

Multi-Purpose Community Facility at its Blackburn Educational Building

Executive Summary

Indian River State College (IRSC) has been awarded a \$4M Florida Commerce grant to establish a Multi-Purpose Community Facility at its Blackburn Educational Building located in the Lincoln Park community of Fort Pierce, FL. This facility will provide needed access to education, workforce training, telehealth services, wellness activities and broadband connectivity for the citizens living in this community.

Project Benefits

The grant award will be used to renovate the current facility to include upgrades to technology throughout the building, build private spaces to allow for telehealth appointments, create a multi-purpose space with access to computers and printers, and includes the installation of wireless access points external to the building to allow for public Wi-Fi connectivity. The facility will be open to the public outside of IRSC normal business hours, providing better accessibility to services. The project will support work, education and health monitoring as follows:

***WORK:** The facility will provide access to computers to research and complete online job applications, assistance with resume development, interview skills, a career closet and will host job fairs. Participants will be referred to CareerSource Research Coast for job search and employability services including the opportunity to receive WIOA dollars to assist with training fees and obtaining employment.

***EDUCATION:** IRSC focuses on educational access through efforts in recruitment, student development, and academic achievement. Participants select from programs that align with regional need allowing participants to gain the knowledge and skills needed for jobs earning a livable wage.

***HEALTH MONITORING:** IRSC will purchase three Telehealth Kiosk pods, one individual, one for two people and one ADA compliant pod to be located within the facility. The pods will have a desktop with video conferencing capabilities and a printer, all in a soundproof, self-cleaning and sanitized Kiosk pod. Patient visits are private, safe, and secure.

In addition to the work being completed at the IRSC Blackburn Educational Building, the Fort Pierce Police Department and Fort Pierce Utilities Authority will benefit from funding set aside to address needs within the Lincoln Park Community. Fort Pierce Utilities Authority will install a high-speed reliable network to allow this area of our community to be transformed into a SMART Neighborhood that will provide free public Wi-Fi to area residents and provide the ability to connect SMART City Assets and SMART Grid Solutions to the network. The Fort Pierce Police Department will install state-of-the-art security cameras that will link to the high-speed network in an effort to enhance security.