

2019

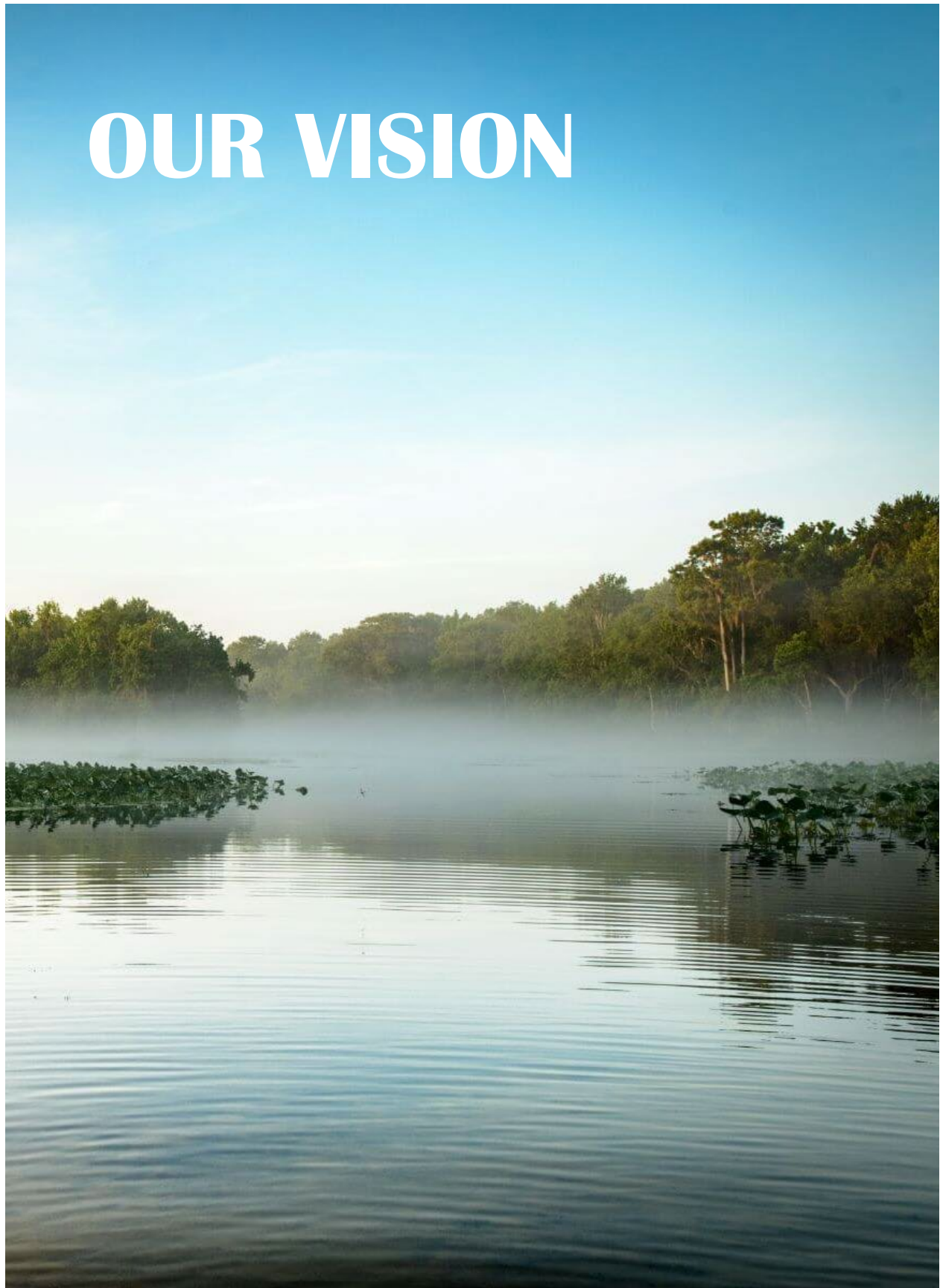
SOPCHOPPY

Economic Development Strategy

City of Sopchoppy
Florida



OUR VISION



HOMETOWN, HANDMADE, HOMEGROWN

Hidden Gem

With Vibrant Economy

All-American Small Town

Growing, Friendly, Prosperous

Where the outdoors is “in”

