2019-2021 FEDERAL PRIORITIES AND APPROPRIATIONS
BROWARD COUNTY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

BACKGROUND
Broward County Board of County Commissioners (“The Board”) prides itself on being fiscally responsible and transparent. The Board believes in the fundamental concept that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs of the community. The Board is AAA bond-rated and encourages a balanced approach to the delivery of service and financial accountability.

HOME RULE
The Board supports the integrity of home rule, which allows counties to develop and implement solutions that address unique local issues.

UNFUNDED MANDATES
The Board opposes any legislation that implement unfunded mandates on a local government.

COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES
The Board supports efforts to increase our nation’s infrastructure investments, which help promote economic development, public safety, resilience, and mobility. The Board supports more federal capital and matching funds for locally owned infrastructure and transportation projects.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
The Board supports the priorities of the National Association of Counties (NACo), except where this program may differ from NACo priorities.
**PORT EVERGLADES**

*Port Everglades Deepening and Widening Project*

The Board supports Congress providing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) an adequate number of “new start” designations and sufficient funding in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for construction of deep draft navigation projects.

Finally, the Board requests the inclusion of the Port Everglades Navigation Improvement Project in the USACE Work Plan to begin the Port Everglades Dredging and Widening Project and the reconfiguration of the Coast Guard Station Ft. Lauderdale. An estimated optimal funding schedule for the project shows a federal need of $39,136,950 in FY 2020.

*Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Sustainability and Parity*

The Board requests full use of Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) collections of $965 million for the USACE to meet the nation’s harbor maintenance needs.

The Board encourages the USACE to use current data regarding the collection of Harbor Maintenance Taxes when calculating which ports are deemed Donor Ports (currently using 2012 data) and encourages the USACE to add the Harbor Maintenance Taxes to the calculations for each donor Port. Currently cruise tax is not included in tabulation. This results in Port Everglades being incorrectly designated as a Tier 2 port.

*U. S. Customs and Border Protection*

The Board supports new U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staff, equipment and technology for maritime operations.

The Board supports that adequate U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staffing be provided for arriving international passengers and cargo at Port Everglades (PEV) and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). This staff is a critical component of port and airport operations.

The Board supports the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Reimbursable Services Program (559) where Port Everglades (PEV) voluntarily reimburses CBP overtime to allow for an increase in officers for processing arriving international passengers and cargo as a stopgap measure.

The Board supports a long-term solution of additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, however until that time, the Board additionally supports an increase in overtime payments to CBP employees from $45,000 annually to $60,000 annually.

The Board supports the President’s 2020 budget, which proposes to increase U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staff by 171 personnel.

The Board requests long-term policy and management techniques to reach the national benchmark of 7,600 employees in FY 2020 to minimally meet the current national ports of entry needs.
**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
The Board supports personnel and other expenses associated with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQUI) treatment be fairly and fully reimbursed through monitoring fees and expenses assessed using an equitable approach to calculate recoverable fees based on actual costs incurred versus the current per-treatment method. The current per-treatment method of cost-recovery renders Port Everglades uncompetitive in the international market.

The Board requests funding and construction of a Plant Inspection Station at Port Everglades.

**Funding Resources**
Support: Infrastructure grant programs including the $293 million dedicated funding for ports Congress approved for the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program.
Support: $2 billion for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program, which is $1.1 billion more than the FY 2019.
Support: The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program which provides credit assistance for qualified port access projects.
Support: $1 billion for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program, supporting port infrastructure projects up from $900 million enacted in FY 2019.
Support: A delay in raising tariffs on $200 billion of Chinese goods from 10 percent to 25 percent while negotiations continue.

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**FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection Staffing**
The Board supports hiring and training of additional Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers for deployment at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) to meet the strong demand for CBP services because of increasing international air traffic, as well as the continued deployment of innovative technologies and procedures for efficient processing and to minimize passenger wait times.

**Passenger Facility Charges**
The Board supports legislation modernizing the Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) fee to allow airports to determine the appropriate charge based on local infrastructure needs as it relates to safety, security and capacity.

