

SUNCOAST COMMUNITY CAPITAL CORPORATION

Mission: Suncoast Community Capital works with people of low income to achieve financial stability in our community.

Core Beliefs: SCC believes in the research that shows that for families that have low incomes there are five measurements of well-being that are related to an increase in family wealth/income, regardless of any other variable. The basic premise is that a family with low income will have better health, live in a better housing, have a more safe and secure environment, the kids will have better educational outcomes and the family will participate more actively in civic life. Furthermore, it is clear that families with low income are in the best position to know what will make a difference to their well-being and will take the steps to make positive change happen. In fact, sometimes helping does not help. That is, SCC believes in change rather than handouts. SCC seeks to contribute to the understanding of existing and creation of new options from which families can chose.

Services:

Small / Micro Business

- Since its inception, SCC's small and micro-business resources have helped hundreds of local entrepreneurs.
- More than 150 aspiring entrepreneurs completed Build-A-Business courses over the past two years.
- In 2012, SCC was one of five sites in the country and the only site in Florida to be selected for the Kauffman Foundation's Urban Entrepreneurship Program.
- Business classes and one-on-one coaching has helped nearly 100 entrepreneurs develop a business plan, and nearly 30% of participants have started businesses, considerably higher than the success rate in other programs nationally.
- Provided three Build a Business Classes for the Manatee County Economic Development Office aimed at people from the SW District or those who sought to develop or expand businesses in the SW District.

Job Readiness

- Almost 1,000 job-seekers have graduated from the program since its creation 2010.
- 90% of participants are from low-income households.
- 65% of participants found jobs within six months and many from each class receive help deciding on a career path and paying for continuing education to move ahead.

VITA Free Tax Prep

- Engaged 22 volunteers to contribute more than 600 hours of service to preparing free tax returns for low to moderate-income households
- Submitted more than 450 tax returns during the spring of 2016.
- Returned more than \$500,000 in tax returns to the community in 2016.
- EITC returns were 29% of all returns and averaged \$1,400 per household, which is significant given that 75% of EITC households have children.
- Having free tax return preparation helps low- to moderate-income households keep more of their money and avoid the many scams targeted at working people with low incomes.
- The average family income last year was less than \$22,000.

Enterprise Center – Community Computer Lab

- SCC maintains the Enterprise Center, one of the only free and open-to-the-public computer lab without time limits. It functions as a “business center” for low-income individuals and business owners.
- Volunteers and staff hold community classes and meetings, computer literacy trainings in both English and Spanish, help with job searches, write resumes as well as offer assistance to people who need to access their state benefits like Medicaid.
- In 2016 the William G and Marie Selby Foundation provided the resources to renovate the Enterprise Center and purchase new computers. Fawley Bryant Architects also provided significant consulting services to the redesign. The Enterprise Center now has 17 new computers with access to the internet that are free and open to the public every week day.
- An average of 110 different people use the Enterprise Center each month for job searches, small business development and accessing stabilization benefits like health insurance or hunger alleviation.

SCC's founding board members incorporated as a 501c3 in 2009. The City of Bradenton's Central Community Redevelopment Agency (CCRA) was committed to developing the economic potential of both residents and businesses in the CCRA district. The CCRA and

SCC's board of directors envisioned a non-profit organization that could capture major resources and provide opportunities to a larger geographical area.

SCC has partnered with a wide range of for- and non-profit community partners with the aim of realizing the full economic development potential of this area for low- to moderate-income families and is typically in a capacity-building, instructing and coaching role with individuals working to improve their financial stability. Some of these organizations include: The City of Bradenton and its Redevelopment Areas (CCRA, 14th Street CRA), Manatee Community Action Agency, CareerEdge, Manatee County Government, United Way Manatee, the Kauffman Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Council and Thrift Store, Manatee Community Federal Credit Union and Goodwill.

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The name of the local government the EDOC has a contract with – Manatee County Government

The amount of funds received from public partners –

Manatee County Government	\$41,000
City of Sarasota:	\$6,600

The amount of funds received from private investors – \$

Giving Partners (60+ individual investors):	\$11,500
United Way:	\$10,000
Selby Foundation:	\$38,000
Banks:	\$22,250
CareerEdge:	\$20,000
Manatee County Foundation:	\$3,000

Administrative costs of the EDO – 10%

Assistance provided – The EDO provided services to facilitate redevelopment, job retention and expansion for local businesses within an area designated as the Southwest District and provide delivery of new and existing business development assistance. 45 businesses were visited and 5 were telephoned to provide business assistance information and determine needed services, including marketing, branding, expansion, staffing and recruitment within a small two-corridor commercial district. Build-a-Business classroom training was provided to 12 residents of the districts.