A unique, exciting recreational hub

Sopchoppy

Where Artwork Meets Agriculture

Tourism

The Naturalist’s Destination

A Place for Children

Affordable Living & Folk Music

Retirement Community

Slow pace, enjoy the outdoors

Small Business Paired with Tech

Bring the old together with the new

Historic Community

With family-owned businesses

Quaint, Authentic

For people to make art & crafts

More Business

But still the hometown feeling

Sopchoppy Mainstreet

A place for people to hike, bike,
walk, dine & recreate

Ensuring that the city stays true to its nature...

“HOMETOWN, HANDMADE, HOMEGROWN”

The City of Sopchoppy is a charming, quaint community, rich with history, culture, arts and surrounded by natural beauty. The community of nearly 500 people draws residents and visitors who enjoy laid-back & affordable living, recreating outdoors, historic buildings, unique annual events such as the Worm Gruntin’ Festival, and proximity to the Sopchoppy River, St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, the Apalachicola National Forest, and the Florida Gulf Coast.

The visioning process for this economic development strategy revealed that residents desire economic development that emphasizes the themes of outdoors, artistic, and homegrown. A community member suggested “Hometown, Handmade, Homegrown” as an all-encompassing phrase to guide this strategy.

The following pages detail goals, strategies, and projects for achieving local economic development that enhances Sopchoppy’s natural, cultural, and commercial assets while maintaining Sopchoppy’s iconic small-town Florida feel.



COMMUNITY ASSETS

Through participation in the Competitive Florida Partnership Program, stakeholders identified Sopchoppy's primary assets for increasing community and economic development. These assets were classified as recreational, cultural and historic, and commercial assets. The economic development strategy provides a path for strengthening these assets, listed below.

Asset Type	Asset Name
<i>Recreational Assets</i>	Myron B. Hodge City Park
	Depot Park
	Sopchoppy River
	Apalachicola National Forest
	St. Marks Wildlife Refuge
<i>Cultural and Historic Assets</i>	Historic Train Depot and Museum
	Historic Gymnasium
	Historic Sopchoppy High School
	Artistic Community
	Historic Buildings (Lawhon House, Towles House)
<i>Commercial Assets</i>	Local, family-owned businesses
	Local Agriculture and Farms
	Community Festivals (Worm Gruntin, Fourth of July)
	US 319 and Rose Street Corridor



THE PATH FORWARD

Goals, strategies, and projects for achieving
community and economic development



Overview of Goals, Strategies, & Projects

As a note, the goals, strategies, and projects outlined below are not listed in any given order. The projects, while complementary, are not wholly dependent on each other. Therefore, projects may be pursued in any order, even simultaneously. Project details are provided on subsequent pages.

GOAL 1: Enhance recreational infrastructure and regional coordination to encourage eco-tourism and improve quality of outdoor recreation opportunities.	STRATEGY 1.1: Make infrastructural, access, signage, and beautification improvements in the US 319 and Rose Street area to improve the connection between Downtown Sopchoppy and the Ochlocknee Bay Trail.	PROJECT 1.1.1: Convert the former Mom’s Restaurant parcel to a trail head that services the Ochlocknee Bay Trail and serves as an overflow lot for community events. Include a water retention pond on the parcel to mitigate flooding.
		PROJECT 1.1.2: Add welcome signage and directional signage (for trails, facilities) to the US 319 and Rose Street area for wayfinding.
		PROJECT 1.1.3: Add landscaping to the US 319 ‘triangle’ to beautify the connection between Downtown and the Trail and increase overall visibility.
		PROJECT 1.1.4: Add a sidewalk that connects the Ochlocknee Bay Trail with existing downtown sidewalks for easy, clear access between the trail and downtown.
	STRATEGY 1.2: Enhance the quality of amenities at Myron B. Hodge City Park to support short-term and long-term tourism near and on the Sopchoppy River.	PROJECT 1.2.1: Update facilities and amenities, including the boat ramp, at the Myron B. Hodge City Park to improve quality of outdoor recreation.
		PROJECT 1.2.2: Start a “paddle share” program at Myron B. Hodge City Park for use on the Sopchoppy River.
	STRATEGY 1.3: Coordinate with representatives of the Apalachicola National Forest, St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, Big Bend Scenic Byway, and Wakulla County	PROJECT 1.3.1: Create a new city website and associated marketing campaign that highlights recreational opportunities in and near Sopchoppy.

