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2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT FOR
 LEVY COUNTY

The Nature Coast Business Development Council is a 501(c)(3) public organization tasked with economic development for Levy County, and is staffed by an Executive Director. It enters into an annual agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for Levy County.

It also has a yearly Memorandum of Understanding prepared to perform services for CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion. Currently, there are no private donors or contributions to the organization. Revenue is as follows:

FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
Levy BOCC	\$59,700
CareerSource	\$10,000

Operating expenses for the organization are as follows:

EXPENSE	BOCC FUNDS	CAREERSOURCE
Administrative	\$59,700	
Marketing		\$10,000

The NCBDC provides a variety of services for targeted and existing industry, including business plan review, site selection services, networking and professional development opportunities, grant writing and more. The following is a summary of provided assistance for this reporting period.

Business Assistance	NUMBER
Active projects	23
Business Alliance/networking (avg. participants)	25
Disaster response	43
Business Retention and Expansion	9
Site selection proposals	3

Financial assistance	4
Training/education/technical assistance	4
Workforce/career pathways	8
Business incentives applicants	2 (0 awarded)
TOTAL:	119
CAPITAL INVESTMENT	
Total investment	\$0
Foreign investment	\$0
Direct jobs created	3
Jobs retained	2
Duration	1 year (approx.)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In order to increase exposure to site selectors and more potential industry, we emphasized work on our web site to include more sought after data, including greater economic indicators depth, critical infrastructure maps, industry overviews and more. We also created our very first online video, The Nature Coast: The Natural Fit For Business.

Late in the year, we started our Nature Coast Business Alliance to better connect our businesses with each other and our organization, which followed the creation of our career pathways advisory team to ensure education and training programs were in tune with local industry needs, and projected needs for sought industry.

We worked on identifying sites most suited for development, with a focus on rail-served industry to increase traffic on the shortline running through the county. This include a sit-down with a property owner and a rail rep to discuss plans and gain support.

Lastly, we brought in a consultant with a broadband provider to explore the creation of a countywide broadband network to increase our competitiveness.