

# ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA



## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2020-2050 **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES**

### **CHAPTER 4 ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION**

**DRAFT - 07/27/2022**

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## VISION 2050 DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

The Vision 2050 document is comprised of three parts: **PART I** introduces the Plan, including the County’s new Guiding Principles and Planning Framework. **PART II** contains the Plan’s ten chapter/subject areas, including elements required by Florida Statute §163.3177 and concurrency requirements in Florida Statute §163.3180 (denoted by \*), as well as three optional chapters; and each chapter’s associated goals, objectives, and policies. The Plan has also identified six geographic planning areas in the County by defining characteristics, features, and community types. **PART III** contains Goals, Objectives, and Policies specific to these Market Areas.

### PART I - INTRODUCTION TO VISION 2050

- About the Plan
- Vision 2050 and Guiding Principles
- Overview of the Planning Framework
- Market Areas
- Urban Service Area
- Sectors
- Place Types

### PART II - ADOPTED POLICIES AND MAPS

- Chapter 1. Land Use, Mobility, and Neighborhoods\*
- Chapter 2. Housing and Community Services\*
- Chapter 3. Tourism, Arts, and Culture
- Chapter 4. Economy, Technology, and Innovation
- Chapter 5. Natural Resources, Conservation, and Resiliency\*
- Chapter 6. Recreation and Open Space\*
- Chapter 7. Transportation\*
- Chapter 8. Public Schools
- Chapter 9. Community Facilities and Services\*
- Chapter 10. Implementation and Property Rights\*
- Map Series

### PART III. MARKET AREAS

- Market Area Profiles
- Market Area-Specific Adopted Policies  
*(e.g. I-Drive, Horizon West, Innovation Way)*



## PART II - ADOPTED POLICIES AND MAPS

### INTRODUCTION

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Goal 2: Urban Place Types

Goal 3: Intended Sector Future Land Uses

Goal 4: Rural Sector Future Land Uses And Place Types

Goal 5: Countywide Future Land Uses

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Goal 7: Neighborhood Character And Design

Goal 8: Sustainable And Resilient Development

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Goal 3: Housing Programs, Grants, and Funding

Goal 4: Substandard Housing, Rehabilitation,  
and Preservation

Goal 5: Access To Affordable and Attainable Housing,  
Engagement and Collaboration

Goal 6: Public Health, Homelessness, and Social Services

Goal 7: Crime Prevention and Public Safety

Goal 8: Preservation of Residential Communities

#### 3. TOURISM, ARTS, AND CULTURE

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Goal 3: Arts and Cultural Education

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#### 4. ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

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Goal 6: Soils and Minerals

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Goal 9: Hazard Mitigation, Resilience and  
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Goal 3: Public Transit and Commuter Rail