	to jointly advertise natural resources and eco-tourism opportunities found in the Sopchoppy area.	PROJECT 1.3.2: Work with regional organizations, governments, and representatives of nearby recreational sites create a regional eco-tourism strategy that can market local offerings as part of a wider tourism effort.
GOAL 2: Support the cultivation and preservation of arts, culture, and local history.	STRATEGY 2.1: Coordinate a location for teaching, learning, and creating art, especially traditional art forms unique to the Sopchoppy area.	PROJECT 2.1.1: Establish a temporary maker's studio at the Historic Sopchoppy Gymnasium, which would host creative workshops for the community and visitors.
		PROJECT 2.1.2: The city can acquire and rehabilitate the Lawhon House for use as a future maker's studio and community art gallery.
	STRATEGY 2.2: Preserve local history and culture by establishing new means of sharing the history and culture of Sopchoppy with new residents and visitors.	PROJECT 2.2.1: Use signage to create a history walk that extends from the Ochlocknee Bay Trail through Downtown Sopchoppy to Myron B. Hodge City Park.
		PROJECT 2.2.2: Complete an "Ancestral Voices" folklife audio project, which can be used for self-guided tours, to share local narratives and promote tourism of historical sites.
GOAL 3: Support entrepreneurship, business retention, workforce development, and access to local goods and services.	STRATEGY 3.1: Establish infrastructure and training geared towards small business owners and entrepreneurs.	PROJECT 3.1.1: Acquire the Sopchoppy High School from the School Board to house a local business services center, where the community can also host workshops on entrepreneurship, estate planning, financial planning, etc.
	STRATEGY 3.2: Coordinate with local farms, businesses, and artisans to increase residents' access to fresh produce and locally crafted goods.	PROJECT 3.2.1: Establish a cooperative of farmers, business owners, and artisans to organize and host a regular farmer's market in Downtown Sopchoppy.

Detailed Project Overview

PROJECT 1.1.1. Convert the former Mom's Restaurant parcel to a trail head that services the Ochlocknee Bay Trail and serves as an overflow lot for community events. Include a water retention pond on the parcel to mitigate flooding.

1. The City Council may coordinate with the property owner(s) of the former Mom's Restaurant building and the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) to have an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) conducted on the Mom's Restaurant property. The ESA will help determine soil and water quality as well as presence of lead paint and/or asbestos prior to the city's acquisition of the property. The ARPC currently has an EPA Brownfields Grant that would completely finance the ESA. Performing an ESA prior to acquisition often saves money down the line.
2. The City of Sopchoppy may negotiate with the property owner(s) to acquire the parcel.
3. Once the city acquires the parcel, the lot may be converted to a trail head with overflow parking. Stakeholders may also discuss the existing building, which could be rehabilitated to serve as a Visitor's Center or other amenity or demolished.
4. The City Council and Beautification Committee may collaborate with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to design the trail head.
5. Once designation requirements have been met, the City may consider applying for Trail Town Designation to further boost eco-tourism and trail usage.

PROJECT 1.1.2. Add welcome signage and directional signage (for trails, facilities) to the US 319 and Rose Street area for wayfinding.

1. Work with the Sopchoppy Beautification Committee to design welcome and directional signage that fits the city's character.
2. Work with FDOT and Wakulla County to select suitable, strategic locations for the welcome and wayfinding signage along US 319 and the Ochlocknee Bay Trail.
3. Install signage.

PROJECT 1.1.3. Add landscaping along the US 319 and Rose Street intersection, including the middle 'triangle,' to beautify the connection between Downtown and the Trail and make the entrance to Downtown Sopchoppy more defined and attractive, especially for cyclists, hikers, and other pedestrians.

