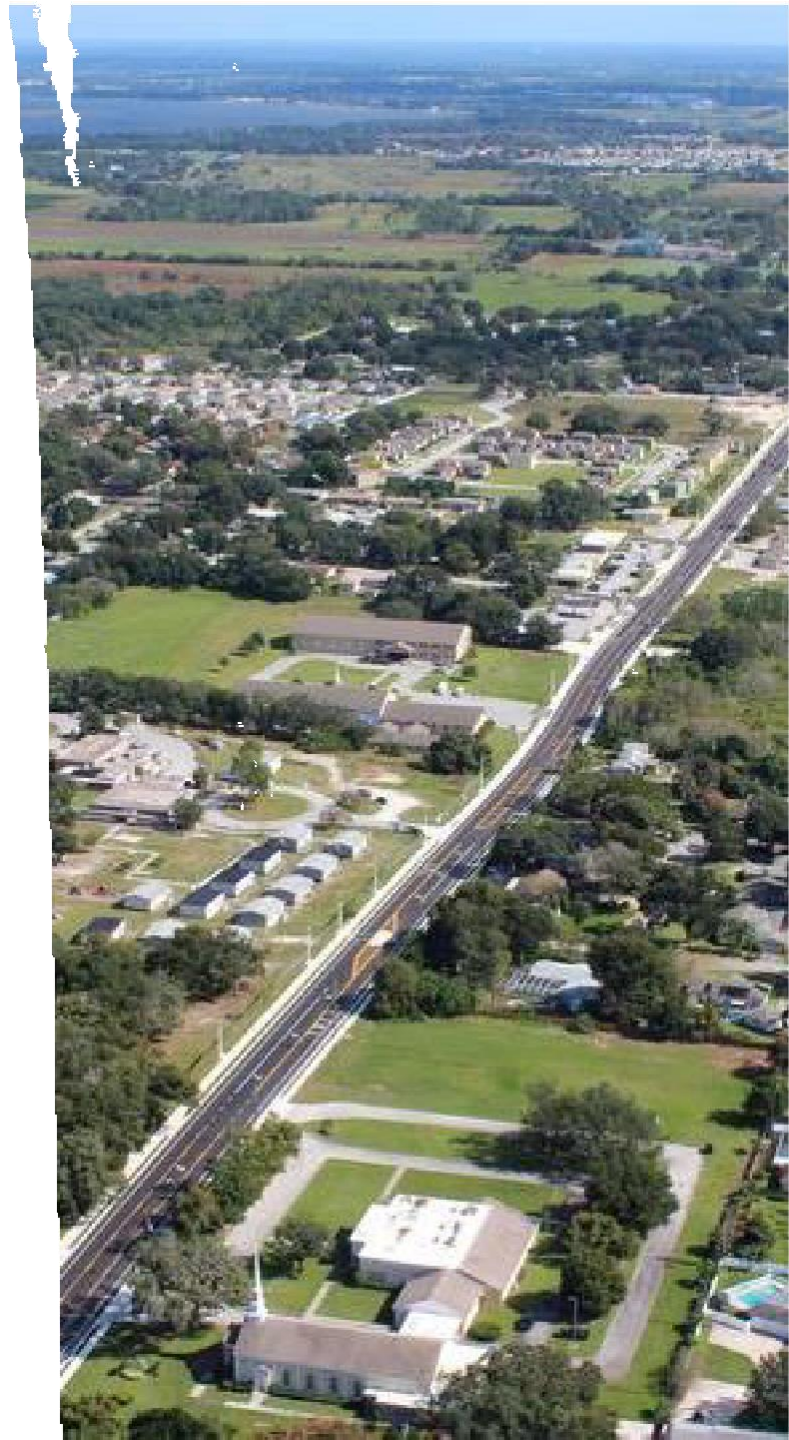
# AWS Funding

Polk = \$100 million  
Total = \$570.4 million





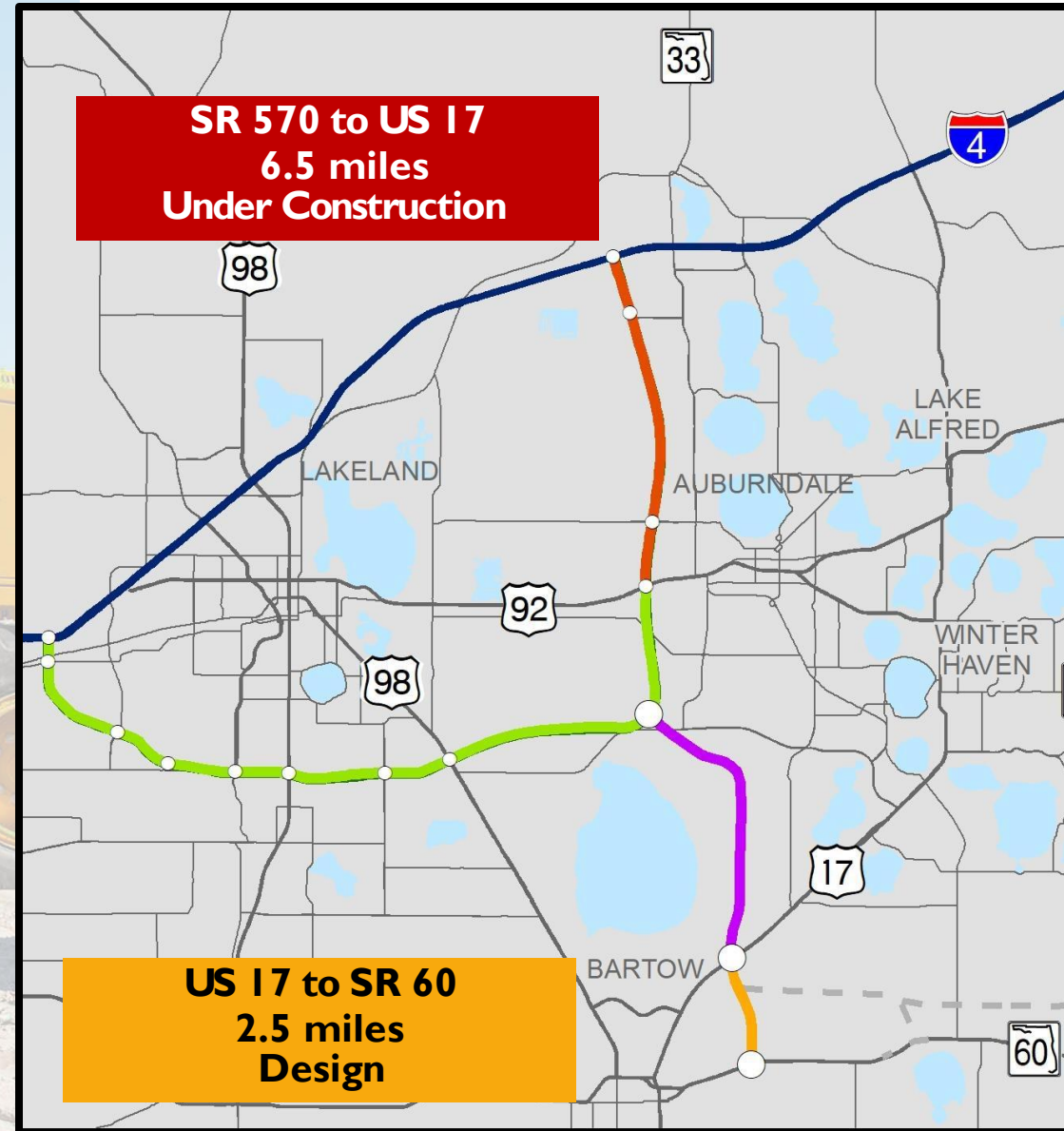
# Transportation







# Central Polk Parkway



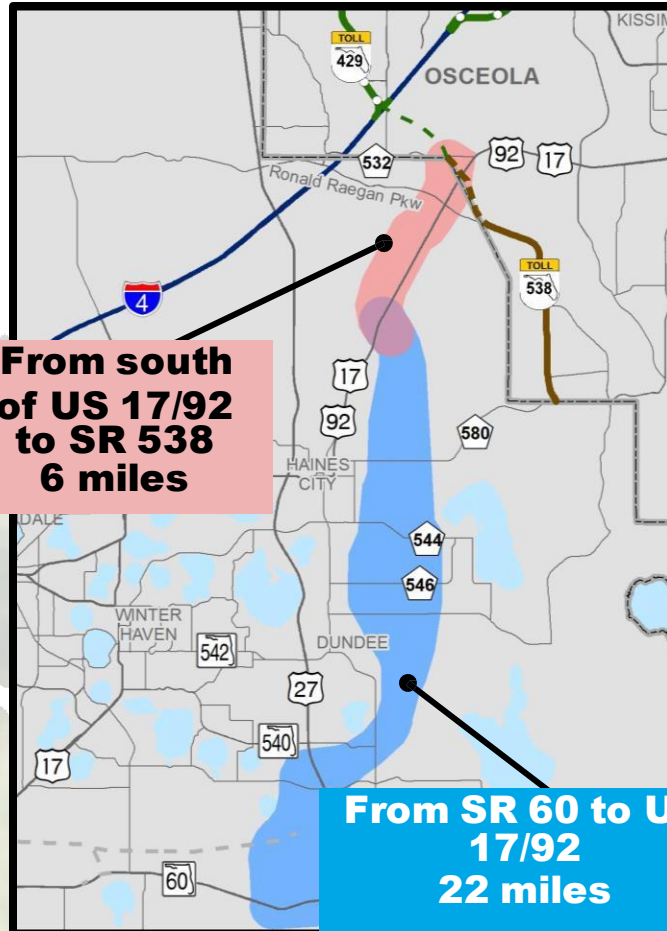




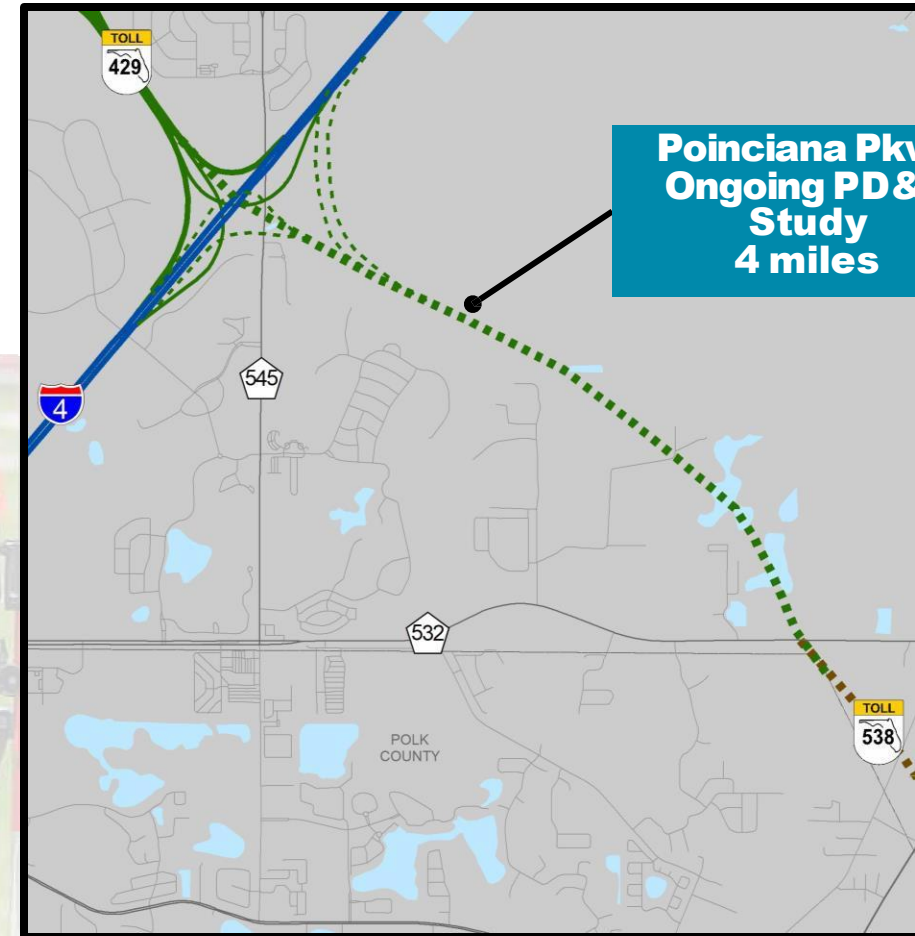
# Florida Turnpike Projects

\$600 million in Polk in next five years

## Central Polk Parkway East



- PD&E Funding: \$19 Million
- Formal Ad: October 2023
- Contract Execution: April 2024



- Public Hearing April 27, 2023
- Design Funding: \$72 Million in FY 2024