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Goal 6: Inter-Regional Aviation, Interstate and Passenger Rail,  
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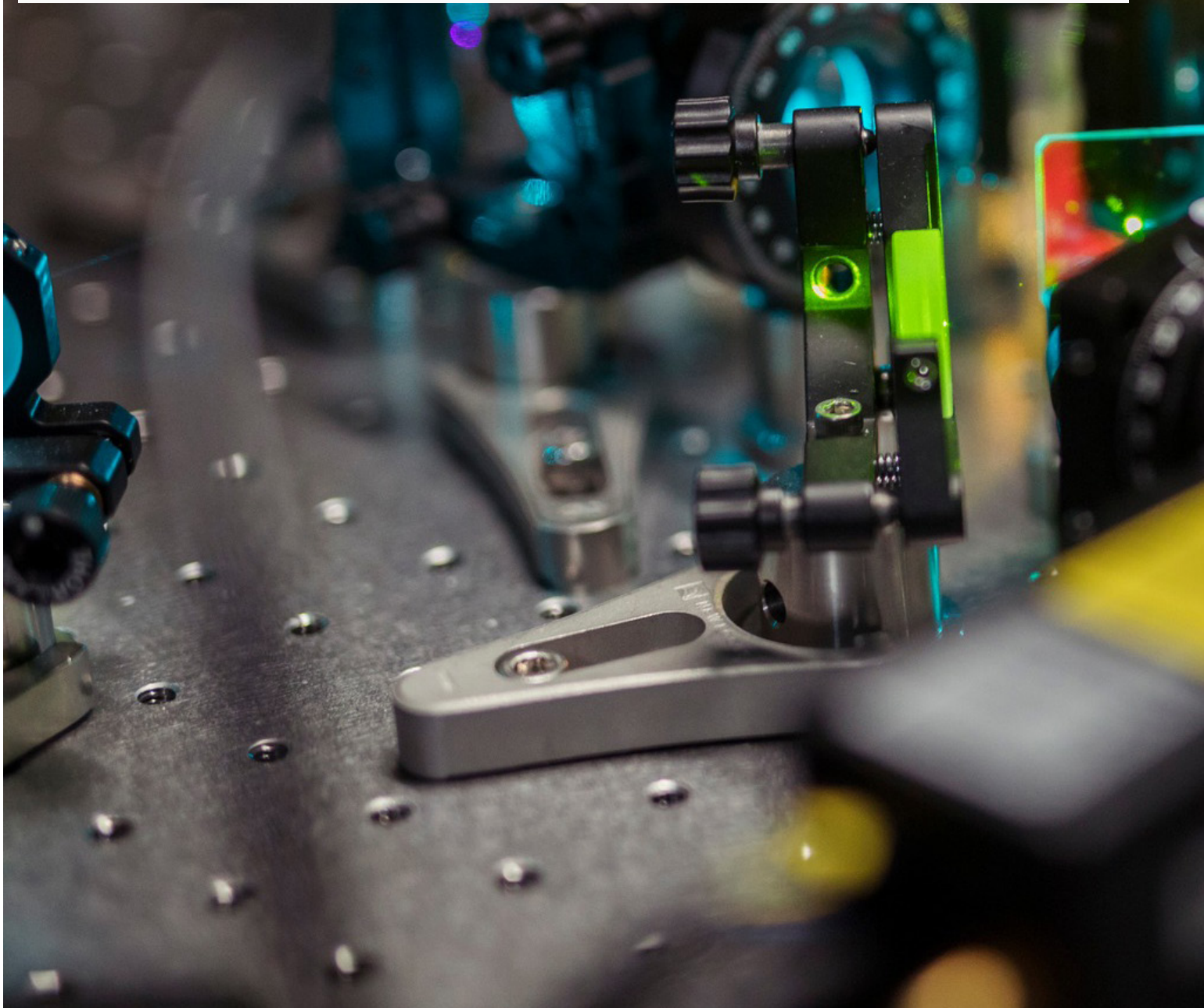
### **ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION**

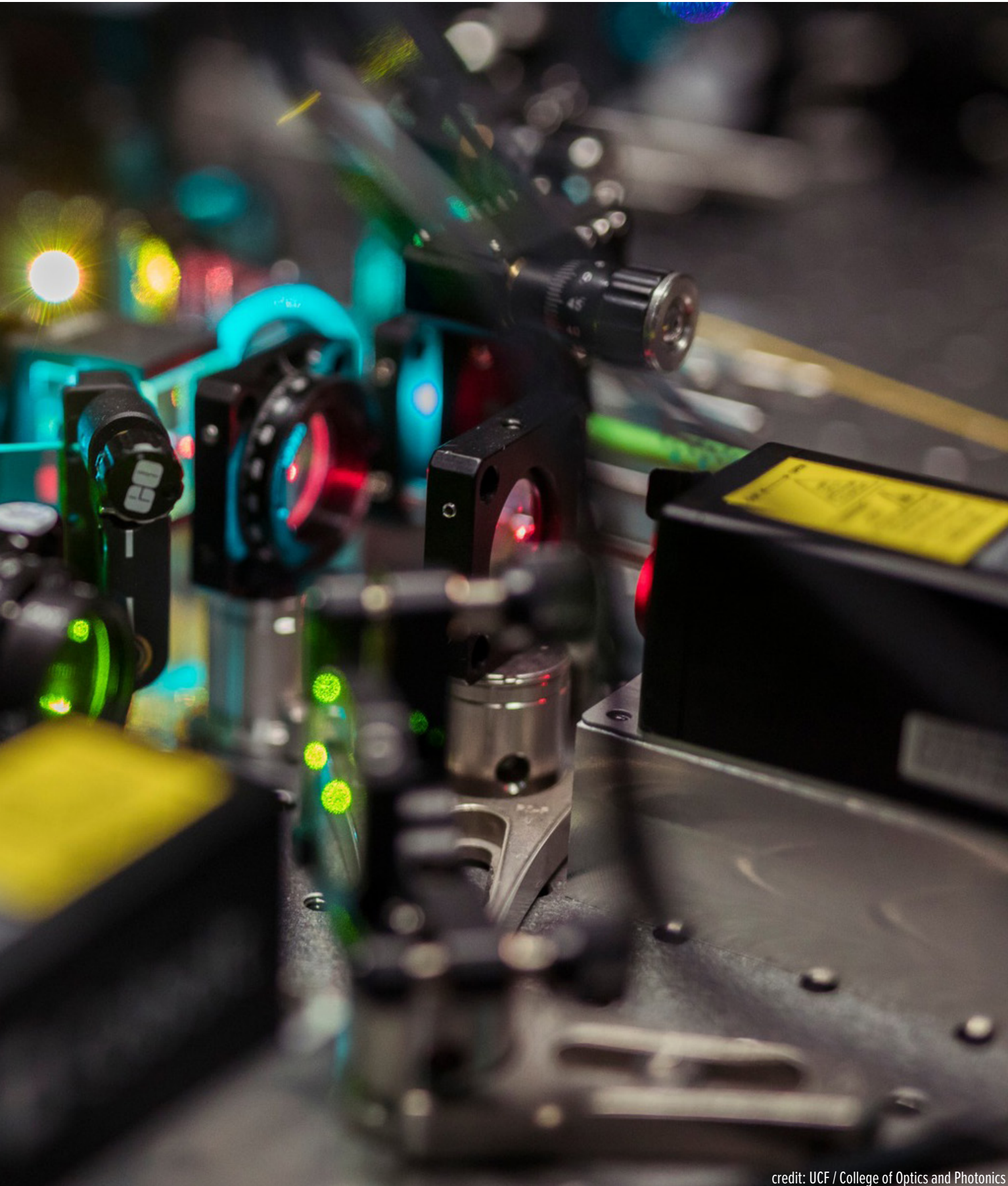
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## ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

