

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners**  
**Agenda Item Summary**

**Blue Sheet No. 20020510**

**1. REQUESTED MOTION:**

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Recognize the Lee County Department of Human Services and, specifically, its Lee Education and Employment (LEE) Program for receiving a national "2002 Public Service Excellence Award."

**WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY:**

**WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES:**

**2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:**

**COMMISSION DISTRICT #**

9:30 #5

**3. MEETING DATE:**

05-21-2002

**4. AGENDA:**

CONSENT  
 ADMINISTRATIVE  
 APPEALS

PUBLIC  
 WALK ON

**TIME REQUIRED:**

**5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:**

*(Specify)*

STATUTE  
 ORDINANCE  
 ADMIN.  
 CODE  
 OTHER

**6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:**

**A. COMMISSIONER** District #1  
**B. DEPARTMENT**  
**C. DIVISION**

**BY:** Bob Janes  
 Chairman, BOCC

*James by Bob*

**7. BACKGROUND:**

See attached.

**8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:**

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services				G County Manager
					OA	OM	Risk	GC	
									<p style="font-size: 1.5em;">16</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">Re-005 5-8-02</p>

**10. COMMISSION ACTION:**

APPROVED  
 DENIED  
 DEFERRED  
 OTHER

## LEE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES RECOGNITION

Earlier this month, Lee County's Department of Human Services won a national "2002 Public Service Excellence Award."

Department Director Karen Hawes and Board of Lee County Commissioners Chairman Bob Janes traveled to Washington, D.C. May 6 to accept the award at the "Breakfast of Champions," the event that kicked off Public Service Recognition Week across the country.

The award is given by the Washington, D.C.-based Public Employees Roundtable, a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of organizations representing 600,000 public employees working together for excellence in government and to better inform citizens about the quality of people in government and the value of the services they provide.

Lee County Human Services won in the "County" category for its Lee Education and Employment (LEE) Program.

The LEE Program is designed to rapidly produce a substantial increase in income for low-income working adults and to provide a career path with future upward mobility. Participants are provided specialized vocational training through a contract with Edison Community College. The vocational training is tailored to the medical office field and prepares students to work in scheduling, medical records and insurance billing – all high-demand occupations in Southwest Florida.

The program is funded through Community Services Block Grants. LEE participants must be employed but low income (125% of the poverty income guidelines, which is an annual income of \$18,775 for a family of three). They must have a high school diploma or a GED, pass an entrance exam and be interested in becoming more self-sufficient. The LEE Program covers all costs for tuition, books, childcare for class hours (which are at night so participants can continue to work), necessary car repair and emergency transportation while in school.

More than 72 people have graduated since initial enrollment in October 1999. Participants' average wages have increased 80 percent after graduation. Articles about the Excellence Award winners appeared in *USA Today* and *The Washington Times* newspapers on May 6.

Lee County Human Services provides a complement of integrated services to low-income families and disadvantaged neighborhoods, including emergency financial assistance, housing assistance, counseling services, housing rehabilitation, neighborhood infrastructure improvements and neighborhood building, and services for the homeless. The department employs 42 people and has a Fiscal Year 2002 budget of \$16.9 million.