FLORIDA EXTENSION INITIATIVE 6:

SUPPORTING URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUE AREA #3: PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION

SITUATION

Elected officials and governmental staff work in a complex world where there are many different policy issues that they address. The actual or potential courses of governmental action often involve conflicts among different segments of the community. Citizens also have a stake in given policies because they affect and are affected by governmental decisions. Elected officials, governmental staff and concerned citizens need the latest science-based information and technical skills that can assist them in ensuring that sound public policy are adopted and implemented. Public policy education is a planned process where extension faculty provide science-based information, process training and leadership skill development to elected officials, governmental staff and interested citizens.

The goal of the program is to improve responsible decision-making and policy establishment by elected officials and governmental staff. Elected officials and governmental staff will have increased knowledge about their duties, roles, and responsibilities. Citizens will have better understanding about public policy issues and their role in the democratic process.

Current Programs and Activities: New Board of County Commissioners Training; Kings and King-Makers; Citizen Planning Training; Gateway Project; Project CHARM; Center for Public Policy Education; Coastal Planner's Program; Program for Resource Efficient Communities; Center for Governmental Responsibilities.

PROGRAM OUTPUTS

- Short-Term Outputs: Existing extension programs are updated and new programs are developed that will provide elected
 officials, government staff and citizens with new knowledge and skills to address community and social issues. Conduct pilot
 projects with local government (e.g. Live Oak Community Redevelopment Project, Seminole Tribe Housing and Community
 Development Project). New Community Sustainability Cluster Hires become part of this initiative. Extension faculty begin to
 document their PPE programs and success stories within their individual Report of Accomplishment.
- **Short-Medium Term Outputs:** In-service trainings for extension faculty. Established PPE programs. Additional FTEs in Community Development at state and county levels. A web portal on community development resources used by faculty.
- Long-term Outputs: Established community development programs within IFAS Extension at state and county levels.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Short-Term Outcomes: Local governmental officials participate in existing programs such as new Board of County Commissioners training, and become engaged in pilot community development projects such as the Live Oak Redevelopment Project and Seminole Tribe Housing and Community Development Project.
- *Medium Term Outcomes:* Government and non-governmental agencies, along with extension faculty have increased networking, participation and engagement among that address public policy issues.
- Long Term Outcomes: Strengthened decision making and public policies are established through an active civic engagement
 process. Governmental officials utilize extension faculty and materials as a key resource in public policy issues. Government
 decision makers recognize extension's role in PPE, demonstrated with increased funding for more FTEs at state/county levels
 to address public policy issues.

AUDIENCES

State, county and local elected officials; state, county, and local agency staff, active and engaged citizens interested in public policy issues

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Group learning workshops, webinars, fact sheets, power point presentations, short YouTube vignettes, case studies, curricula, role-playing, reading/writing assignments, blogs for continuing discussions, study groups.

RESULTS

- Elected officials, state, city and county government staff and interested citizens identify Extension as source of information and partner to address community issues.
- Elected officials, state, city and county government staff and interested citizens resolve complex issues, utilizing the knowledge, skills and support provided by extension faculty and staff.
- Improved responsible decision-making and policy establishment among elected officials, staff and interested publics

NEEDS

Funding is needed to provide training for extension faculty, specialist support and programmatic expenses, as well as funds for short-term and long-term evaluation of programs.

SUPER ISSUES

Public policy education programs are inter-disciplinary and can cut across the following super issues.

- Awareness and appreciation of food systems and the environment.
- Resource sustainability and conservation in Florida communities.
- Financial management for individuals and enterprises.
- Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) opportunities for youth.
- Help Floridians develop healthy lifestyles.

SITUATION		ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES		
			۲	Knowledge	Actions	Conditions
Elected officials		Develop a	Create functioning	Increased	Increased degrees	Strengthened
and agency staff work in complex	PIE Staff	planning Committee to	PPE Leadership Work Group	knowledge, skills, and confidence of	of engagement of local elected	decision-making and sound public
world where there	NRLI Staff	develop PPE materials		extension faculty that lead to	officials, staff, and interested citizens	policies established
are many policy ssues to address	PREC staff		Existing programs promoted and/or	increased local	stakeholders in	through an active
Decisions often	Faculty	Review existing curricula and	revised to include PPE activities	public policy education	public policy issues and	civic engagemen process.
nvolve conflict among different	Time	develop educational tool	Specialists	activities	activities	Government
segments in the community	Money	kits (workshop, factsheets, power	identified that have PPE programs	Elected officials and their staff	Increased capacity building skills	officials utilize extension faculty
Elected officials	Research Base	points, webinars, videos)	Identify county faculty and state	participate in extension-led training and	among elected officials and staff that sustain	and materials as key resource in addressing their
science-based nformation and	Materials	Select faculty from each District and	specialists who focus on PPE	meetings that address local	leadership and lead to responsible	public policy issues.
echnical/process	Equipment	state specialists who will focus on	activities	public policy problems.	decisions in local communities	Thriving inter-
hat sound policies are adopted and	Facilities	PPE activities	In-Service training on public policy	Elected officials	Increased	agency groups, organizations an
mplemented	Technology	Conduct new PPE pilot trainings as	education held for extension faculty	and their staff begin to request	partnerships, networking and	active citizens ar
Extension can nelp improve	Partners	proof of concept and to evaluate	Assessment tools	extension assistance in	collaborations across/among	addressing public policy issues at
responsible decision-making	Leveraged Resources	new materials	available for evaluation of	public policy issues.	elected officials, and their staff,	local community and county levels
by providing timely educational	Resources	Develop assessment tools	programs	issues.	extension faculty, local community	and county levels
programs and		to measure	Trained agents		organizations and	
alternative strategies on		effectiveness of training	conduct PPE programs		citizens that address public	
current/new public ssues		Evaluate program	Regular planned evaluation of PPE extension program		policy issues	

ASSUMPTIONS

- Need for extension faculty training in public policy education
 Elected officials/staff will need to address complex public policy issues
 Extension can play leadership role in training of elected officials/staff
 Training will lead to more competent faculty to address issues

EXTERNAL FACTORS

- Florida economy. Growth/decline will lead to new complex public issues
 Continued/new support for PPE programs within UF structure
 Partners and staff may change over time that affect training/delivery
 Competent faculty to address issues