- Right-of-way Funding: \$82 Million in FY 2025

# Regional Transportation Initiatives

## Brightline Phase III – Tampa Extension

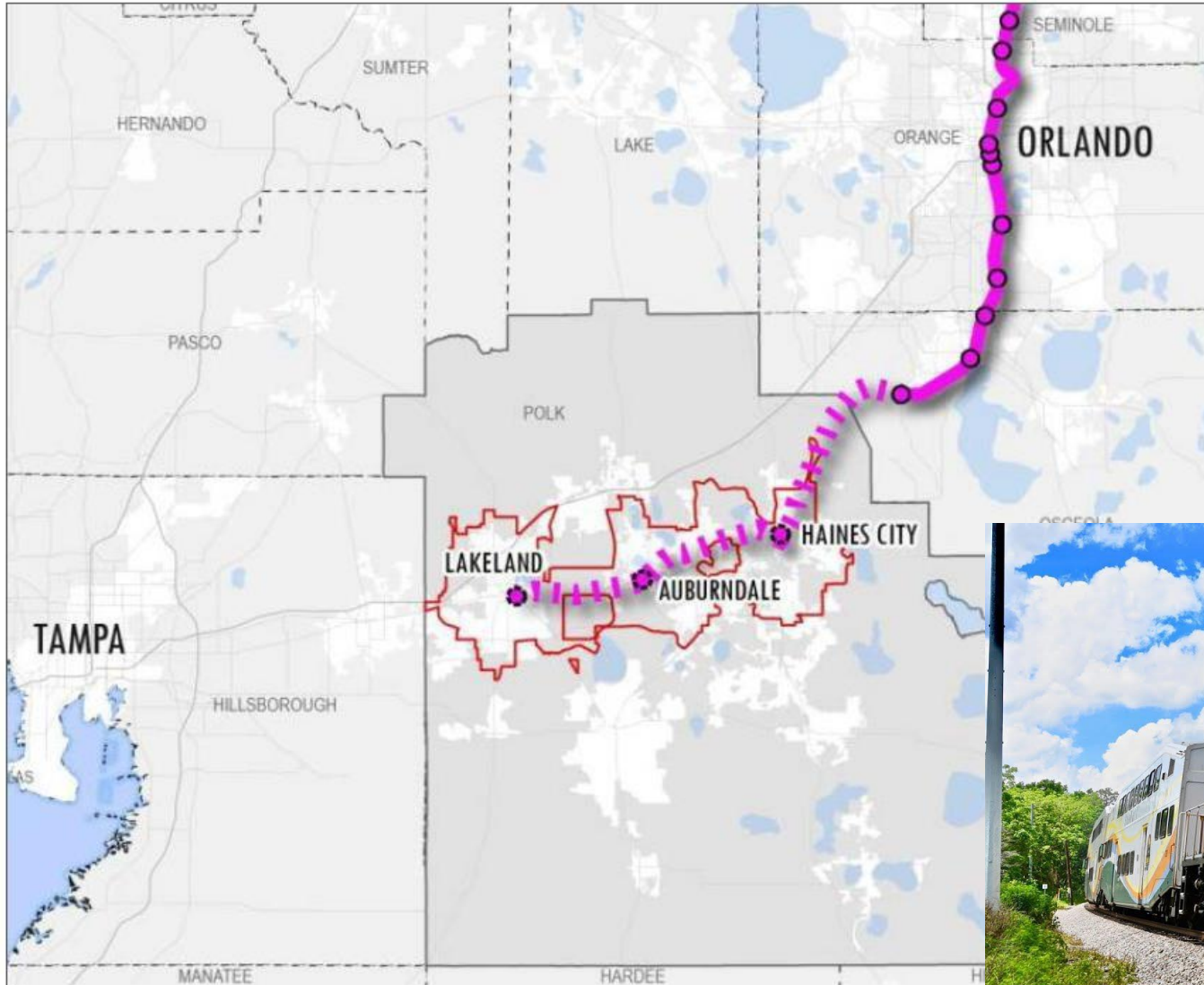






# Regional Transportation Initiatives

Potential SunRail Extension into Polk County





# Transportation

## Lake Wilson Road Road



- Total Budget = \$44 million
- Completion – March 2024

## West Pipkin Road Road



- Total Budget = \$59.2 million
- Completion Date – Fall 2024

## County Road 557 557



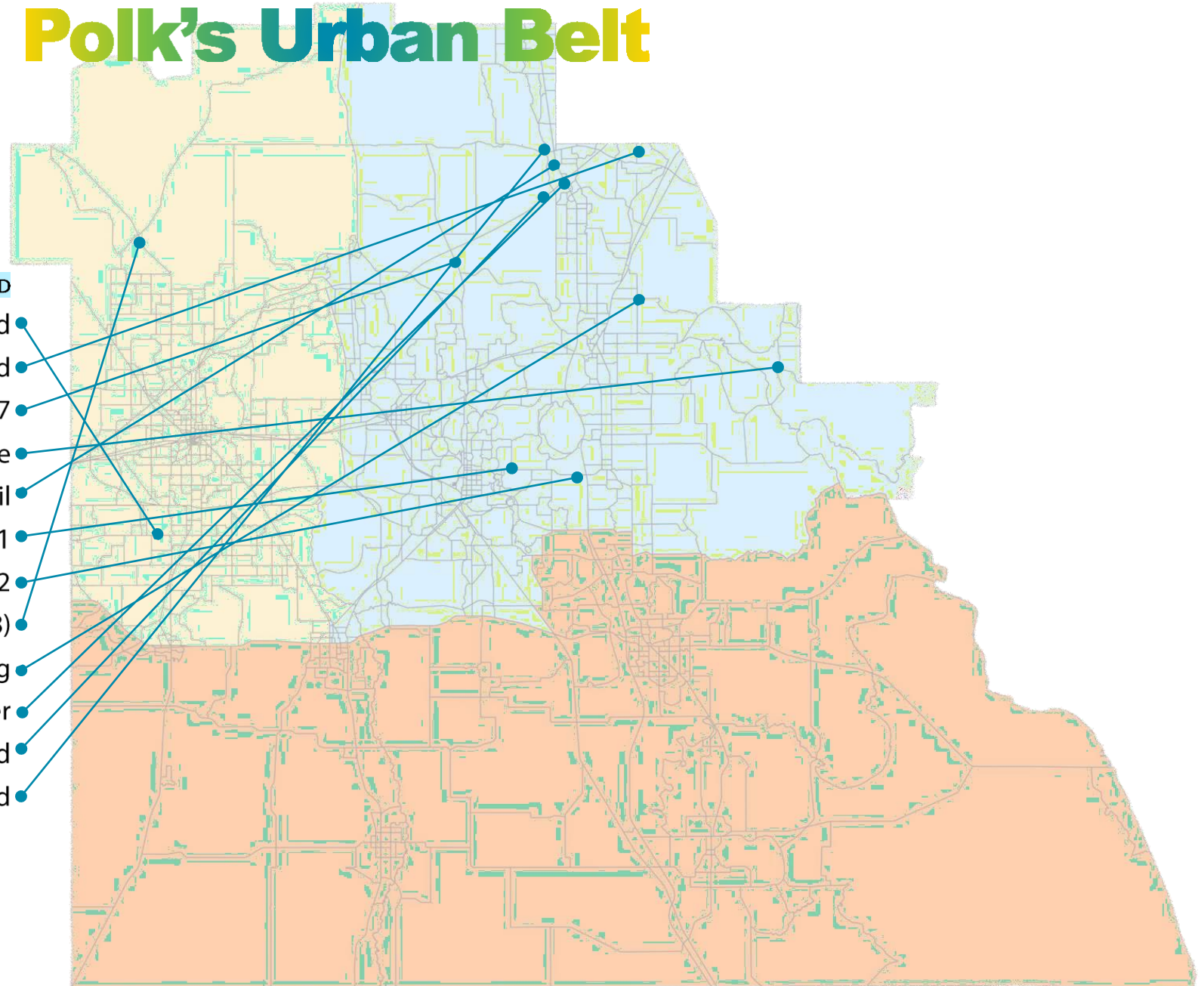
- Total Budget = \$121 million
- Design complete 2023



