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Brevard development officials seek streamlined government

Groups partner to offer workshop to help streamline government

BY WAYNE T. PRICE
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Government efficiency is chic these days, as municipalities struggle to get by with less revenue.

Better efficiency also is the rallying cry of Brevard County economic development officials as they look for ways for communities to streamline operations and make the Space Coast more attractive to potential employers.

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast is partnering with the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Space Coast League of Cities to offer workshops to municipalities on how to boost efficiency and cut waste. The goal is nothing short of making Brevard the "most business friendly, most competitive location in the world," according to the commission.

Making governments operate more efficiently is part of the broader EDC plan for creating 2,250 higher-paying jobs over the next three years.

"We believe there is a lot we can give back to the municipalities to help refine processes and become 'lean,'" said Lynda Weatherman, chief executive officer of the Economic Development Commission.

The EDC plans to offer a full-day workshop, put on by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, for a selected Brevard municipality to undergo a thorough review, or "business process mapping," of procedures -- such as getting a permit -- to look for greater efficiencies.

Mark Brimer, chairman of the Space Coast League of Cities and mayor of Satellite Beach, pointed to a recent review of Palm Bay's utility department by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. It resulted in the elimination of unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and faster response time to customers.

"In today's cost-cutting environment, any ideas are good ones," Brimer said.

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Additional Facts

More info

To learn more about the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership's Business Process Mapping program, contact Julie Song at 305-5666 or julies@floridamep.org. Go online at www.floridamep.org.