**Infrastructure Package**
The Board supports Congress approving funding for infrastructure projects to invest and meet future capacity needs for airports.
Airport Improvement Program
The Board supports the continued funding of the Airport Improvement Program at no less than $3.35 billion in order to maintain infrastructure development for airports.

Air Traffic Control Towers
The Board supports continued funding that protects and maintains the contract tower program in its entirety for the nation’s airports.

Pilot Shortage
The Board supports addressing the national pilot shortage in order to prevent impacts to U.S. mainline carriers and future impacts to FLL’s operations.

TRANSPORTATION

BUILD Grants
The Board supports funding for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program, formerly known as the TIGER Grant Program.

Electric Buses
The Board supports increased funding to be used to purchase electric buses and build charging stations.

Highway Trust Fund
The Board supports increased and accelerated funding for the Mass Transit Account from the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to preserve transit’s long-term source of dedicated funding to maintain transit assets in a state of good repair, ensure stable funding for long-term capital investment projects, and meet the growing ridership demand. The Board supports continued efforts to urge Congress to resolve the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

Transit Technology Enhancement Projects
The Board supports funding for the procurement, installation, and integration of various technology programs to enhance and improve transit operations, specifically a fiber optics system to improve customer service, transit operational efficiency, and safety.

ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

Beach Projects
The Board supports efforts to apportion costs among the federal government and other beach nourishment project participants to enhance economic and environmental benefits to the County’s citizens, businesses and visitors.

The Board supports equitable funding for beach projects based on economic and environmental qualifications.
The Board supports the full funding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Shore Protection account, which can reimburse Broward County for costs incurred with the planning, engineering, design, and construction of beach nourishment projects.

The Board supports reimbursement and direct funding for beaches due to their economic return on investment and a critical need to renourish beaches due to the accelerated rates of sea level rise and storm activity.

*Central and South Florida (C&SF) Flood Control Project*
The Board supports action by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reassess the C&SF Project given changing climate conditions, especially sea level rise.

*Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project*
The Board supports increased and accelerated funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP), with a priority given to the Broward County Water Preserve Areas (WPAs) and the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP).

*Coral Reef Conservation Act*
The Board supports the reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 through legislation that authorizes directed federal funding and technical assistance to states for the restoration and management of coral reef ecosystems.

*Federal Resilience Planning*
The Board supports federal efforts to involve local communities in resilience planning for federal facilities located in those communities, including holistic consideration of coastal flooding, natural systems, housing, social conditions, and economic resilience.

*National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reform*
The Board supports immediate reauthorization and reform of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to ensure affordable and transparent flood insurance for homeowners and businesses and empowers individual and local government actions to proactively reduce flood losses. The Board supports:

**Affordability/Rate Structure**
- Maintaining insurance rate increase caps while giving the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the authority to offer means-tested assistance for low- and moderate-income property owners.
- Ensuring rates are consistent for all properties, including second homes and businesses.
- Ensuring NFIP rates are not excessive or unfair by making the rate-setting process more transparent to the public.

**Flood Risk Mitigation and Resilience**
- Increasing funding for existing flood mitigation programs and establish tax credits for mitigation efforts.
• Considering loan/voucher programs to further emphasize mitigation, particularly for lower-income participants.
• Authorizing FEMA to encourage owners of multi-family and mixed-use structures to mitigate flood risks with lowered insurance premiums.
• Funding and incentives to help communities that prioritize sea level rise and make investments in projects that emphasize resilience to reduce flood risk.
• Funding and incentives to help communities make investments in large-scale projects that reduce flood risks and improve resilience with a priority given to natural and nature-based approaches.
• Funding or financing options for communities to make investments in green or gray infrastructure that will reduce risks from natural disasters, including floods.
• Improving the coordination of resources among FEMA, U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies to combine data and resources and provide accessible digital elevation maps that help communities better understand their flood risks.

