

FLORIDA EXTENSION INITIATIVE 6:  
SUPPORTING URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
**ISSUE AREA #3: PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION**

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## AUDIENCES

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

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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.

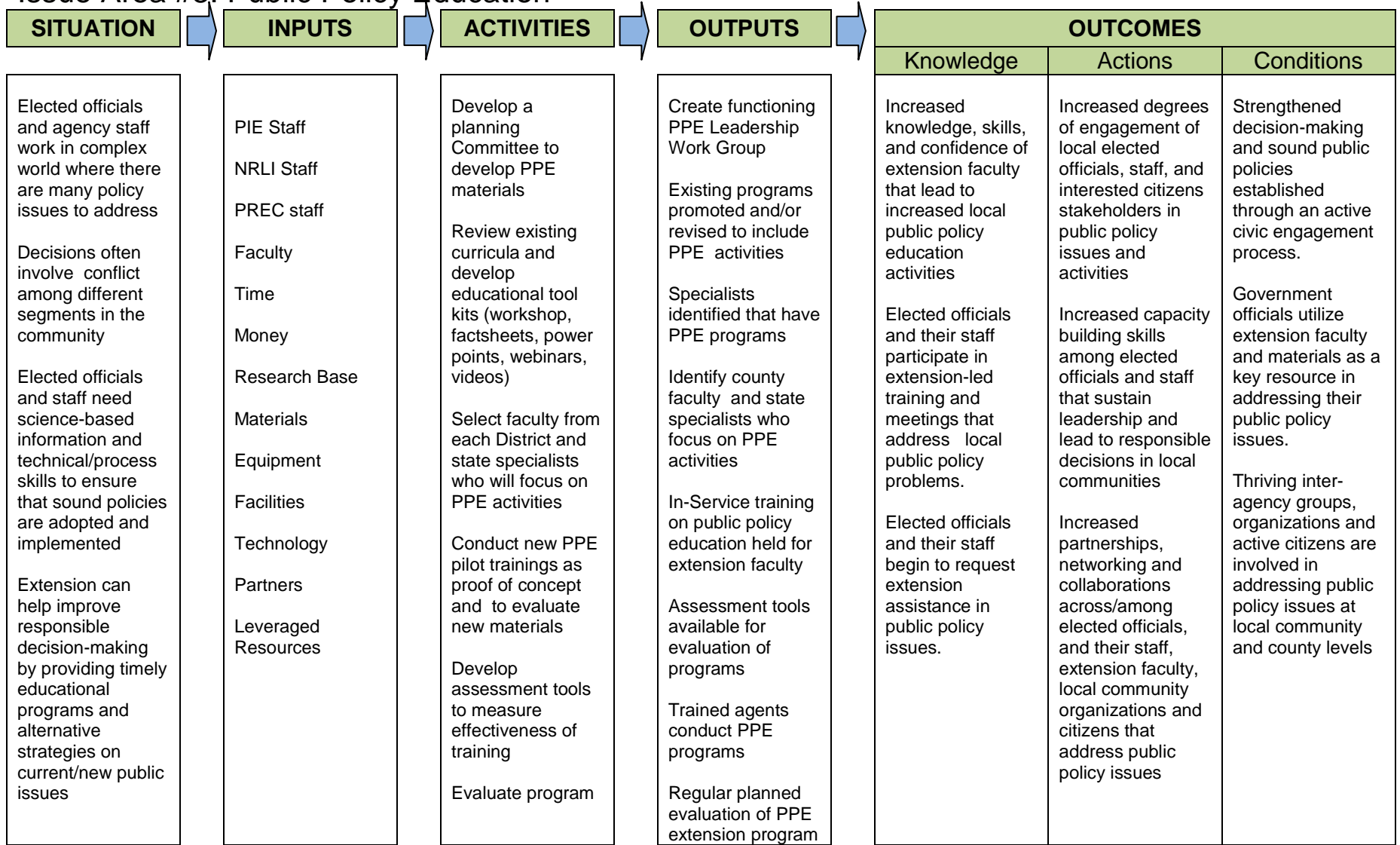
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## SUPER ISSUES

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.

### Issue Area #3: Public Policy Education



#### 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