1. Coordinate with the IFAS Extension Office in Wakulla County to determine climate- and soil-appropriate vegetation for the US 319 area.
2. Coordinate with Sopchoppy Public Works to determine water access for vegetation along US 319.
3. Apply for the FDOT Highway Beautification Grant to make landscape improvements along US 319: <https://www.fdot.gov/designsupport/highwaybeautification/grants.shtml>

PROJECT 1.1.4. Add a sidewalk that connects the Ochlocknee Bay Trail with existing downtown sidewalks for easy, clear access between the trail and downtown. The sidewalk will also improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of US 319 and Rose Street.

1. Coordinate with the City Council, FDOT, Wakulla County, and affected property owners to build an approximately 1,000 feet of sidewalk that will connect the existing downtown sidewalk, which ends by the Towles House, to the terminus of the Ochlocknee Bay Trail on US 319.
2. If permitted by FDOT, consider adding a marked crosswalk with a solar-powered [rectangular rapid flashing beacon](#) (RRFB) between the bike trail and new sidewalk. Cyclists and pedestrians currently have no safe means of crossing US 319; adding a solar-powered ‘blinking’ crosswalk would improve public safety and provide a defined means of access between the Ochlocknee Bay Trail and Downtown.

PROJECT 1.2.1. Update facilities and amenities, including the boat ramp, at the Myron B. Hodge City Park to improve quality of outdoor recreation.

1. Package a grant application that will provide funding to add new playground equipment, benches, trash cans, update the bathroom facilities, and improve the boat ramp by extending the length to mitigate power-loading and adding finger docks to improve user access and boat safety.
2. The grant package can be submitted to DEP’s Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP): <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/frdap-assistance>

PROJECT 1.2.2. Start a “paddle share” program at Myron B. Hodge City Park for use on the Sopchoppy River.

1. Use the [Mississippi River Paddle Share Program](#) as a model for creating a new recreational opportunity on the Sopchoppy River. Proceeds from rentals could flow directly to the city to be funneled back into recreational improvements or community events via a special fund. Create a plan for the paddle share program that fits the city’s context.
2. Once the program is planned, the paddle share system can be installed at Myron B. Hodge City Park. Funding for the program may be sourced through DEP’s Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP):
 - a. <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/frdap-assistance>
3. Create a website for the paddle share program where visitors can access information on the Sopchoppy River, park and other local amenities, see canoe/kayak/paddleboard availability and make and pay for reservations in advance.

PROJECT 1.3.1. Create a new city website and associated marketing campaign that highlights recreational opportunities in and near Sopchoppy.

PROJECT 1.3.2. Work with regional organizations, governments, and representatives of nearby recreational sites create a regional eco-tourism strategy that can market local offerings as part of a wider tourism effort.

PROJECT 2.1.1. Establish a temporary maker’s studio at the Historic Sopchoppy Gymnasium, which would host creative workshops for the community and visitors.

1. Form a committee to oversee implementation of the maker’s studio.
2. Survey residents and stakeholders to determine an optimal set of offerings and schedule for activities at the Gymnasium. Make a list of persons interested in instructing workshops. Use this

information to create a weekly or monthly schedule for activities at the Gymnasium. Determine whether a cost should be associated with the workshops and how equipment and materials will be provided.

3. Create a marketing plan for advertising the maker's studio in and around Sopchoppy. Share the development with other art hubs in the region to attract greater attendance.
4. Monitor the performance of the maker's studio and use the temporary location to work out any kinks before permanently moving the maker's studio into the Lawhon House.

PROJECT 2.1.2. The city can acquire and rehabilitate the Lawhon House for use as a future maker's studio and community art gallery.

1. Coordinate with the Lawhon House property owner(s) and the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) to have an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) conducted on the Lawhon House property. The ESA will help determine soil and water quality as well as presence of lead paint and/or asbestos prior to the city's acquisition of the property. The ARPC currently has an EPA Brownfields Grant that would completely finance the ESA.
2. Apply for a Special Category Grant through the Department of State to acquire the Lawhon House: <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/grants/special-category-grants/>
3. Apply for a Small Matching Grant (match waived) through the Department of State to create architectural designs (pre-construction phase) in order to preserve the historic integrity of the building: <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/grants/small-matching-grants/>
4. Apply for another Special Category Grant through the Department of State that would finance the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of the Lawhon House, including site-specific planning activities such as structural or condition assessment reports: <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/grants/special-category-grants/>
5. Apply for the Lawhon House to be included on the National Registry of Historic Places: <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/national-register/>

PROJECT 2.2.1. Use signage to create a history walk that extends from the Ochlocknee Bay Trail through Downtown Sopchoppy to Myron B. Hodge City Park.