**Programmatic Modifications to Enhance NFIP’s Financial Sustainability**

• Considering Write-Your-Own reforms including reducing commissions while further incentivizing NFIP policy sales efforts.
• Fully funding the floodplain mapping program and encourage greater participation by those outside of the 100-year floodplain via expanded use of the Preferred Risk Policy.
• Enforcing responsibilities to ensure those in the 100-year floodplain have and maintain flood insurance.
• Privatization that maintains affordability and requires whole profile of risk.

**Oil and Gas Exploration and Production**

The Board opposes activities, such as oil exploration and hydraulic fracturing in Florida, which present potential for negative environmental consequences to coastal areas, the Everglades, and state water resources.

The Board supports the preservation of the longstanding moratorium against offshore oil and gas drilling in federal waters off Florida’s coast and the Board opposes seismic airgun blasting for oil and gas exploration off the Atlantic coast of the United States.

**Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)**

The Board supports federal legislation or administrative action that removes federal restriction on PACE programs and expands the list of eligible improvements to include weatherization measures.

**Sand Management**

The Board supports lifting the statutory restrictions on the use of federal funds for the acquisition of foreign or other non-domestic sand for beach nourishment.

The Board supports efforts to streamline and simplify the regulatory requirements that stem from overlapping jurisdictions of federal agencies in the coastal zone.
The Board supports expediting the necessary federal permits and federal fiscal contributions for the construction and operation of the Sand Bypass Project at Port Everglades.

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact
The Board supports the Compact’s 2019 federal legislative principles and priorities.

Water Resources and Development Act
The Board supports the biennial passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) currently known as “America’s Water Infrastructure Act” (AWIA).

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Aging and Disability Resource Centers
The Board supports continued appropriations to facilitate and streamline access to the most appropriate and cost-effective public and private long-term services for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

Autism
The Board supports health insurance coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in parity with other chronic medical conditions receiving insurance coverage, to ensure children diagnosed with ASD can access available medical services, treatments, and therapies.

CARE Act
The Board supports the reauthorization of the CARE Act and revising the formula funding to account for patient migration by providing a methodology that accounts for patients who relocate to and from jurisdictions and adjust funding accordingly. Additionally, the annual grant application is a difficult process that should allow for multi-year awards and be consolidated into a multi-year process for funding.

Child Abuse Services
The Board requests increased funding for Child Advocacy Centers to enhance child abuse investigations to include a trauma informed multi-disciplinary response to child victims.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
The Board requests increased funding for the CSBG that mitigates the root causes of poverty. The Board supports an increased amount of household income a family can earn and still be eligible for services (i.e., Increase from 125% of federal poverty line to 200% of federal poverty line) and a regional adjustment of eligibility based on cost of living in a geographic area.

Farm Bill Implementation
The Board supports the recent long-term reauthorization of the Farm Bill that will help counties provide critical investments in our nation’s most under-served communities. As part of the Farm Bill implementation, the Board supports full funding and increased access to healthy food for low-income populations through the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).
Home Ownership Program
The Board requests an increase in funding to expand support for vulnerable populations including those experiencing homelessness, the elderly and persons living with disabilities.

HIV Health and Support Services
The Board requests the consolidation of the Ryan White grant application process into a multi-year award process for all funding including formula, Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) and supplemental.

The Board supports increased funding for all Ryan White Parts (Parts A-D, F and HOPWA) to adequately fund core, support and housing services that are effective in promoting viral suppression and the overall health of people living with HIV. This includes modifying current funding methodologies to account for patient migration and to ensure that communities with the greatest need are funded in a manner that addresses disparities, particularly in the Southern United States where the burden of HIV is highest.

The Board requests the alignment of federal applications for HIV programs (all Ryan White Parts, SAMHSA, HUD, CDC) to include concurrent priorities, activities, and outcomes to accomplish Ending the Epidemic: A Plan for America.

Homelessness
The Board requests a minimum of $3 billion for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD’s) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program, and request funding of $1 billion for the National Affordable Housing Trust to maintain new permanent supportive housing.

The Board also requests increased funding for the HUD Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Programs; and Homeless Programs within the Departments of Health and Human Services, HUD, Justice, Veterans Affairs, Education, and Labor.