# Polk's Urban Belt

## ROAD

- West Pipkin Road
- Lake Wilson Road
- County Road 557
- Marigold Avenue
- North Ridge Trail
- Thompson Nursery Road Phase 1
- Thompson Nursery Road Phase 2
- Kathleen Road Extension ( Duff Road to US 98)
- Powerline Road Extension and Widening
- Grandview Parkway Extension Flyover
- FDC Grove Road/Holly Hill Road
- Deen Still/Waverly Barn Road







# Existing and Projected Road Failures\*

— "D" and "F" Levels of Service (LOS)

Centerlane  
Miles

350

300

250

200

150

100

50

0

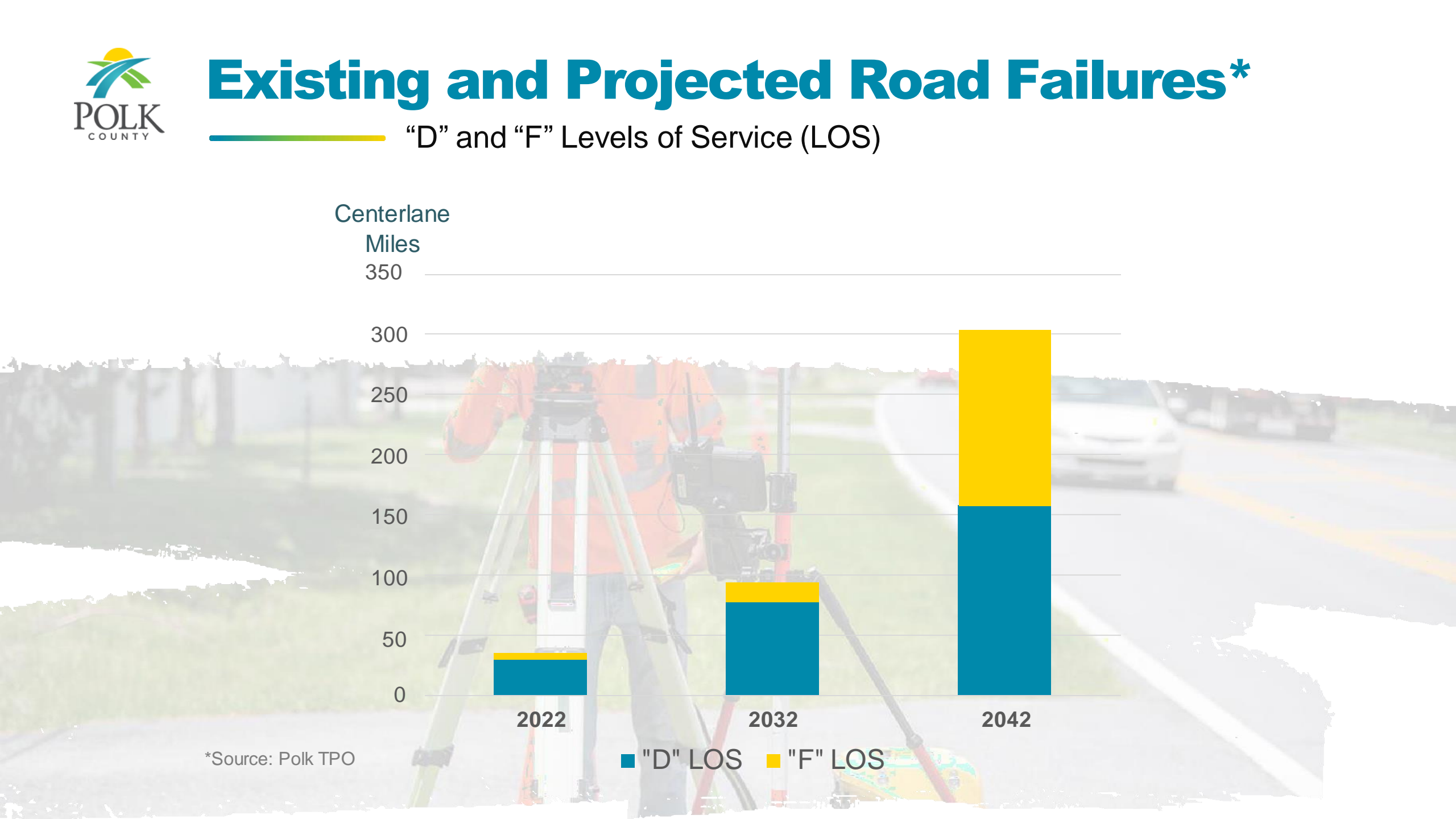
2022

2032

2042

■ "D" LOS ■ "F" LOS

\*Source: Polk TPO



2022

2032

2042



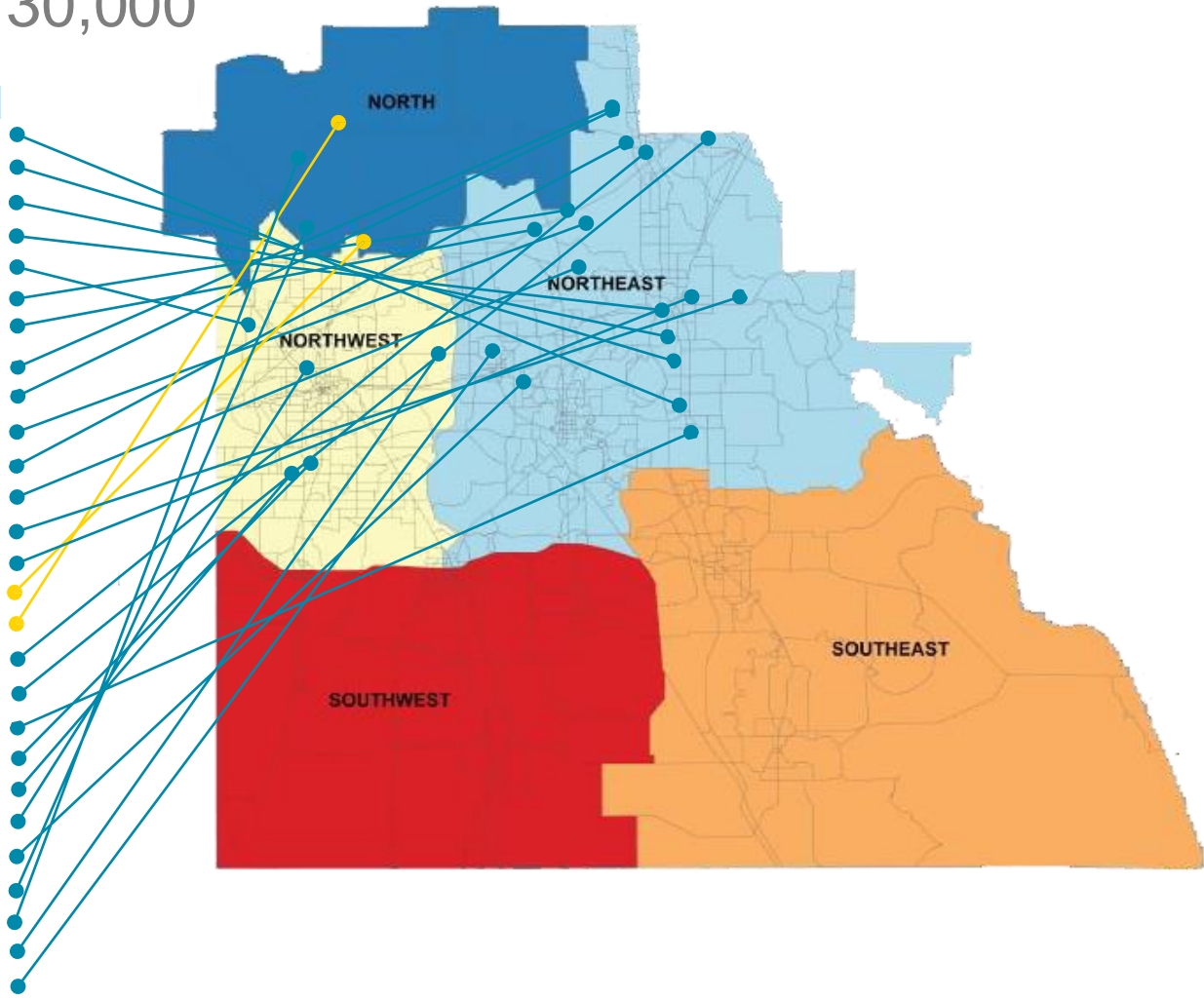


# Unfunded Capacity Projects



Funding Needed = \$1,224,730,000

| PRIORITY | ROAD  | TOTAL       |
|----------|---|-------------|
| 1        | Powerline Road Extension (SR17 Scenic HWY to CR542)             | 56,000,000  |
| 2        | Powerline Road Extension (CR542 to CR544)                       | 45,000,000  |
| 3        | Powerline Road Extension (CR544 to CR580)                       | 26,000,000  |
| 4        | Powerline Road Extension (CR580 to US 17/92)                    | 33,000,000  |
| 5        | Kathleen Road Extension ( Duff Road to US 98)                   | 100,000,000 |
| 6        | Grandview Parkway Extension Flyover                             | 91,000,000  |
| 7        | FDC Grove Road/Northridge Trail Flyover                         | 86,000,000  |
| 8        | Northridge Trail Phase IV (Waverly Barn to Dean Still Road)     | 9,800,000   |
| 9        | Waverly Barn Road (US 27 to 0.5 mile west)                      | 7,360,000   |
| 10       | FDC Grove Road Ext (Patterson Rd US 27 to Ernie Caldwell Blvd)  | 75,000,000  |
| 11       | Dean Still Road (US 27 to 0.5 mile west)                        | 7,410,000   |
| 12       | Holly Hill Extension (Patterson Rd US 27 to Florida Dvlpt Road) | 20,000,000  |
| 13       | CR 580 from Powerline Rd to W Solivita Blvd                     | 78,500,000  |
| 14       | CR 547 West (US 27 to US 17/92)                                 | 11,000,000  |
| 15       | Marcum Rd Extension (US 98 to Green Rd)                         | 11,500,000  |
| 16       | Dean Still Rd Realignment/Ext (US98 to US27)                    | 75,000,000  |
| 17       | CR 547 (ECB to Ronald Reagan Pkwy (CR 54)                       | 68,000,000  |
| 18       | CR 547 West (US 27 to US17/92)                                  | 56,000,000  |
| 19       | CR 17A (Chalet Suzanne Rd) (US 27 to SR 17)                     | 40,000,000  |
| 20       | West Pipken Road 5 Laning (Harden Blvd to SR 37)                | 6,000,000   |
| 21       | Ewell Road (Lunn Rd to SR 37)                                   | 80,000,000  |
| 22       | Wabash Avenue (Ariana Street to US 92)                          | 4,160,000   |
| 23       | Spirit Lake Road (SR 540 to US 17)                              | 74,000,000  |
| 24       | CR 542A (Galloway Road) From 10th Street W to CR 35A            | 32,000,000  |
| 25       | CR 542A (Galloway Road) From US 92 to 10th Street W             | 34,000,000  |
| 26       | CR 546 (Old Dixie Hwy to SR 559/Berkley Rd)                     | 20,000,000  |
| 27       | Spirit Lake Road/42nd/Charlotte Rd (Recker HWY to US 92)        | 78,000,000  |





SATURDAY  
**May 6**  
9 to 11:30 a.m.