The economic growth of Orange County and its inhabitants is dependent on how well the County balances its policies in many sectors. Employees can only consume goods when they are paid a strong living wage and when they have access funds left over from housing, transportation, medical, and other necessities. Highly-skilled jobs and workers are attracted to communities that have a flow of diverse and new ideas, cultivate collaborative industry clusters, and that support their employees' daily well-being through amenities like transit, trails, neighborhood culture, and innovative creative resources.

To that end, Orange County will continue to create policies that support a thriving economy that is diversified, resilient, and supported by an educated and trained workforce that earns a living wage. Orange County recognizes the need to enhance its quality of life for all its residents, and will continue to ensure that its neighborhood business corridors and centers are safe, economically sustainable, and aesthetically pleasing. Lastly, Orange County will educate its existing workforce and attract highly-skilled positions by ensuring access to quality housing and services.





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## ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

### GOAL 1: ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

**Orange County continues to recognize the importance of a thriving economy that is diversified, resilient, and supported by an educated and trained workforce that earns a living wage.**

**OBJ 1.1:** The County, in collaboration with the Orlando Economic Partnership, the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, and other economic development partners, will develop and promote industry clusters to create a more prosperous economy and strengthen the County's ability to compete regionally, nationally, and globally.

**POL 1.1.1:** The County will participate in the Florida High Tech Corridor Council in developing broad-based regional approaches to high-tech innovation and industry development; facilitating collaboration between government, academia, and private industry; and partnering to access government-based funding when available.

**POL 1.1.2:** Convene a high-tech industry summit to ensure identification of the needs of our high-tech community with respect to continued growth, expansion, talent supply, infrastructure, and capital formation.

**POL 1.1.3:** Develop a strategic plan to invest in improvements that will support and enhance the business community while promoting the concept of a tech-enabled Orange County.

**POL 1.1.4:** Support research on changing market demographics and resultant economic implications, and support the expansion of research centers that focus on technology commercialization and entrepreneurship.

**POL 1.1.5:** Establish a streamlined review process for small technology start-ups and, where possible, remove or reduce regulatory barriers that inhibit their creation.

**OBJ 1.2:** Develop and retain a globally-competitive workforce supporting the needs of present and emerging industries.

**POL 1.2.1:** Strengthen the County's innovation economy with proactive support for places, programs, and funding to connect, facilitate and accelerate growth in the region's entrepreneurial sector.

**POL 1.2.2:** Encourage high-wage job creation and investment in targeted industries by providing the financial and non-financial incentives essential to corporate location decision-making. This includes supporting Orange County's existing and expanding companies as well as new-to-market industries.