Human Trafficking
The Board requests increased funding for the provision of effective and comprehensive services to victims of human trafficking in addition to developing and enhancing a collaborative response to victims.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
The Board requests an increase in the administrative cap of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to be in line with CSBG (an increase from 8.5% to 15%) to allow for additional staff to process large volumes of applications received annually.

Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorders Funding
The Board supports no less than $563 million for the Community and Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant, and no less than $1.86 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant.
The Board also supports legislation that allows counties to provide local community-based services for persons with mental illnesses, substance abuse conditions and people experiencing homelessness.

The Board continues to support measures that enhance the ability of counties to prevent and treat mental illness and substance abuse disorders, including programs and legislation to reduce mental illness in jails and provide appropriate treatment to those in custody, while protecting overall public safety.

**Medicaid**

The Board requests increasing the percentage the federal government reimburses states for Medicaid expenditures through the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), based on a sliding scale, so that states with lower personal incomes will have higher FMAPs.

The Board requests using Intergovernmental Transfers (IGTs) to draw down additional federal funding without supplanting the state’s share with local funds that have been certified to be federally matched.

- Support: Maintaining the federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services and efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of policies and operations.
- Support: Federal investments and strategies that focus on serving those most in need, address the root causes of poverty, and maintain the maximum amount of efficiency and flexibility possible at the local level.
- Support: Critical mandatory and optional services such as the Medically Needy program.
- Support: Medicaid coverage for dual eligible clients (Medicare/Medicaid).
- Support: Waivers from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to allow state and local governments to explore the purchase of Canadian pharmaceuticals to reduce costs.
- Support: Enhanced covered Medicaid services, which include expanded dental benefits for eligible adults.
- Oppose: Any measure that would further shift federal and state Medicaid costs to counties – including cuts, funding or service caps, block grants and new limits on counties’ ability to raise the non-federal match or receive supplemental payments.
- Oppose: Any efforts to impose work requirements as eligibility criteria for assistance programs such as Medicaid.

**Medicare**

The Board supports the elimination of the 24-month waiting period for individuals to access Medicare benefits after receiving a disability determination.

The Board also supports the inclusion of prescription drug coverage within the traditional Medicare framework and permanent Medicare funding for medical immunosuppressants and other related drugs.
**Older Americans Act**
Support increased funding to the Older Americans Act cost-effective home and community-based services that keep older adults out of more expensive nursing homes and allow older adults to age at home with independence and dignity.

Support increased funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers to facilitate and streamline access to the most appropriate and cost-effective public and private long-term services and supports for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

Support increased funding for the Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services program to allow Veterans with more intensive care needs to preserve their independence and dignity.

**Immigration Reform**
The Board supports reforms to the current immigration system creating an expeditious and fair path to citizenship. The Board also supports increased border security with defined metrics for success and ensure these measurements are de-coupled from the streamlining of the immigration system.

**Opioid Epidemic**
The Board supports funding for local governments to combat the opioid epidemic from law enforcement to treatment to prevention.

**Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)**
The Board opposes any barriers to accessing care and any attempts to undo ACA and the availability of affordable plan options on the Marketplace.

In addition, the Board supports retaining the protection from health plans discriminating based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, pregnancy and gender expression or identity or excluding coverage of pre-existing conditions; ensure regulations and guidance include cost-sharing limits and prohibit the removal of medications from formularies mid-year.

The Board also supports the permanent repeal of the 40 percent excise tax on employer-sponsored health insurance plans (Cadillac Tax) and supports retaining tax credits based on income and retaining funding for planned parenthood.

**Primary Care Services**
The Board supports increased funding to the Bureau of Primary Health Care to expand the locations and services of preventive and primary care access points through the Federally Qualified Health Centers.
Recovery Residences
The Board supports clarification to the Fair Housing Amendments Act regarding what regulations may be enacted by states and local governments to protect the health, safety, and welfare of sober home residents and the neighborhood areas where sober homes are located.

Sexual Violence
The Board supports increased funding for the provision of effective and comprehensive services to victims of all types of sexual violence and to ensure a trauma-informed response across all disciplines.