200 Government Center Blvd.  
Lake Alfred, FL 33850  
Ribbon Cutting at 9:00 a.m.



# 2023

# State of the County

## Polk County Public Schools

Sara Beth Wyatt, District 4, School Board Chair

Fred Heid, Superintendent



**POLK COUNTY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
STUDENTS FIRST



# Agenda/Topics

- School/District Performance Summary
- District Enrollment/Growth and Demographic Information
- School Staffing Allocation Model
- Academy, Magnet, and Workforce Improvements
- Financial Efficiency Audit
- School/Student Safety Initiatives

## Polk County and Florida Enrollment Trends

- PCPS is now the **seventh largest** school district in Florida, and the **24th largest** school district in the US.
- Our enrollment grew over 7,000 students this year alone, and we now support over 117,000 students.
- Polk's enrollment growth comes at a time when **nationally, public school enrollment has been declining** over consecutive school years.
- Nearly **1.3 million students** have left public schools since the pandemic began, and **most states have seen enrollment declines for two straight years.**



# Demographic Data

Hispanic - 41.1%

Black/African America - 20.3%

White - 34%

Multiracial - 2.7%

Asian - 1.5%

Hawaiian Pacific Islander - 0.2%

American Indian/Alaskan Native - 0.2%

Economically Disadvantaged - 78.8%

Homeless - 2.3%

ELL - 9.7%

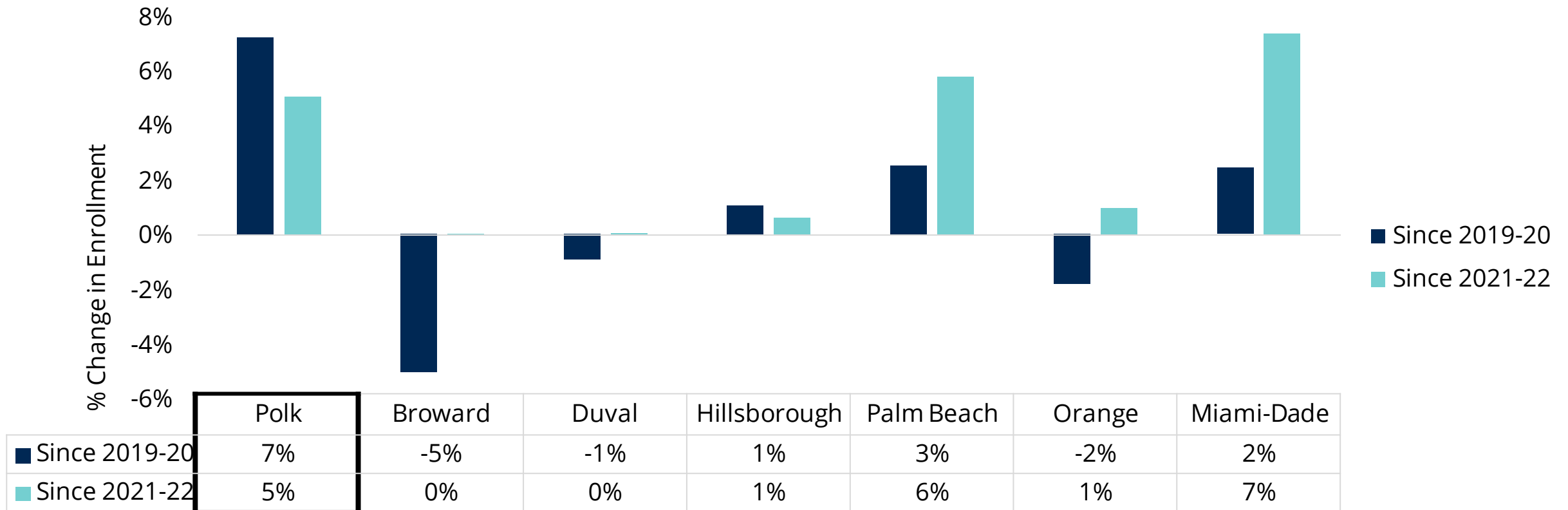
Migrant - 0.6%

Students with Disabilities - 14.7%



# Florida Enrollment Trends

**PCPS has seen the highest percentages of enrollment gains since the pandemic while several districts have still not reached pre-pandemic enrollment numbers.**



# UPDATE: School Staffing Allocation Plan

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# Phased In Approach

## Year 1-2:

- Address disparities between school levels that presently exist and are not in alignment with the newly proposed allocation model.
- Begin transitioning current staff to new roles/titles.
- Address compression that resulted from state-mandated pay scale increases.

## Year 3-4:

- Address existing school counselors, social workers, staffing specialists and school psychologists that are not in alignment with the newly proposed allocation model.
- Address existing front office staff/clerical that are not in alignment with the newly proposed allocation model.



# School Performance Summary

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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Scores

**PCPS was one of only 11 school districts across the state that saw an improvement in 3rd-grade reading proficiency.**

- 6 school districts had no change from a prior year.
- 50 school districts saw a decrease in those at level 3 as compared to the prior year.
- Overall, the state saw a decrease in those at level 3 as compared to the prior year.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading

**Fifty (or 60%) of 84 eligible elementary schools saw a decline in the number of students reading at level 1.**

- 12 schools had a double-digit decrease.
- 11 schools saw a 5-9% point decrease.

**Forty (or 48%) of 84 eligible elementary schools saw an improvement in the number of students reading at level 3.**

- 15 schools had a double-digit increase.
- 13 schools saw a 5-9% point increase.
- 6 schools had no change.



