

# Rural Renaissance Bill (Senate Bill 250)

**Affected Counties:** Baker, Bradford, Calhoun, Columbia, Desoto, Dixie, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Nassau, Okeechobee, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Walton, Wakulla, Washington

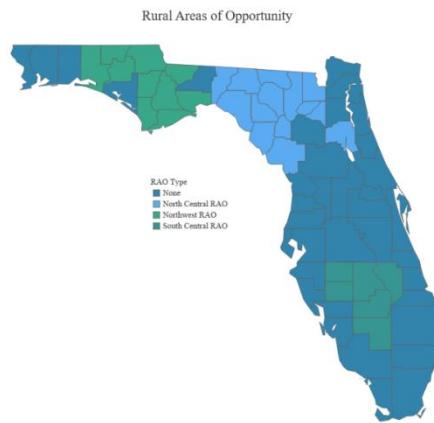
**Affected Population:** 1,154,487

**Lowest Income Counties in United States:** 5 in Bottom 100, 9 in Bottom 150

**Schools:** 8 of 8 Lowest Scoring School Systems in Florida

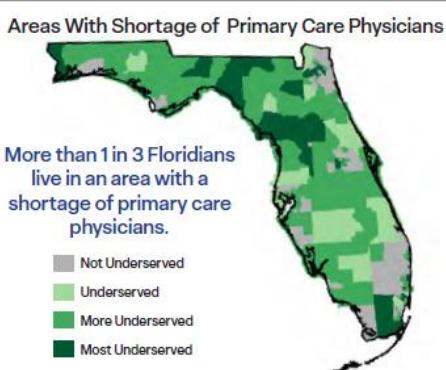
**Poverty:** 3 Affected Counties Designated by US Census Bureau as “Persistent Poverty”

**Population Decline (2020-2024):** 8 of 10 Slowest Growing Counties (Five Declining)



## **How Senate Bill 250 Aids Rural Counties:**

1. Office of Rural Prosperity: Senate Bill 250 creates an office within the Department of Commerce devoted to helping local governments access state and federal resources, navigate programs, and connect with agency partners.
2. Renaissance Grant: Senate Bill 250 establishes the Renaissance Grant Program to help counties rebuild capacity by closing technology gaps, improving digital access, and supporting multigenerational family needs.
3. Housing Investment: Senate Bill 250 raises funds to help with USDA subsidized affordable rental units at risk of converting to market rate.
4. Roads and Transportation: Senate Bill 250 makes major investments in the Small County Road Assistance Program and established the Florida Arterial Road



Modernization Program to provide funding to rural arterial roads.

5. Education: Senate Bill 250 provides funding to Rural Education Consortiums

6. Healthcare: Senate Bill 250 provides funding for grants meant to give meaningful access to rural communities