PROJECT 2.2.2. Complete an "Ancestral Voices" folklife audio project, which can be used for self-guided tours, to share local narratives and promote tourism of historical sites.

PROJECT 3.1.1. Acquire the Sopchoppy High School from the School Board to house a local business services center, where the community can also host workshops on entrepreneurship, estate planning, financial planning, etc.

PROJECT 3.2.1. Establish a cooperative of farmers, business owners, and artisans to organize and host a regular farmer's market in Downtown Sopchoppy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This economic development strategy should be regularly revisited to ensure that the city and community are taking appropriate steps to implement the strategy. Two steps may be immediately taken in order to quicken implementation.

Grants Writer. The City of Sopchoppy may consider hiring a full-time grants writer to assist with implementation of the Economic Development Strategy. Numerous state and federal grants are available to the City of Sopchoppy. Packaging grants applications is often a time-consuming task; staffing a grants writer would help the city to actively pursue these funding avenues.

Economic Development Entity. The City of Sopchoppy may consider establishing an Economic Development Council, Economic Advisory Board, or similar group to oversee implementation of the Economic Development Strategy and related activities. This group would be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards project implementation, could hold regular meetings to discuss the strategy, and could work closely with the grants writer to strategically pursue funding opportunities.

APPENDIX A

The table below outlines demographic data relevant for future grant applications and key to understanding the composition of the population in Sopchoppy. The data is sourced from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey.

Subject	Sopchoppy city, Florida	
	Estimate	Percent
SEX AND AGE		
Total population	449	449
Male	210	46.8%
Female	239	53.2%
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	87.9	(X)
Under 5 years	12	2.7%
5 to 9 years	16	3.6%
10 to 14 years	0	0.0%
15 to 19 years	35	7.8%
20 to 24 years	32	7.1%
25 to 34 years	59	13.1%
35 to 44 years	36	8.0%
45 to 54 years	67	14.9%
55 to 59 years	85	18.9%
60 to 64 years	33	7.3%
65 to 74 years	35	7.8%
75 to 84 years	20	4.5%
85 years and over	19	4.2%
Median age (years)	50.8	(X)
Under 18 years	54	12.0%
16 years and over	410	91.3%
18 years and over	395	88.0%
21 years and over	378	84.2%
62 years and over	93	20.7%
65 years and over	74	16.5%
18 years and over	395	395
Male	181	45.8%
Female	214	54.2%
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	84.6	(X)

65 years and over	74	74
Male	22	29.7%
Female	52	70.3%
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	42.3	(X)
RACE		
Total population	449	449
One race	424	94.4%
Two or more races	25	5.6%
One race	424	94.4%
White	311	69.3%
Black or African American	104	23.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native	5	1.1%
Cherokee tribal grouping	0	0.0%
Chippewa tribal grouping	0	0.0%
Navajo tribal grouping	0	0.0%
Sioux tribal grouping	0	0.0%
Asian	2	0.4%
Asian Indian	0	0.0%
Chinese	0	0.0%
Filipino	2	0.4%
Japanese	0	0.0%
Korean	0	0.0%
Vietnamese	0	0.0%
Other Asian	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian	0	0.0%
Guamanian or Chamorro	0	0.0%
Samoan	0	0.0%
Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Some other race	2	0.4%
Two or more races	25	5.6%
White and Black or African American	0	0.0%
White and American Indian and Alaska Native	25	5.6%
White and Asian	0	0.0%
Black or African American and American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Race alone or in combination with one or more other races		
Total population	449	449
White	336	74.8%
Black or African American	104	23.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native	30	6.7%
Asian	2	0.4%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Some other race	2	0.4%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Total population	449	449
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	9	2.0%
Mexican	0	0.0%
Puerto Rican	9	2.0%
Cuban	0	0.0%
Other Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	440	98.0%
White alone	302	67.3%
Black or African American alone	104	23.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	5	1.1%
Asian alone	2	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0%
Some other race alone	2	0.4%
Two or more races	25	5.6%
Two races including Some other race	0	0.0%
Two races excluding Some other race, and Three or more races	25	5.6%
Total housing units	256	(X)
CITIZEN, VOTING AGE POPULATION		
Citizen, 18 and over population	395	395
Male	181	45.8%
Female	214	54.2%

