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**163.340 Definitions.**—The following terms, wherever used or referred to in this part, have the following meanings:

- (1) “Agency” or “community redevelopment agency” means a public agency created by, or designated pursuant to, s. [163.356](#) or s. [163.357](#).
- (2) “Public body” means the state or any county, municipality, authority, special district as defined in s. [165.031](#)(7), or other public body of the state, except a school district.
- (3) “Governing body” means the council, commission, or other legislative body charged with governing the county or municipality.
- (4) “Mayor” means the mayor of a municipality or, for a county, the chair of the board of county commissioners or such other officer as may be constituted by law to act as the executive head of such municipality or county.
- (5) “Clerk” means the clerk or other official of the county or municipality who is the custodian of the official records of such county or municipality.
- (6) “Federal Government” includes the United States or any agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States.
- (7) “Slum area” means an area having physical or economic conditions conducive to disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, poverty, or crime because there is a predominance of buildings or improvements, whether residential or nonresidential, which are impaired by reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age, or obsolescence, and exhibiting one or more of the following factors:
  - (a) Inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open spaces;
  - (b) High density of population, compared to the population density of adjacent areas within the county or municipality; and overcrowding, as indicated by government-maintained statistics or other studies and the requirements of the Florida Building Code; or
  - (c) The existence of conditions that endanger life or property by fire or other causes.
- (8) “Blighted area” means an area in which there are a substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures; in which conditions, as indicated by government-maintained statistics or other studies, endanger life or property or are leading to economic distress; and in which two or more of the following factors are present:
  - (a) Predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, parking facilities, roadways, bridges, or public transportation facilities.
  - (b) Aggregate assessed values of real property in the area for ad valorem tax purposes have failed to show any appreciable increase over the 5 years prior to the finding of such conditions.
  - (c) Faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness.
  - (d) Unsanitary or unsafe conditions.



- (e) Deterioration of site or other improvements.
- (f) Inadequate and outdated building density patterns.
- (g) Falling lease rates per square foot of office, commercial, or industrial space compared to the remainder of the county or municipality.
- (h) Tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land.
- (i) Residential and commercial vacancy rates higher in the area than in the remainder of the county or municipality.
- (j) Incidence of crime in the area higher than in the remainder of the county or municipality.
- (k) Fire and emergency medical service calls to the area proportionately higher than in the remainder of the county or municipality.
- (l) A greater number of violations of the Florida Building Code in the area than the number of violations recorded in the remainder of the county or municipality.
- (m) Diversity of ownership or defective or unusual conditions of title which prevent the free alienability of land within the deteriorated or hazardous area.
- (n) Governmentally owned property with adverse environmental conditions caused by a public or private entity.
- (o) A substantial number or percentage of properties damaged by sinkhole activity which have not been adequately repaired or stabilized.

However, the term "blighted area" also means any area in which at least one of the factors identified in paragraphs (a) through (o) is present and all taxing authorities subject to s. 163.387(2)(a) agree, either by interlocal agreement with the agency or by resolution, that the area is blighted. Such agreement or resolution must be limited to a determination that the area is blighted. For purposes of qualifying for the tax credits authorized in chapter 220, "blighted area" means an area as defined in this subsection.

(9) "Community redevelopment" or "redevelopment" means undertakings, activities, or projects of a county, municipality, or community redevelopment agency in a community redevelopment area for the elimination and prevention of the development or spread of slums and blight, or for the reduction or prevention of crime, or for the provision of affordable housing, whether for rent or for sale, to residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, and may include slum clearance and redevelopment in a community redevelopment area or rehabilitation and revitalization of coastal resort and tourist areas that are deteriorating and economically distressed, or rehabilitation or conservation in a community redevelopment area, or any combination or part thereof, in accordance with a community redevelopment plan and may include the preparation of such a plan.

(10) "Community redevelopment area" means a slum area, a blighted area, or an area in which there is a shortage of housing that is affordable to residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, or a coastal and tourist area that is deteriorating and economically distressed due to outdated building density patterns, inadequate transportation and parking facilities, faulty lot layout or inadequate street layout, or a combination thereof which the governing body designates as appropriate for community redevelopment. For community redevelopment agencies created after July 1, 2006, a community redevelopment area may not consist of more than 80 percent of a municipality.

(11) "Community redevelopment plan" means a plan, as it exists from time to time, for a community redevelopment area.

(12) "Related activities" means:

(a) Planning work for the preparation of a general neighborhood redevelopment plan or for the preparation or completion of a communitywide plan or program pursuant to s. 163.365.



(b) The functions related to the acquisition and disposal of real property pursuant to s. 163.370(4).

(c) The development of affordable housing for residents of the area.

(d) The development of community policing innovations.

(13) "Real property" means all lands, including improvements and fixtures thereon, and property of any nature appurtenant thereto or used in connection therewith and every estate, interest, right, and use, legal or equitable, therein, including but not limited to terms for years and liens by way of judgment, mortgage, or otherwise.

(14) "Bonds" means any bonds (including refunding bonds), notes, interim certificates, certificates of indebtedness, debentures, or other obligations.