# Two Year School Grades Comparison

|         | School Grades |     |      |      |     |
|---------|---------------|-----|------|------|-----|
|         | A             | B   | C    | D    | F   |
| 2020-21 | 3             | 7   | 43   | 42   | 8   |
| 2021-22 | 7             | 12  | 63   | 18   | 1   |
| Change  | + 4           | + 5 | + 20 | - 24 | - 7 |

# Academy and Magnet Program Improvements

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# Academy Programs

- Expanding existing high-interest/high-demand programs (e.g., CFAA)
- Creating new programs with aligned partnerships
  - Air Traffic Control
  - LPN
  - Medical Assistant
  - Network IT
  - Network Security
  - High School Civics
  - Hospitality
- Creating accountability for academy programs (NEW A.I.P.)



# Magnet Schools

## Successfully Awarded Magnet Schools Assistance Grant

“The Magnet Schools Assistance program provides grants to eligible local educational agencies to establish and operate magnet schools that are operated under a court-ordered or federally approved voluntary desegregation plan. These grants assist in the desegregation of public schools by supporting the elimination, reduction, and prevention of minority group isolation in elementary and secondary schools with substantial numbers of minority group students. In order to meet the statutory purposes of the program, projects also must support the development and implementation of magnet schools that assist in the achievement of systemic reforms and provide all students with the opportunity to meet challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards.” *(Office of Elementary And Secondary Education, 2022)*

# MSAP Grant Award

Approximately \$6.2M was awarded for year one.

## Targets

- Fred G. Garner - STEM/Polytech
- James E. Stephens - IB
- Rosabelle W. Blake Academy - Cambridge
- Bethune Academy - Cambridge
- Daniel Jenkins Academy - Cambridge

# Workforce Development

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# Workforce Enhancements

- Paid internships/externships
- More explicit and direct partnerships
- Feeder/pipeline program development
- Aligning capstone projects to partner with core focus areas and needs

# Finance

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# Path Forward - Optimization

1

## Gradual Optimization

Without some level of optimization, the district will continue to face funding struggles due to current growth and enrollment patterns. Thus, this path should be initiated first.

*For this initiative, PCPS has already begun considering:*

- Strategies to mitigate moving students into schools with worse outcomes to avoid a decline in academic achievement/pushback
- Creating a public relations campaign to build a positive narrative around rezoning to attract community buy-in through conducting surveys and polls with families, staff, and community members.

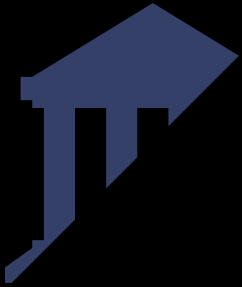
# New Initiatives to Maximize ROI

- Vehicle lease program
- Building lease to own (cost neutral, no impact on debt service, no impact on bond rating)
- Restructuring bond debt (estimated savings of \$200k per year)
- Contract elimination (\$7M over the 21-23 school years)
- Grant funds received (competitive grants to date ... \$66M)
- Improving the Overall Fund Balance (now at 9-10%)
- PreK Collaborative Partnership (being negotiated)



# Path Forward - State Funding

2



## State Funding

It is in the best interest of the district to appeal for further funding to address the mismatch that currently exists with other districts. Thus, we recommend appealing for state funding as a secondary measure.

*For this initiative, PCPS has already begun considering:*

- Pushing for the funds and appropriations that would be achieved by updating the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) calculation and incorporating Senate Proposed Bill 2502
- Methods of advocating for dollars that would better situate the district against others

# Proposed Senate Bill 2502

On March 23, 2023, the Florida State Senate proposed to incorporate SB 2502: Implementing the 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act.

## ***If passed, this bill would:***

- Incorporate by reference certain calculations of the Florida Education Finance Program
- Revise the limitation on enrollment of full-time equivalent virtual students residing outside of school districts
- Authorize school districts to adopt specified salary incentives and other strategies under certain circumstances

If this passes, PCPS would receive \$30-60 million more dollars in funding

# Efficiency Audit

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# Project Goal

The overall goal of this project was to **review** and improve on the existing efforts of Polk County Public Schools to **prepare students academically, support educators and steward public resources.**

To do that, we will conduct a **detailed analysis** and **organizational review** on effectiveness. This review will identify **best practices, potential efficiencies** and **high impact strategies.**

Committee consists of one district representative and 35 community-based leaders.



# Efficiency Review Findings

Kitamba was brought on to determine how Polk compared to other districts in terms for efficiency and expenditure on learning. Ultimately, their investigation found:

1

Overall, **PCPS is efficient in its spending** and is actually **spending less on classrooms than comparable districts**. Thus, there is about a \$30M deficit to make up to increase student outcomes.

2

Where PCPS is **inefficiently** allocated is in **building utilization rate**. Moving forward, the district needs to focus on **optimizing students in buildings** and the related buckets of staffing, facilities, bus routes, etc.

3

If PCPS optimizes at a sustainable rate, it will **likely recoup \$15-20 M over the next ten years**. This should be the first action taken and monitored to put money back into classrooms.

4

If a rezoning process does not allow PCPS to recoup the funding necessary to close the gap, the district should **ask the state** for additional funding. If that falls through, they should **make an appeal for local funding**.

# Renewed Focus for 2023-24 and Beyond

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# Priorities

- Maintaining Strong Workforce
- Maximizing Operational Efficiencies
- Improving School Staffing
- Undergoing Comprehensive Rezoning for K-12
- Maximizing Community Partnerships
- Expanding Early College Options
- Ensuring Student Safety



# Contact Information

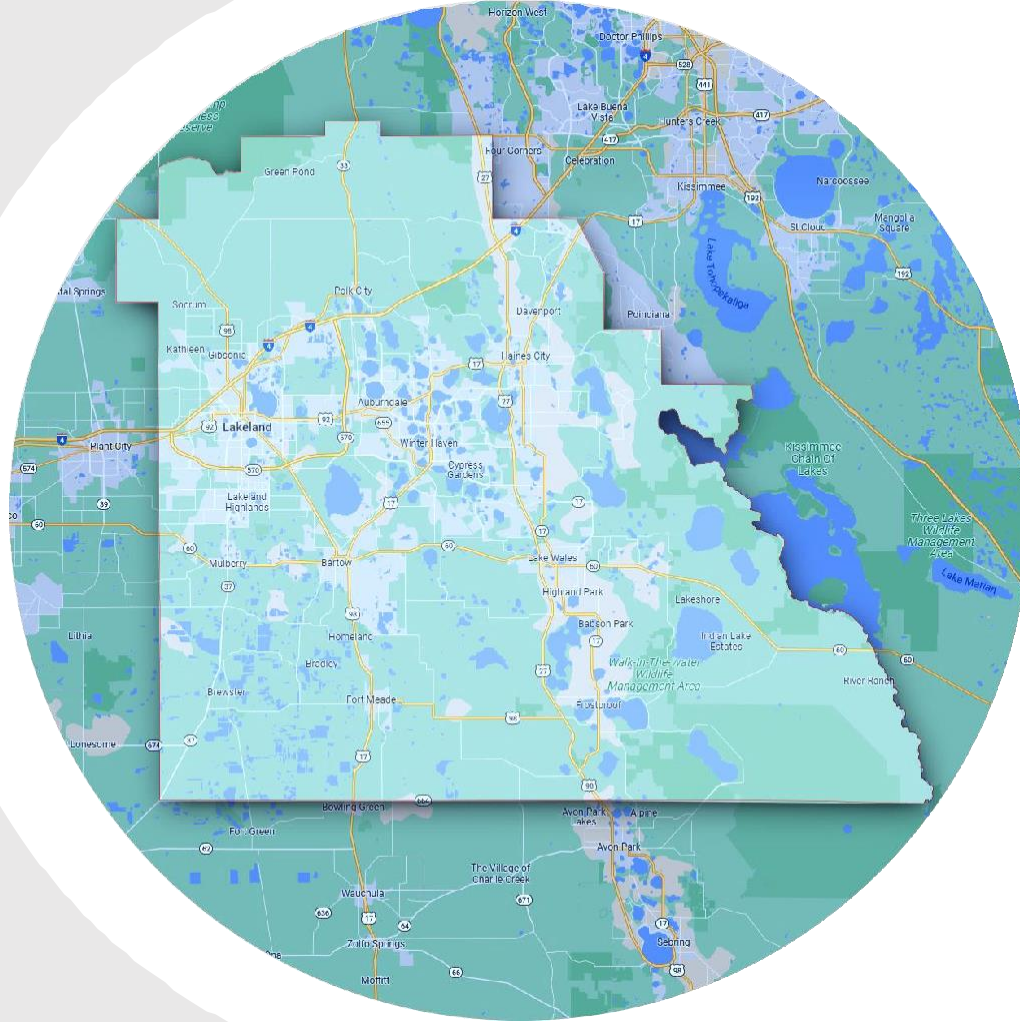
Sara Beth Wyatt, School Board Chair

[SaraBeth.Wyatt@Polk-FL.net](mailto:SaraBeth.Wyatt@Polk-FL.net)

Frederick R. Heid, Superintendent

[Frederick.Heid@Polk-FL.net](mailto:Frederick.Heid@Polk-FL.net)





# 2023 STATE OF THE COUNTY: HEALTH STATUS OF POLK

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JOY JACKSON, M.D., DIRECTOR  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN POLK COUNTY

