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**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Lee County Economic Development and community partners offer workforce and technical assistance programs  
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**Lee County Economic Development and community partners offer workforce and technical assistance programs**

Fort Myers, FL, April 27, 2022 – The Lee County Economic Development Office, in collaboration with community partners, offers Workforce Training and Certification programs and a Small Business Technical Assistance Program to assist people, businesses and organizations in response to COVID-19.

The programs were developed under the direction of the Lee Board of County Commissioners and are funded through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

The Workforce Training & Certification Program will offer micro and rapid credentialing programs in response to the education and skills deficiency for disproportionately affected communities exacerbated by COVID-19. Tuition assistance and scholarships paid through \$3 million in ARPA funds will be available for in-demand programs in areas such as health care, real estate/construction and technology offered by:

- Florida Southwestern State College
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Hodges University

The Small Business Technical Assistance Program will be funded by \$475,000 paid to local partners offering technical assistance to small businesses and nonprofits such as business mentoring, organizational development, capital access planning and more.

Partners for the assistance program include:

- Small Business Development Center
- SCORE
- Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association
- SW Florida Impact Partners
- Goodwill SWFL – MicroEnterprise Institute

For a full list of programs and services offered, as well as contact information for community partners, visit [www.leegov.com/ARPA](http://www.leegov.com/ARPA).

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