



CollaboratorySM

2031 Jackson Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

16
years to go.

This is the third of our new quarterly reports on our progress toward our eighteen-year deadline for coordinating the solving of all of the social problems in our region. We want to keep you informed and hold ourselves accountable to our promise. You'll receive four of these updates each year.

Progress Report #3

co•a•li•tion: an alliance for combined action.

We're building regional coalitions to tackle our biggest social problems—with each coalition doing deep coordination built on strong partnerships between committed participants. They're working on issues from housing and transportation to health and wellness.

We based this approach on our proven coalition that works on getting our neighbors into better jobs. They do it by working all along the education pathway, from early childhood on, to get people post-high school, high-quality credentials that qualify them for better than minimum-wage work. We call that coalition, "FutureMakers." With over 400 networked organizations and individuals, they've added nearly 55,000 credentials to fill in-demand local jobs since 2014.

Powered by a \$22.9 million award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration last year, Florida Gulf Coast University in partnership with FutureMakers, is placing unemployed and underemployed Southwest Floridians in good, quality jobs—a huge win for FutureMakers' goal to get credentials to 55% of working-age adults by 2025.

We're bringing this approach to two big areas of social concern identified by our community: housing and health and wellness. We've logged more than 700 hundred hours in collaborative leadership training for the partners shepherding these coalitions. Together, we're organizing meetings, collecting data, and building dashboards to keep everyone informed about our collective progress, as well as our setbacks. There are now 90 organizations and 157 individuals working together to tackle issues related to home and health with 23 active project teams; our hope was to see two successful projects in this first year.

In September, we welcomed our new President & CEO—Dawn Belamarich—to lead Collaboratory and support this allied effort to transform Southwest Florida by 2040. She's all-in on our mission and focused on creating feedback loops and access points for everyone to engage in this endeavor.

And you—we're humbled by those who helped contribute over \$5 million to support recovery in the wake of Hurricane Ian. Those funds are now 100% committed to immediate and long-term needs as our region recovers and rebuilds. Through the generous support of our donors, that money is working as hard as it can through local partnerships that help real people with real needs in the areas of housing, behavioral health, legal aid, job placement, veterans' assistance, arts and culture, and more.

Thank you for being our partners to achieve the vision we share in reshaping the future of our community.