APPENDIX B

The table below outlines socio-economic data relevant for future grant applications and key to understanding economic and educational needs of the population in Sopchoppy. The data is sourced from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey.

Subject	Sopchoppy city, Florida	
	Estimate	Percent
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
Population 16 years and over	410	410
In labor force	237	57.8%
Civilian labor force	237	57.8%
Employed	205	50.0%
Unemployed	32	7.8%
Armed Forces	0	0.0%
Not in labor force	173	42.2%
Civilian labor force	237	237
Unemployment Rate	(X)	13.5%
Females 16 years and over	219	219
In labor force	113	51.6%
Civilian labor force	113	51.6%
Employed	104	47.5%
Own children of the householder under 6 years	21	21
All parents in family in labor force	6	28.6%

Own children of the householder 6 to 17 years	33	33
All parents in family in labor force	19	57.6%
COMMUTING TO WORK		
Workers 16 years and over	197	197
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	168	85.3%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	13	6.6%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	0	0.0%
Walked	5	2.5%
Other means	0	0.0%
Worked at home	11	5.6%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	33.3	(X)
OCCUPATION		
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	205	205
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	78	38.0%
Service occupations	54	26.3%
Sales and office occupations	31	15.1%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	19	9.3%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	23	11.2%
INDUSTRY		
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	205	205
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	8	3.9%
Construction	19	9.3%

Manufacturing	21	10.2%
Wholesale trade	4	2.0%
Retail trade	7	3.4%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	7	3.4%
Information	3	1.5%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	0	0.0%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	38	18.5%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	50	24.4%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	15	7.3%
Other services, except public administration	2	1.0%
Public administration	31	15.1%
CLASS OF WORKER		
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	205	205
Private wage and salary workers	146	71.2%
Government workers	48	23.4%
Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers	6	2.9%
Unpaid family workers	5	2.4%
INCOME AND BENEFITS (IN 2017 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)		
Total households	206	206
Less than \$10,000	19	9.2%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	14	6.8%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	16	7.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	27	13.1%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	27	13.1%

\$50,000 to \$74,999	74	35.9%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	7	3.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11	5.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3	1.5%
\$200,000 or more	8	3.9%
Median household income (dollars)	50,000	(X)
Mean household income (dollars)	56,494	(X)
With earnings	146	70.9%
Mean earnings (dollars)	59,858	(X)
With Social Security	76	36.9%
Mean Social Security income (dollars)	17,550	(X)
With retirement income	43	20.9%
Mean retirement income (dollars)	22,363	(X)
With Supplemental Security Income	12	5.8%
Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars)	12,975	(X)
With cash public assistance income	0	0.0%
Mean cash public assistance income (dollars)	-	(X)
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	33	16.0%
Families	120	120
Less than \$10,000	6	5.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2	1.7%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	9	7.5%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9	7.5%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16	13.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	54	45.0%

\$75,000 to \$99,999	7	5.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	8	6.7%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3	2.5%
\$200,000 or more	6	5.0%
Median family income (dollars)	57,500	(X)
Mean family income (dollars)	66,361	(X)
Per capita income (dollars)	26,066	(X)
Nonfamily households	86	86
Median nonfamily income (dollars)	33,750	(X)
Mean nonfamily income (dollars)	42,349	(X)
Median earnings for workers (dollars)	30,547	(X)
Median earnings for male full-time, year-round workers (dollars)	39,375	(X)
Median earnings for female full-time, year-round workers (dollars)	31,250	(X)
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE		
Civilian noninstitutionalized population	449	449
With health insurance coverage	398	88.6%
With private health insurance	292	65.0%
With public coverage	156	34.7%
No health insurance coverage	51	11.4%
Civilian noninstitutionalized population under 19 years	63	63
No health insurance coverage	0	0.0%