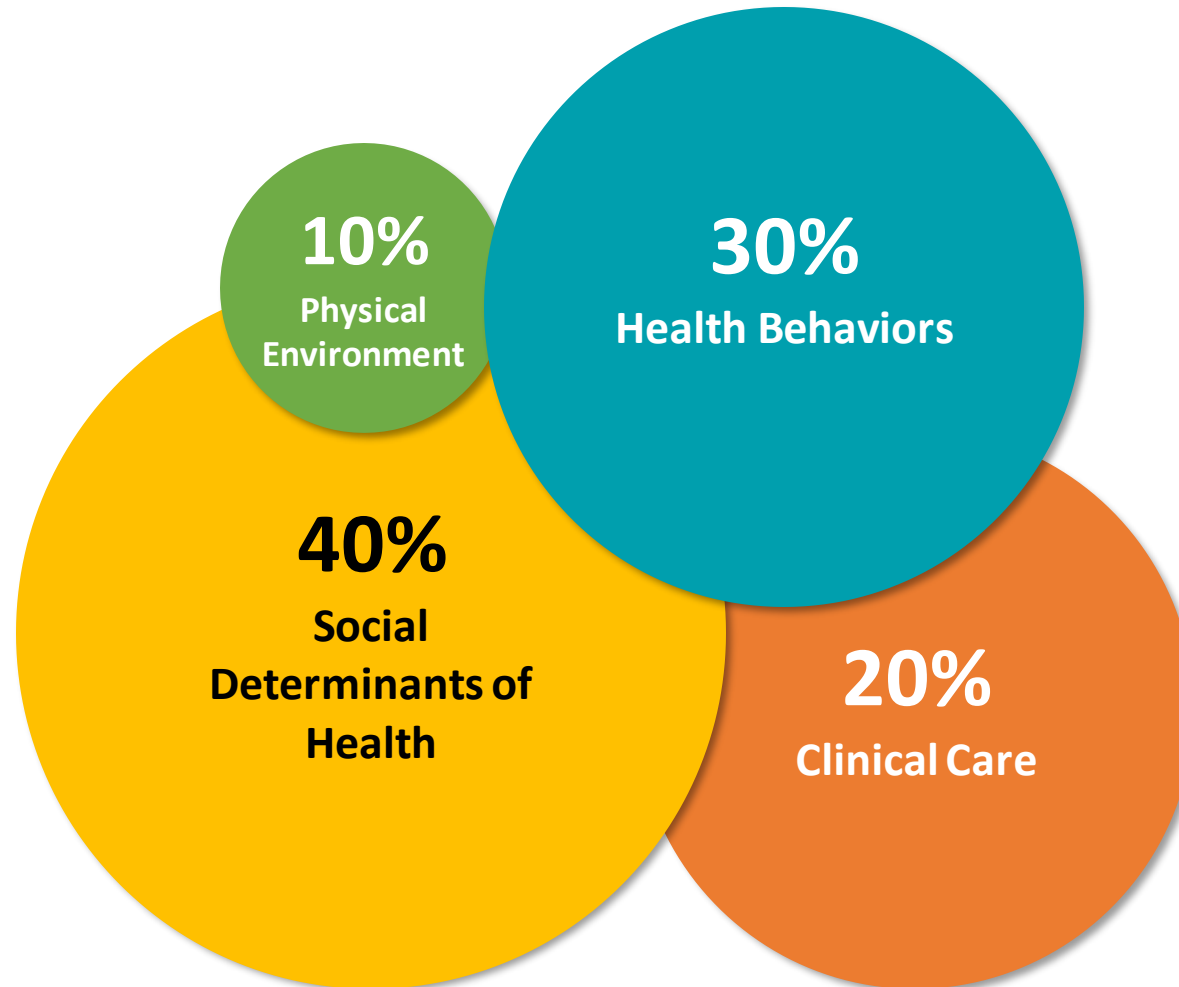
# OVERVIEW

- What impacts our health?
- Population demographics
- Health across the lifespan
- Health issues in Polk
- Local actions

# ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON, COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS AND ROADMAPS - POPULATION HEALTH MODEL

- Health Outcomes
  - Length of life
  - Quality of life
- Health Factors - impact future health
  - Health behaviors
  - Clinical care
  - Social determinants of health – where we live, work, play, socialize impacts our health
  - Physical environment

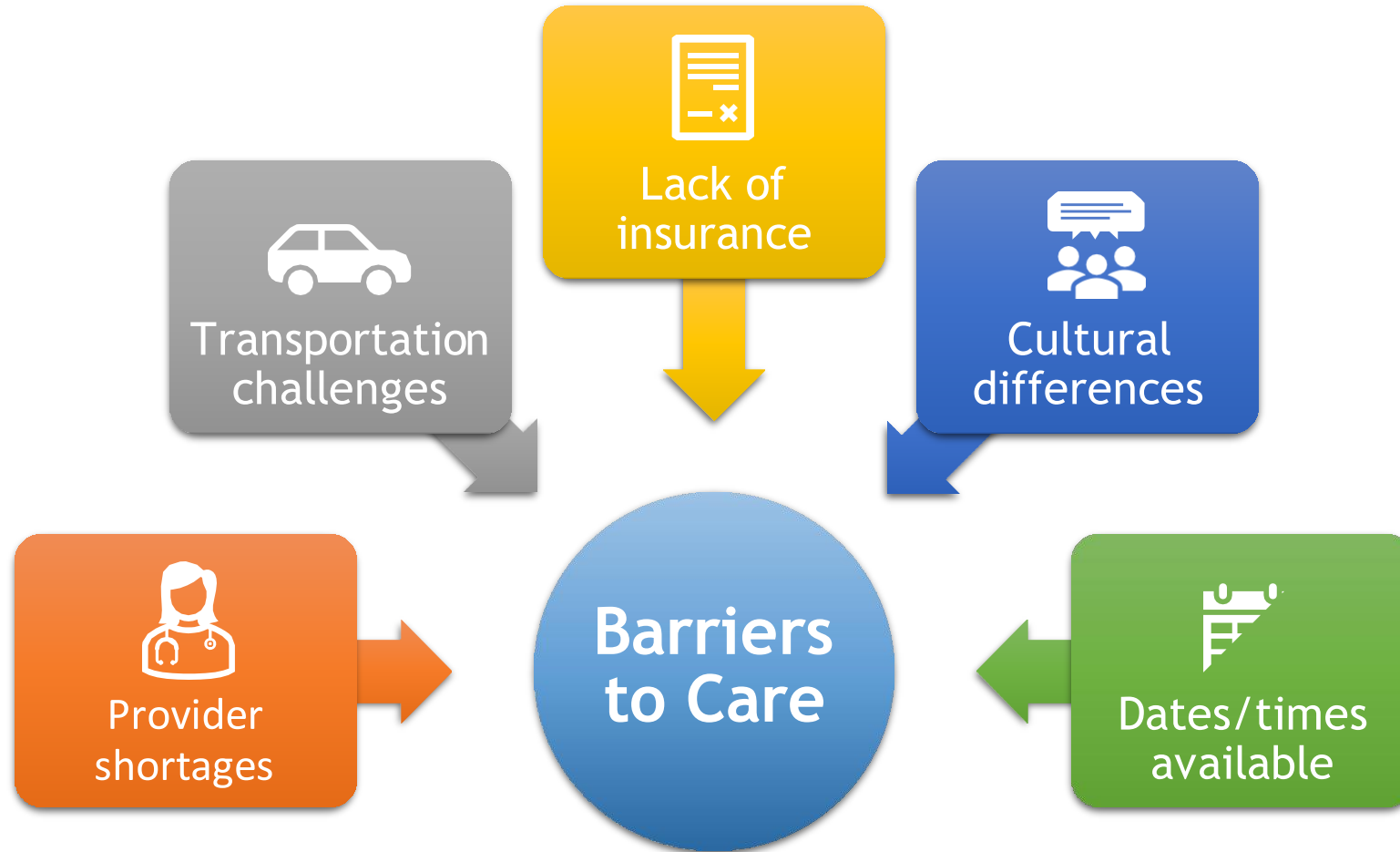
# HEALTH FACTORS THAT IMPACT HEALTH OUTCOMES