Title IIIB Supportive Services
The Board encourages Congress to prioritize increases for Title IIIB Support Services to better meet the increasing demand for cost-effective home and community-based services that keep older adults out of more expensive nursing homes. These services include in-home services, transportation, adult day care, counseling, emergency alert response systems and numerous others that enable seniors to age at home with independence and dignity.

Title IIIE, National Family Caregiver Support Program
The Board encourages Congress to build upon the restoration provided in FY 2018 to address years of funding cuts and erosion. Nationwide, unpaid family caregivers annually provide over $470 billion in uncompensated care services – an amount that rivals the entire federal Medicaid budget. Increases for this program will prevent billions in additional care costs to taxpayers if loved ones are placed in a more expensive institutional setting.

Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services
Broward County encourages Congress to prioritize Veterans with more intensive care needs to preserve their independence and dignity. Broward County receives funds from these programs through the Areafield Council on Aging of Broward County, Inc. to serve Broward County veterans.

PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Affordable Housing
The Board supports an increase in funding for the National Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve affordable housing for persons with extremely low incomes (ELI), including veterans, seniors, individuals with disabilities or special needs, and persons experiencing homelessness. In addition, the Board supports legislation to lift or increase the present 4 percent and 9 percent cap on Housing Tax Credits to provide a direct allocation of tax credit/bond resources to Local Housing Finance Authorities.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
The Board supports increased federal funding for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG program. The CDBG is an entitlement program that provides grants on a formula basis to local governments to address a variety of community development needs.
**HUD Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)**
The Board supports the restoration of $1.25 billion for the HUD Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) assisting state and local governments to provide affordable housing for low-income families. This includes increased funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program and overall Housing Authority resources.

**FINANCE, TAXES AND SPENDING**

**Congressionally-Directed Spending**
The Board supports congressional directives that provide Administrative agencies with guidance on the needs of a particular congressional district or state.

**Sales Taxes on Remote Sales**
The Board supports legislation that would allow counties to enforce their existing sales tax laws regardless of whether a purchase is made in a store, online or through a catalog retailer.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Civil Rights**
The Board supports federal legislation prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

**Federal First Step Act Implementation**
The Board supports the implementation of the First Step Act, which is a comprehensive criminal justice reform bill, which takes several steps to ease mandatory minimum sentences, allow and increase “good time credits” that inmates can earn if they avoid disciplinary action, and participate in vocational and rehabilitative programs. By focusing on rehabilitative programs for minimum and low-risk inmates, a reduction in recidivism may occur.

Further, the legislation includes a reauthorization of the Second Chance Act of 2007, which would extend funding for local reentry programs through 2023. More than one out of three Second Chance Act awards have gone directly to county governments who have received $95 million over the past nine years. These grants provide financial assistance for programs such as employment training, mentoring, substance abuse, mental health treatment and other family-based services to assist formerly incarcerated individuals as they reenter society.

**Hurricane Relief Reimbursement**
The Board supports expedited funding relief efforts to industries and individuals affected by natural disasters. The Board encourages the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to continue to work collaboratively with local applicants in the reimbursement process by ensuring that there are realistic timeframes established for gathering documentation and continuing the deployment of the new program delivery model as a support to local applicants.
**Welcoming Jurisdictions**
The Board opposes legislation, or executive branch agency administrative actions seeking to penalize and deny to states and local governments federal grant funds, because they are welcoming communities for foreign visitors and immigrants, regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, or disability.

**Child Care and Development Fund**
The Board requests increased funding for licensing and monitoring of childcare facilities in addition to funding for subsidized childcare services for parents and professional development opportunities for child care workers.

**EAGLES ACT of 2019**
The Board supports the EAGLES Act of 2019, which reauthorizes and expands the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center’s (NTAC) ability to conduct additional research and training to prevent targeted violence through the development of best practices and standardization across all levels of government. The Board also supports the establishment of a national program on target school violence prevention. This involves providing funding to hire additional personnel to expand NTAC’s research and training on targeted school violence nationwide.