

Charlotte County's Economy is Growing the Right Way

By Kay Tracy

Charlotte County is experiencing unprecedented economic momentum — and we're doing it with intention. At the Economic Development Office, our mission extends beyond growth for growth's sake. We are focused on sustainable development that creates lasting opportunities for our residents, reduces the tax burden on families and enhances the overall quality of life across our community.

This effort is not just about attracting new businesses — it's about building a vibrant and resilient local economy that works for everyone, from our students and young professionals to our military veterans and long-time residents.

Each time we welcome a new company or help a local business expand, we strengthen our commercial tax base. That means more revenue to fund critical public services and amenities — without placing the full weight of those costs on homeowners. This kind of growth allows us to support and improve the services that matter most to residents, including road maintenance and infrastructure, parks, libraries, community spaces, emergency services, including fire, EMS and law enforcement, investments in education, recreation and youth programs.

Through strategic partnerships with Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida SouthWestern State College, Charlotte Technical College, and our K-12 school system, we've built robust workforce pipelines in high-demand sectors such as aviation, advanced manufacturing, welding, cybersecurity, supply chain logistics and healthcare. These educational pathways don't just train students for jobs — they provide a reason for young people to stay in Charlotte County, build careers, and contribute to our community's future.

Our Talent Magnet initiative (career opportunities) further supports this effort by showcasing Charlotte County as an ideal destination for millennials and Gen Z professionals. Through targeted outreach, digital marketing and collaborative community branding, we are promoting Charlotte County as a place where young professionals, tradespeople, and entrepreneurs can thrive.

We're also proud to support our veterans through the Permanent Change of Station recruitment initiative — a program specifically designed to welcome transitioning military families into our workforce and community. As a designated Purple Heart Community, we are committed to honoring those who have served. PCS outreach connects veterans to employment opportunities at local businesses, training programs, business support resources for innovators and entrepreneurs, and housing options. By working with federal partners and veteran-owned businesses, we're ensuring that Charlotte County is more than a landing point — it's a place where veterans can successfully launch the next chapter of their lives.

In 2025 alone, we've seen significant expansions in the aviation, logistics, manufacturing and clean energy sectors. We're supporting the development of a new air traffic controller training center, and we continue to pursue new opportunities for new job-creating development. We are also advancing critical efforts in workforce housing and quality childcare access. These initiatives are essential to supporting working families and ensuring Charlotte County remains a place where residents can live, work and raise families. Our housing strategies are particularly focused on meeting the needs of first-line workers — including hospital staff, first responders, teachers and those working in our restaurants and essential service sectors — who keep our community running strong.

Charlotte County's future is bright, and we are committed to ensuring that growth is diversified, balanced, and community-centered — designed to benefit both current residents and future generations.

Whether you're a student, job seeker, veteran, employer or prospective resident, there's a place for you in Charlotte County's story. Visit www.Cleared4Takeoff.com or contact our office to learn more about the opportunities ahead.

Together, we're not just growing Charlotte County — we're building a stronger, more resilient community where everyone can rise.

Readers may reach Charlotte County Economic Development Director Kay Tracy at Kay.Tracy@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.