Civilian noninstitutionalized population 19 to 64 years	312	312
In labor force:	221	221
Employed:	196	196
With health insurance coverage	174	88.8%
With private health insurance	160	81.6%
With public coverage	28	14.3%
No health insurance coverage	22	11.2%
Unemployed:	25	25
With health insurance coverage	20	80.0%
With private health insurance	10	40.0%
With public coverage	10	40.0%
No health insurance coverage	5	20.0%
Not in labor force:	91	91
With health insurance coverage	67	73.6%
With private health insurance	39	42.9%
With public coverage	28	30.8%
No health insurance coverage	24	26.4%
PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL		
All families	(X)	6.7%
With related children of the householder under 18 years	(X)	0.0%
With related children of the householder under 5 years only	(X)	0.0%
Married couple families	(X)	0.0%
With related children of the householder under 18 years	(X)	0.0%
With related children of the householder under 5 years only	(X)	-
Families with female householder, no husband present	(X)	19.4%

With related children of the householder under 18 years	(X)	0.0%
With related children of the householder under 5 years only	(X)	0.0%
All people	(X)	10.7%
Under 18 years	(X)	0.0%
Related children of the householder under 18 years	(X)	0.0%
Related children of the householder under 5 years	(X)	0.0%
Related children of the householder 5 to 17 years	(X)	0.0%
18 years and over	(X)	12.2%
18 to 64 years	(X)	12.5%
65 years and over	(X)	10.8%
People in families	(X)	4.9%
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	(X)	26.2%

APPENDIX C: Regional Partners

Sopchoppy is represented by a diverse range of economic development organizations and grant-funding agencies. These organizations can be contacted directly for information on current activities, grant offerings, and collaboration opportunities. A comprehensive list of groups, contact people, and grant programs relevant to supporting economic development in Sopchoppy is provided below (in alphabetical order).

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Caroline Smith, Economic Development Planner
(850) 488 6211 ext. 108
csmith@thearpc.com

Big Bend Scenic Byway

Del Suggs, President
suggs@SaltwaterMusic.com
<http://www.floridabigbendscenicbyway.org/>

CareerSource Capital Region

Jim McShane, Chief Executive Officer
Jim.mcshane@careersourcecapitalregion.com
<https://www.careersourcecapitalregion.com/>

Enterprise Florida

(850) 298 6620
<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/>

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Relevant Programs [Competitive Florida Partnership](#) (current participant)
 [Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant](#)
 [Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Program](#)
 [Rural Infrastructure Fund \(RIF\)](#)

Sherry Spiers, Regional Planning Administrator
(850) 717 8499
Sherry.Spiers2@deo.myflorida.com

Sean Lewis, Rural Community Programs
(850) 717 8428
Sean.lewis@deo.myflorida.com

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Relevant Program(s) [Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program \(FRDAP\)](#)

Florida Department of State

Relevant Programs [Small Matching Grants](#) (Match waived)
[Special Category Grant](#) (Match required)
[Florida Main Street Program](#)
[Florida Heritage Trails](#)
[Historical Markers](#)
[National Register](#)
[Cultural Facilities](#)

Tim Knoepke, Historic Preservation Grants Supervisor
(850) 245 6393
Timothy.knoepke@dos.myflorida.com

Katherine Beck, Florida Main Street Program Coordinator
(850) 245 6345
Katherine.beck@dos.myflorida.com

Florida Department of Transportation

Relevant Program(s) [Highway Beautification Grants](#)

District 3 Office (Northwest Florida)
(888) 638 0250

Florida State University

(850) 644 4510
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Wakulla County Economic Development Council (EDC)

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Wakulla County Tourism Development Council (TDC)

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USDA Rural Development

Relevant Programs

[Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program](#)

[Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant](#)

[Farmer's Markets Promotion Program](#)

[Rural Business Development Grants](#)

[Community Connect Grants](#)

[Housing Preservation Grants](#)

[Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy](#)

[Development Assistance Grants](#)

[Value-Added Producer Grants](#)

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