



080003A

May 5, 2008

Mr. Russ Blackburn
PO Box 490 Station 6
Gainesville, FL 32602

Dear Mr. Blackburn,

We are very pleased with the continuing progress of the Heart of Florida Regional Coalition. As a member of the Coordinating Board for the Coalition, you know our primary mission is to promote regional collaboration to strengthen the region's economic vitality and quality of life.

The Heart of Florida Regional Coalition is invested in the region through its involvement in planning and promoting regional economic development events, pursuing regional water supply protection and conservation practices, promoting regional legislative cooperation, participating in a regional workforce shortage initiative and regenerating a small business development support initiative. The Strategic Plan and its strategic focus areas will drive our future investment in the region on issues of great importance to a healthy economy and quality of life.

The Heart of Florida Regional Coalition has been funded through a Federal Grant that will soon expire. At our meeting on February 6, 2008, the Coordinating Board approved a funding plan to fund us for the future. As a member of the Coordinating Board, you have shown a commitment to the mission and its accomplishments along with its future strategic direction. You are now asked to take the next step in our evolution to financially invest in the future of the region. Attached are an invoice for your Heart of Florida investment apportionment, a proposed budget for 2008 – 2009, and the approved funding plan. Flexible payment options are available upon request.

As a member of the Heart of Florida Regional Coalition Coordinating Board, you represent the innovative leadership that through regional collaboration can strengthen our economic vitality and quality of life. Your investment of time and money will have a significant impact on programs affecting our water management solutions, economic development, transportation, legislative influence and cultural awareness. Our Regional Coalition offers the regional synergism among elected officials, education, healthcare, business development, tourism, community and arts that is needed in the Heart of Florida.

Thank you for continued interest, commitment and investment in the Heart of Florida Regional Coalition. Should you have any questions, please contact Ron Barnwell, Executive Director at (352) 854-2322 extension 1535.

Sincerely,

Honorable Gib Coerper
Coordinating Board Chairman

Honorable Barbara Fitos
Coordinating Board Vice-Chairman

Heart of Florida Regional Coalition
Budget
2008 - 2009

Budget Item		Budget		Actual
Salary	(Part-time) Executive Director Clerical	\$	37,000.00	
	Subtotal	\$	37,000.00	
Travel		\$	3,500.00	
Marketing		\$	3,000.00	
Supplies	Cell Phone	\$	600.00	
	Office Expenses	\$	2,000.00	
	Subtotal	\$	2,600.00	
Miscellaneous		\$	300.00	
Total		\$	46,400.00	0

Notes:

Travel: In Region/Special Meetings/Tallahassee

Marketing: Branding/Publications

Supplies: Coordinating Board Meetings/Mailings/Supplies/Equipment

Miscellaneous: Board directives/Events/Annual Summit

Heart of Florida
Funding Plan Proposal
(2008 – 2009)

Grant amendment to reallocate and extend Grant funds through the end of 2008 and with Coordinating Board approval, implement the following plan for the 2009 budget.

Membership Base (Annual Contribution)	Per Unit	Total
Chambers of Commerce (2)	\$2,500	\$5,000
Higher Education Institutions (3)	\$2,500	\$7,500
Economic Development Corp.	\$2,500	\$2,500
Metro City (2)	\$2,000	\$4,000
Small City (2)	\$1,000	\$2,000
County (2)	\$2,500	\$5,000
Business (5)	\$1,000	\$5,000
Media (3)	\$1,000	\$3,000
Hospitals (4)	\$1,000	\$4,000
Tourism (2)	\$500	\$1,000
Workforce (2)	\$750	\$1,500
School District (2)	\$750	\$1,500
Non-profits (5)	\$250	<u>\$1,250</u>
Total		\$43,250
Annual Summit		<u>\$2,500 (net income)</u>
TOTAL		\$45,750