**POL 1.2.3:** Expand the concepts of flexible scheduling and remote working to competitively attract and retain technology talent to the County.

**POL 1.2.4:** Create an environment that attracts new innovative companies with walkable, transit-accessible, attractive communities and prioritize the location of workforce development centers within the pedestrian shed of major mass transit hubs.



**OBJ 1.3:** Promote the diversification of the County’s economy by investing in the attraction of new industries, including the development of a skilled and educated local workforce, while continuing to support innovation and expansion in existing base industries of life sciences, space and aerospace, defense, tourism and hospitality, and education and learning sciences.

**POL 1.3.1:** Support major economic development initiatives and investment in emerging technology for the attraction and expansion of industries important to diversification, as determined by economic research and industry studies commissioned by the Board of County Commissioners. (POL E5.1.1)

**POL 1.3.2:** Promote the growth and competitiveness of the industries that comprise the existing economic base (life sciences, space/aerospace, defense, tourism and hospitality, and education/learning sciences), as well as such emerging fields as human performance, energy and environmental sciences, gaming, and Esports.

**POL 1.3.3:** Support Orange County’s small business assistance and entrepreneurship programs and the region’s business incubators and research centers to help companies in key industry clusters develop and market their products and services.

**POL 1.3.4:** Support internal County programs and external initiatives that facilitate public-private partnerships focusing on workforce education and training, technological innovation, and diversification of the County’s economy.

## **GOAL 2: NEIGHBORHOOD-SCALE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**The County will continue to ensure that its neighborhood business corridors and centers are safe, economically sustainable, and aesthetically pleasing. (GOAL N6)**

**OBJ 2.1:** Develop programs and services to attract and facilitate infill and redevelopment in commercial corridors and centers that serve local neighborhoods. (OBJ N6.1)

**POL 2.1.1:** The Neighborhood Services Division will collaborate with other County divisions, public agencies, and private sector entities to leverage funding for projects and initiatives that foster and support infill and redevelopment.

**POL 2.1.2:** Facilitate partnerships among businesses in neighborhood corridors and centers and actively engage such organizations and other community stakeholders to identify and develop programs and services to spur further business investment and promote neighborhood beautification and safety.

**POL 2.1.3:** Identify and incentivize commercial investments in areas within the Targeted Sector, Census Designated Distressed Areas, and other priority funding areas with vacant and underutilized parcels such as those identified in Section 163.2514, Florida Statutes.

**POL 2.1.4:** Use state and federal grants, where available, to attract, promote, and support neighborhood businesses.

**POL 2.1.5:** The Neighborhood Services Division with other County divisions to develop and provide incentives that encourage neighborhood business investment. (POL N6.1.3)

**POL 2.1.6:** Create public-private partnerships with the business community to address neighborhood revitalization and economic development issues to build sustainable neighborhoods.

**POL 2.1.7:** The County shall seek to increase the number of businesses participating in the neighborhood business corridor grant program. (POL N6.1.7)

**POL 2.1.8:** Create a “Businesses for Neighborhoods” honor list, which will provide public recognition (banners in public buildings, Orange TV features, etc.) for businesses that provide financial assistance for community-building and neighborhood revitalization efforts. (POL N5.1.5)

**POL 2.1.9:** Market grant programs to improve the physical appearance of businesses in older and distressed neighborhoods. (POL N6.1.4)

**OBJ 2.2:** Designate areas known as Urban Infill and Redevelopment Areas (UIRAs) in accordance with Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, with specific programs and services provided to foster redevelopment within their boundaries. (OBJ N6.2)

**POL 2.2.1:** The following districts are designated as Urban Infill and Redevelopment Areas. Their boundaries are shown on the Future Land Use Map and on the map below: (POL N6.2.1)

- Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement District Map N1 Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement District.

**POL 2.2.2:** Each Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area shall develop a plan consistent with Section 163.2517, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of targeting economic development, job creation, housing, transportation, crime prevention, neighborhood revitalization and preservation, and land use incentives to encourage urban infill and redevelopment within the urban core. (POL N6.2.2)

**POL 2.2.3:** The County hereby incorporates by reference the adopted Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement Plan as the safe neighborhood plan for the Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement District, as established by Ordinance No. 2011-21. (POL N6.2.3)

**POL 2.2.4:** Orange County may offer incentives to encourage development within an Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area including, but not limited to, waiver of license and permit fees, expedited permitting, lower transportation impact fees for development, prioritization of infrastructure spending, local government absorption of developers’ concurrency costs, exemption of sales made from local option sales surtaxes imposed pursuant to Section 212.055, Fla. Stat., and waiver of delinquent local taxes or fees to promote the return of property to productive use. (POL N6.2.4)

**POL 2.2.5:** Orange County will work with developers to encourage long-term investment and job creation in designated Opportunity Zones and provide other local incentives, especially for developments aligned with the local industries identified in GOAL 1.