# ACCESS TO CARE

**20%**  
Clinical  
Care

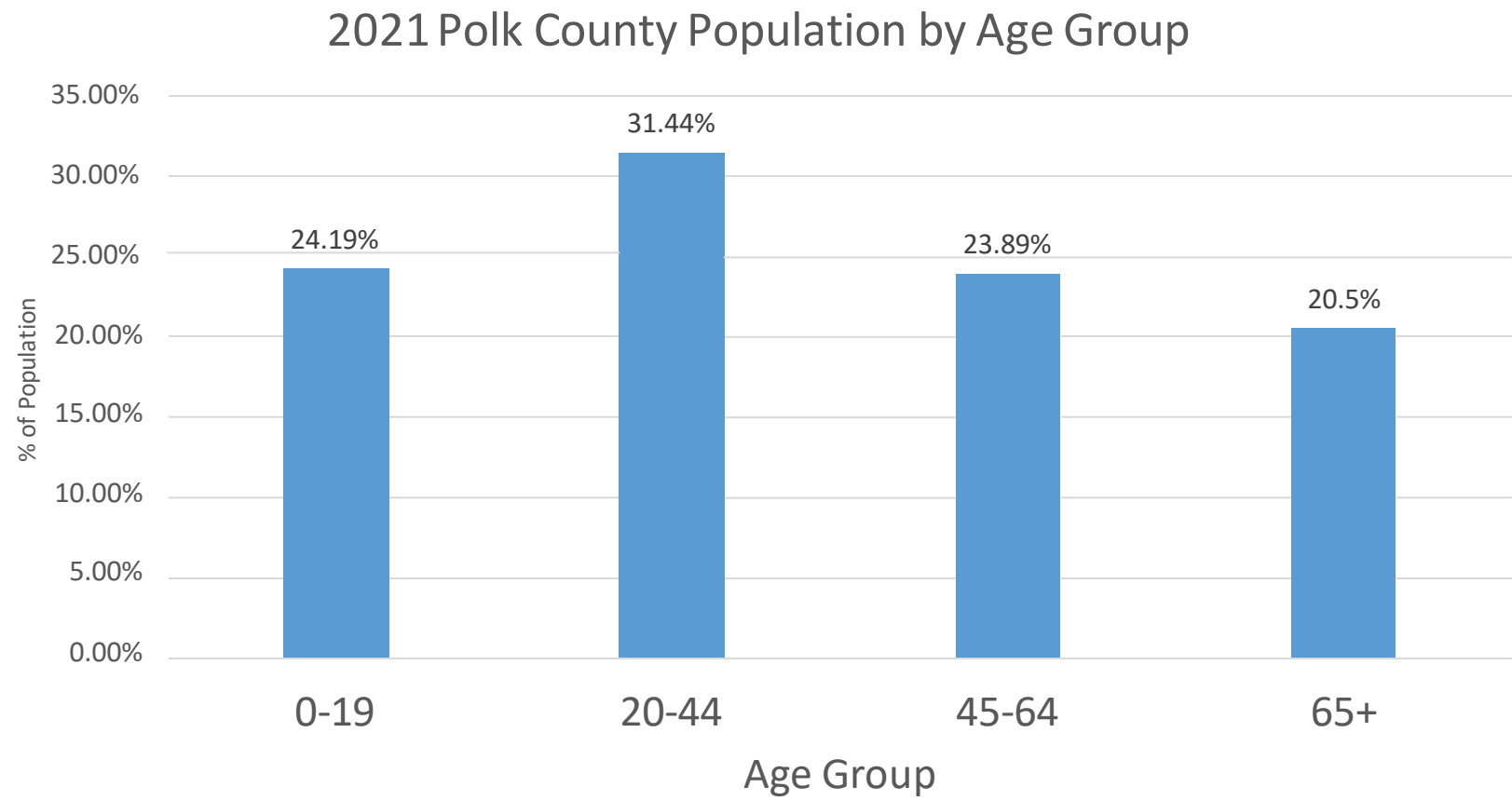


# SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

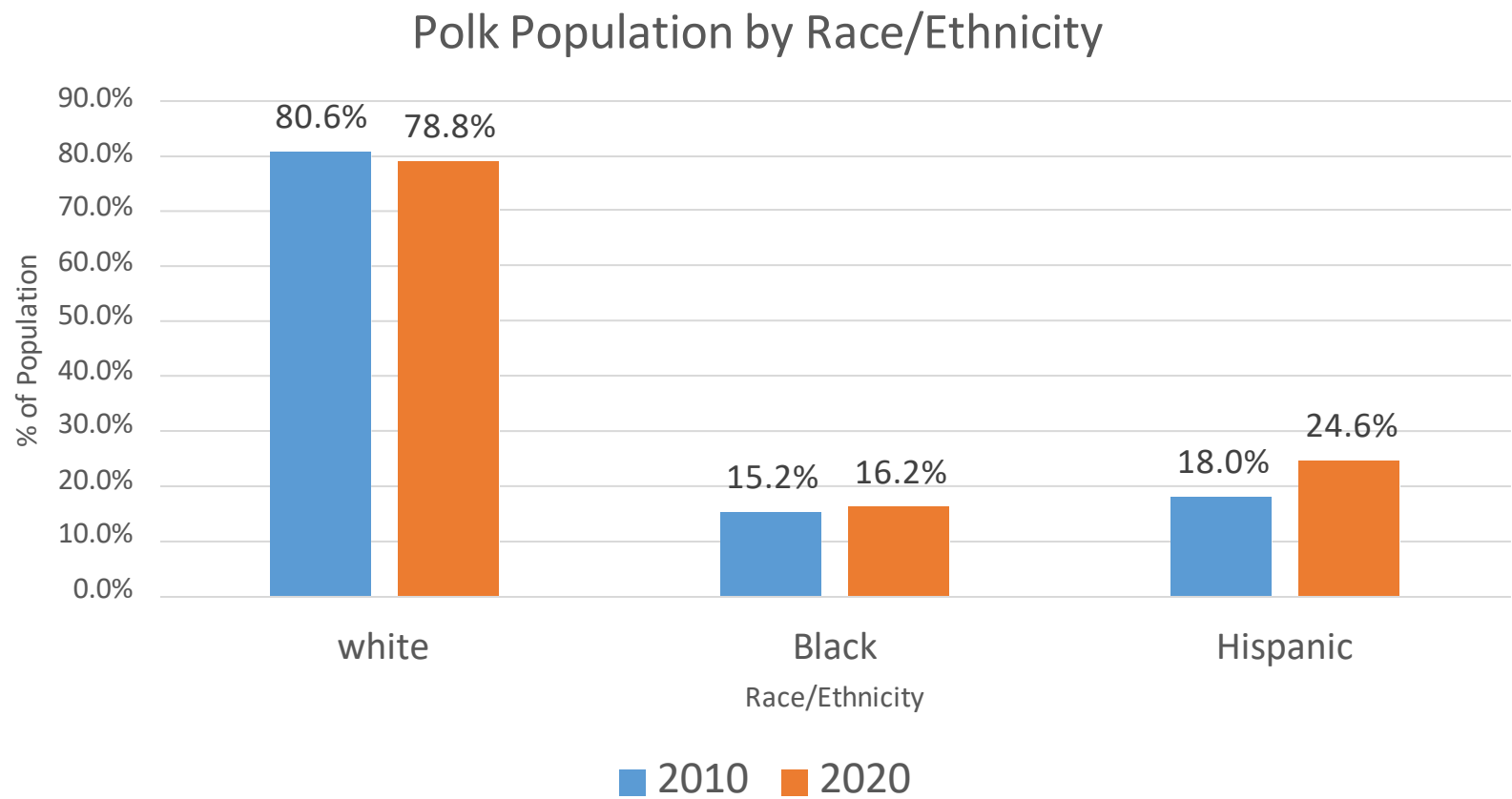
40%  
Social  
Determinants  
of Health



# POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS - AGE



# POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS – RACE & ETHNICITY





# POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

## Education

- 78.3% high school graduation rate
- 30% adults 25+ have associate's degree or higher

## Income

- Median household income \$55,099
  - White: \$58,000, Black: \$42,659

## Housing

- 30% experience housing cost burden

# LIFE EXPECTANCY IN POLK

Overall average life expectancy is 77.4 years in Polk  
(FL 79.4)

| Life Expectancy by Race/Ethnicity |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| White                             | 77.6 |
| Black                             | 75.0 |
| Hispanic                          | 80.0 |
| non-Hispanic                      | 76.8 |

Sources: UMass Donahue Institute and the Florida Legislature  
Office of Economic and Demographic Research. (all accessed via  
FL Health CHARTS)

# INFANTS

## Prenatal Care

- 61.6% of infants born to mothers with adequate prenatal care
- Maternal obesity, hypertension, substance use, and other chronic conditions may go undetected and inadequately treated

## Infant Mortality

- 63 infant deaths in 2021 (rate of 7.4 deaths per 1000 live births)
- Black infants are more than 3x more likely to die before their first birthday than white infants

## Safe Sleep

- Sleep-related suffocation is the leading cause of preventable infant deaths in Polk County

# CHILDREN

## Drowning

- Leading cause of unintentional injury deaths for children ages 1-4

## Foster Care

- 1,216 children ages 0-17 in foster care
- Rate of 755.9 per 100,000 (FL 590.4 per 100,000)

## Poverty

- 18.0% families with children under age 18 living below poverty level (FL 14.8%)

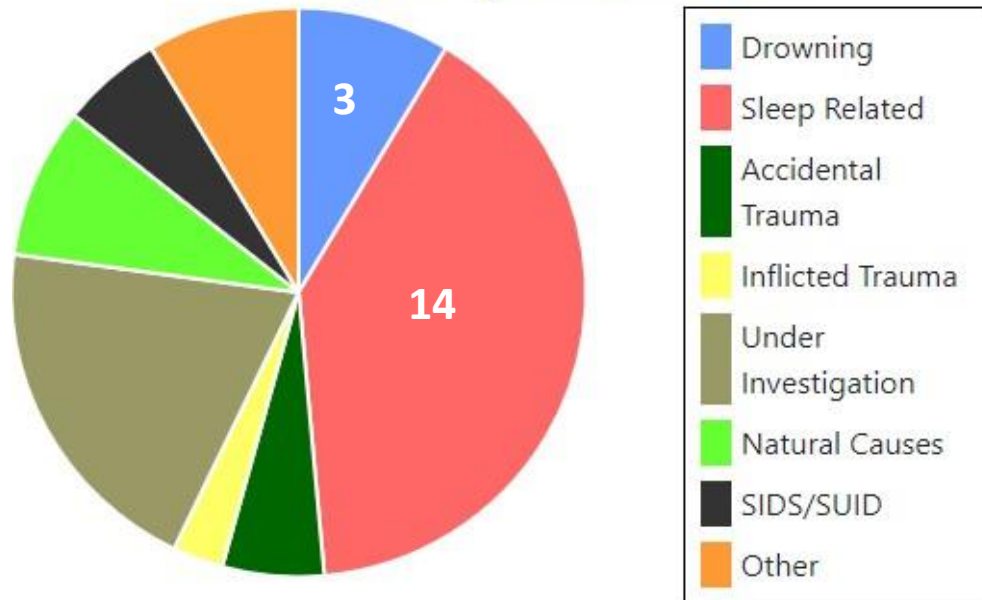
# INFANT & CHILD FATALITIES DUE TO ABUSE/NEGLECT

