



F L O R I D A ' S  
**Putnam County**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# 2016 Annual Report

## 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Conducted industry visits to identify expansion opportunities.

Assisted numerous existing companies with expansion projects resulting in over 200 retained and new jobs.

Supported FPL for two new projects to be located in Putnam County and when completed they will contribute over \$260 million in capital investments and 400 temporary jobs.

Created task force and begin addressing workforce issues and future workforce needs.

Hosted 8 prospective clients on many on-site prospect visits, and responded to 18 leads for firms looking to relocate.

Facilitated process of implementation of County obtained DEO Competitive Florida Grant, completed a community assessment and updated our existing Strategic Plan.



**Success Metric**

**Unemployment rate improved from 6.2 to 5.6% (Dec 2016)**

Successfully hosted a 2016 BASS Elite event which delivered an estimated \$2 million-dollar impact into the local economy.

Bed tax revenues (those paid by visitors – not us) increased significantly making 2016 our largest collection. The BASS Elite event and several others made this possible. Profitable tourism is alive and well in Putnam County!

Promoted Putnam County as a premiere visitor destination through a variety of media options including TV ad spots in targeted areas, print media, and social media.



**Bed Tax Revenues increased 12.7% (1 yr.) and 33% (4 yrs.)**

Chamber awarded prestigious 5-Star Accreditation for our Chamber's sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community.

Conducted 8 Business After Hours events, Annual Celebration and Annual Fundraiser that enhanced networking opportunities for members, generated non-dues revenue and provided beneficial services.

Funded Junior Achievement Applied Economics classes in all area high schools.

Connected over 200 entrepreneurs to in-house SBDC services creating/retaining 29 jobs, 8 business startups and \$195,000 capital investment

Represented business interests at the city, county, regional and state levels. Legislative actions included opposing EPA's Clean Power Plan, supported modification or elimination of the Shands and completion of four lane projects for SR 20 and US 17.



**Membership Retention 92%**

Thank You for Making Putnam County the Best Place to Live, Work and Visit. These Accomplishments Are Made Possible by You – Our Partners!