**GOAL 3: WORKFORCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE**  
**Orange County will ensure that the County’s highly-skilled and educated workforce earns a living wage and has access to quality housing and services.**

**OBJ 3.1:** Promote policies that improve the education, skills, and quality of life of the County’s workforce.

**POL 3.1.1:** Facilitate the development of childcare facilities within the County, including employer-based childcare centers. (POL E4.1.1)

**POL 3.1.2:** Support equitable housing and transportation policies that benefit the local workforce.

**POL 3.1.3:** Work with major County employers to provide transportation services for their employees by collocating transit services, funding commuter subsidies, and contributing to transit expansion initiatives.

**POL 3.1.4:** Collaborate with LYNX and other transit agencies to support premium transit, including commuter rail, light rail, and bus rapid transit and express lanes, that connects residential hubs and major employment centers and provides night and weekend services.

**POL 3.1.5:** Promote the initiatives of major employers to fund housing developments for employees near their worksites.

**POL 3.1.6:** Promote policies that improve the quality of life of the County’s workforce, such as the provision of a living wage, flexible work schedules, paid family leave, and medical benefits to part-time employees.

**OBJ 3.2:** Continue to ensure an educated and skilled workforce by supporting programs for youth education and adult labor force training.

**POL 3.2.1:** Provide affordable and accessible education and training in cutting-edge technology and in the County’s base and emerging industries for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels.

**POL 3.2.2:** Retain post-graduate students in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)-based fields—by offering post-doctoral fellowships and internships in the public and private sectors. (POL E1.3.1)

**POL 3.2.3:** Coordinate with regional educational partners, including vocational schools, to establish certificate programs or nano-degrees (project and skills-based educational credential programs) that align with the County’s base and emerging industries.

**POL 3.2.4:** Provide programs to upgrade the skills of County staff on technology-based applications.

**POL 3.2.5:** Promote adult education and employer-provided classes and activities that increase English language literacy for the local workforce. (POL E1.2.1)

**POL 3.2.6:** Work with Orange County Public Schools to develop and implement STEAM-based curricula at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

**POL 3.2.7:** Promote STEAM-based summer camps and extracurricular experiences for elementary, middle, and high school students.

**GOAL 4: INCENTIVES, GRANTS, AND PARTNERSHIPS**  
**Create a resilient economy that has the ability to foresee, withstand, respond, and adapt to changing market conditions.**

**OBJ 4.1:** Retain, grow, and attract businesses in key industry sectors to increase our tax revenue, provide for the diversification of our local economy, and improve the quality of life for all residents.

**POL 4.1.1:** Create and implement an incentive program to recruit companies in established and emerging industries.

**POL 4.1.2:** Collaborate with the Orlando Economic Partnership and other economic development agencies on a coordinated strategy to attract businesses in specific sectors and cluster industries that align with the County’s culture and goals.

**POL 4.1.3:** Expand business acceleration and manufacturing services for existing small and mid-size businesses, particularly businesses in trade innovation industries or export industries that rely on research and development (R&D) and science, technology, and engineering.

**POL 4.1.4:** Collaborate with CareerSource Central Florida and educational institutions to support key industry clusters to more effectively align education, workforce training, and economic development strategies.

**OBJ 4.2:** Foster an environment in which small businesses can start, grow, and scale.

**POL 4.2.1:** Promote BizLink Orange through marketing and communications materials to ensure that small and mid-size local business owners are aware of technical assistance and business support programs offered by the National Entrepreneur Center, through programs funded through the County, and through other community resources.

**POL 4.2.2:** Create more streamlined permitting and licensing processes for existing small and mid-size businesses that are expanding or investing their facilities.

**POL 4.2.3:** Collaborate with the Business Development Office to expand small and mid-size business outreach and engagement programs, while focusing on identifying specific barriers to growth for women and minority-owned businesses (such as access to and qualification for funding, permitting processes, and physical space).

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