## Total Polk County Child Fatalities 2022: 35

[Return to Selection Screen](#)

Called into Florida Abuse Hotline alleged to be result of abuse or neglect

Fatalities By Causal Factor



[View By Age](#)

[View Trend](#)

**Children 3 and Under represent 80% of Fatalities**





# DROWNING

## Drowning Deaths

- Florida has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate of drowning deaths in the nation
- Polk County has the 10<sup>th</sup> highest instances of drowning deaths in the State
- In 2021, there were 14 drowning deaths in Polk

## Drowning-Related EMS Calls

- During 2022, PCFR responded to 25 drowning related calls:
  - Location: 22 in a pool; 3 in a bathtub
  - Age: 22 ages 0-10; 3 ages 54+
- Most calls occur during the month of April
- Davenport had highest number of calls, followed by Lakeland

# ADOLESCENTS

## Self-Harm

- In 2021, 83 hospitalizations for non-fatal self-harm ages 12-18
  - Rate of 128.8 per 100,000 (FL 86.3)

## Substance Use

- 13.7% of students report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days
- Increased rates of vaping, decreased rates of cigarette use

## Obesity

- About 21% of Polk middle & high schoolers are obese

# YOUNG ADULTS

## STDs & HIV

- 4<sup>th</sup> quartile in the state for HIV diagnoses & bacterial STDs
- Significantly higher among Black population

## Substance Use

- Deaths due to drug poisoning have increased and are the leading cause of unintentional injury death for ages 25-64

## Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety

- 31 pedestrian/cyclist deaths in 2021, majority ages 20-64
- 21<sup>st</sup> most dangerous metro area in the country for pedestrians

# ADULTS

## Overweight/Obesity

- 71.4% of adults are overweight or obese

## Chronic Disease

- Higher rates of heart disease, stroke, & diabetes than statewide
- Leading causes of death – heart disease & cancer

## Health Behaviors

- 17.8% of adults are smokers
- 31.7% of adults are sedentary

# OLDER ADULTS

## Social Support & Isolation

- 23.1% of individuals 65+ live alone

## Housing

- 23% of owners 65+ experience housing cost burden
- 54% of renters 65+ experience housing cost burden

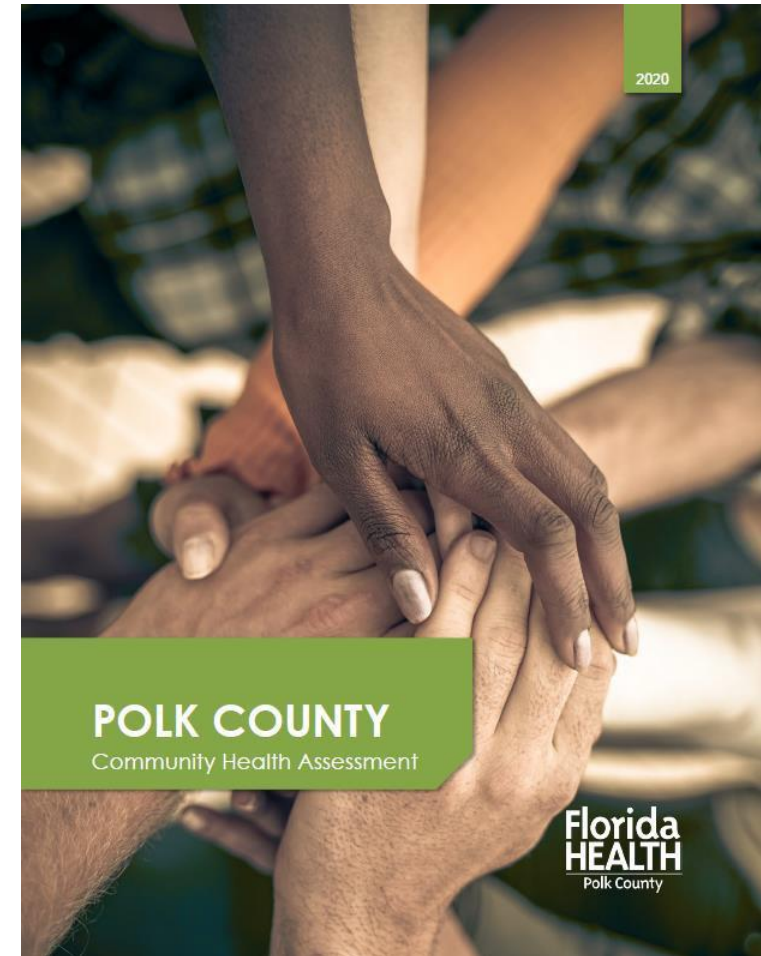
## Falls

- 13.8% of 65+ experienced a fall in the last year
- Leading cause of fatal injury deaths ages 65+



# 2020 TOP HEALTH PRIORITIES FOR POLK COUNTY

- 1. Behavioral Health: Mental Health & Substance Use**
- 2. Access to Health Services**
- 3. Exercise, Nutrition, & Weight**

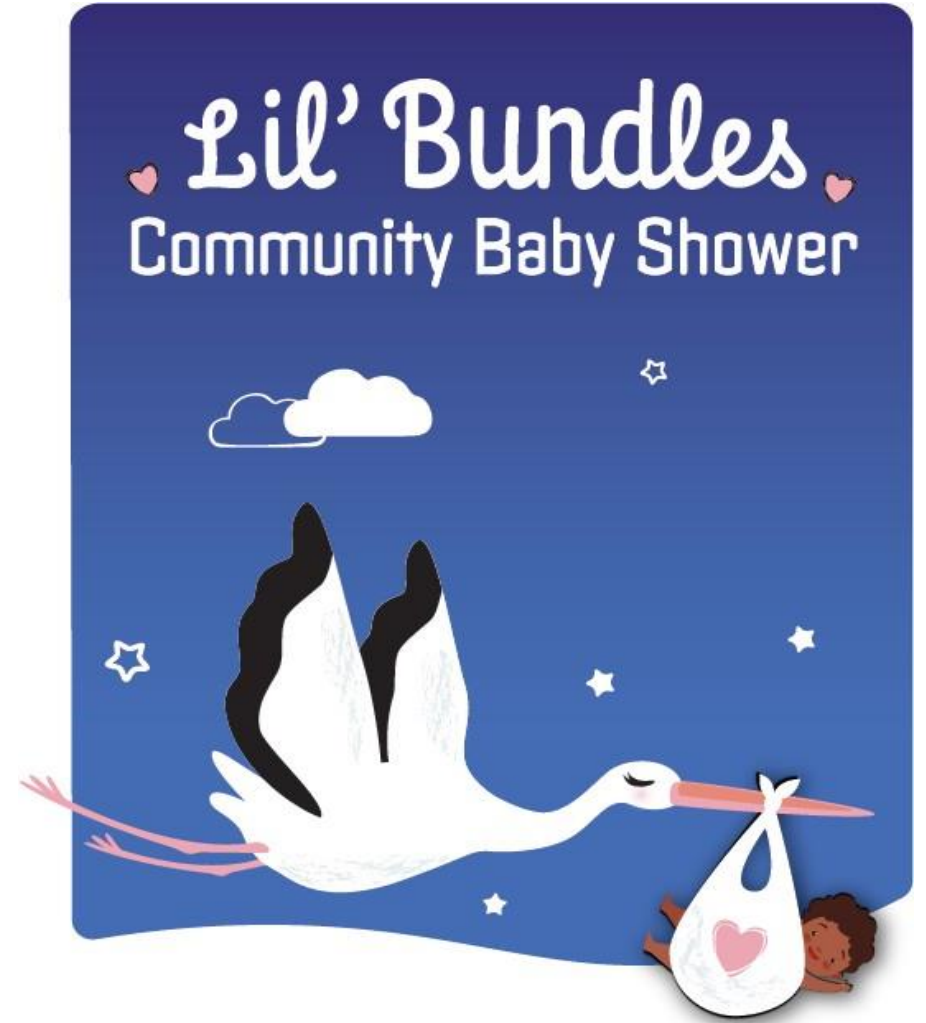


# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRIORITY

- Polk Vision Behavioral Health Team formed to address this issue
- Countywide assessment and gaps analysis conducted
- Countywide strategic plan developed
- Currently forming subcommittees to develop action plans on:
  - Youth
  - Engaging High-Risk Groups with Behavioral Health Providers
  - Breaking Down Silos among Behavioral Health Stakeholders

# ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES PRIORITY

- Polk is a healthcare provider shortage area
  - Primary Care 2,190:1 (FL 1,380:1)
  - Dentists 2,760:1 (FL 1,580:1)
  - Mental Health 880:1 (FL 510:1)
- Healthcare safety net in Polk
  - Polk Healthcare Plan
  - Indigent Health Plan
  - Helps fund healthcare service providers such as free clinics, LRH, FQHC, CHD, mental health providers
- Community partner collaborations
  - Community Baby Shower
  - Mobile Health Bus
  - Health Navigators– United Way, Peace River Center, etc.



# EXERCISE, NUTRITION, & WEIGHT PRIORITY



**You are CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND**

## **THE GROVE**

**Community Garden Groundbreaking Ceremony**

- Food Security Council
  - Annual Hunger Action Summits
- Lake Wales Environmental Health Project addressing Food Insecurity
  - Partnership with kidsPACK to provide information on community resources to food-insecure families
  - “The Grove” Community Garden
- Partnering with pediatric offices to educate on physical activity and nutrition
- Water safety & pedestrian/bicycle safety initiatives

# Conclusion





## Thank You to Our Sponsors