(15) "Obligee" means and includes any bondholder, agents or trustees for any bondholders, or lessor demising to the county or municipality property used in connection with community redevelopment, or any assignee or assignees of such lessor's interest or any part thereof, and the Federal Government when it is a party to any contract with the county or municipality.

(16) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or body politic and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other person acting in a similar representative capacity.

(17) "Area of operation" means, for a county, the area within the boundaries of the county, and for a municipality, the area within the corporate limits of the municipality.

(18) "Housing authority" means a housing authority created by and established pursuant to chapter 421.

(19) "Board" or "commission" means a board, commission, department, division, office, body or other unit of the county or municipality.

(20) "Public officer" means any officer who is in charge of any department or branch of the government of the county or municipality relating to health, fire, building regulations, or other activities concerning dwellings in the county or municipality.

(21) "Debt service millage" means any millage levied pursuant to s. 12, Art. VII of the State Constitution.

(22) "Increment revenue" means the amount calculated pursuant to s. 163.387(1).

(23) "Community policing innovation" means a policing technique or strategy designed to reduce crime by reducing opportunities for, and increasing the perceived risks of engaging in, criminal activity through visible presence of police in the community, including, but not limited to, community mobilization, neighborhood block watch, citizen patrol, citizen contact patrol, foot patrol, neighborhood storefront police stations, field interrogation, or intensified motorized patrol.

(24) "Taxing authority" means a public body that levies or is authorized to levy an ad valorem tax on real property located in a community redevelopment area.

**History.**—s. 3, ch. 69-305; s. 1, ch. 77-391; s. 1, ch. 81-44; s. 3, ch. 83-231; ss. 2, 22, ch. 84-356; s. 83, ch. 85-180; s. 72, ch. 87-243; s. 33, ch. 91-45; s. 1, ch. 93-286; s. 1, ch. 94-236; s. 1447, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 98-201; s. 1, ch. 98-314; s. 2, ch. 2002-294; s. 7, ch. 2006-11; s. 1, ch. 2006-307; s. 20, ch. 2013-15; s. 7, ch. 2015-30.

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**163.355 Finding of necessity by county or municipality.**—No county or municipality shall exercise the community redevelopment authority conferred by this part until after the governing body has adopted a resolution, supported by data and analysis, which makes a legislative finding that the conditions in the area meet the criteria described in s. 163.340(7) or (8). The resolution must state that:

(1) One or more slum or blighted areas, or one or more areas in which there is a shortage of housing affordable to residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, exist in such county or municipality; and

(2) The rehabilitation, conservation, or redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of such area or areas, including, if appropriate, the development of housing which residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly, can afford, is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety, morals, or welfare of the residents of such county or municipality.

**History.**—s. 6, ch. 69-305; s. 4, ch. 84-356; s. 4, ch. 94-236; s. 3, ch. 2002-294.

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**163.410 Exercise of powers in counties with home rule charters.**—In any county which has adopted a home rule charter, the powers conferred by this part shall be exercised exclusively by the governing body of such county. However, the governing body of any such county which has adopted a home rule charter may, in its discretion, by resolution delegate the exercise of the powers conferred upon the county by this part within the boundaries of a municipality to the governing body of such a municipality. Such a delegation to a municipality shall confer only such powers upon a municipality as shall be specifically enumerated in the delegating resolution. Any power not specifically delegated shall be reserved exclusively to the governing body of the county. This section does not affect any community redevelopment agency created by a municipality prior to the adoption of a county home rule charter. Unless otherwise provided by an existing ordinance, resolution, or interlocal agreement between any such county and a municipality, the governing body of the county that has adopted a home rule charter shall grant in whole or in part or deny any request from a municipality for a delegation of powers or a change in an existing delegation of powers within 120 days after the receipt of all required documentation, or such request shall be deemed granted unless this period is extended by mutual consent in writing by the municipality and county. Within 30 days after receipt of the request, the county shall notify the municipality by registered mail whether the request is complete or if additional information is required. Any request by the county for additional documentation shall specify the deficiencies in the submitted documentation, if any. The county shall notify the municipality by registered mail within 30 days after receiving the additional information whether such additional documentation is complete. If the meeting of the county commission at which the request for a delegation of powers or a change in an existing delegation of powers is unable to be held due to events beyond the control of the county, the request shall be acted upon at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the county commission without regard to the 120-day limitation. If the county does not act upon the request at the next regularly scheduled meeting, the request shall be deemed granted.

**History.**—s. 17, ch. 69-305; s. 1, ch. 83-29; s. 9, ch. 2002-294; s. 8, ch. 2006-307.



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**163.387 Redevelopment trust fund.—**

(1)(a) After approval of a community redevelopment plan, there may be established for each community redevelopment agency created under s. [163.356](#) a redevelopment trust fund. Funds allocated to and deposited into this fund shall be used by the agency to finance or refinance any community redevelopment it undertakes pursuant to the approved community redevelopment plan. No community redevelopment agency may receive or spend any increment revenues pursuant to this section unless and until the governing body has, by ordinance, created the trust fund and provided for the funding of the redevelopment trust fund until the time certain set forth in the community redevelopment plan as required by s. [163.362](#)(10). Such ordinance may be adopted only after the governing body has approved a community redevelopment plan. The annual funding of the redevelopment trust fund shall be in an amount not less than that increment in the income, proceeds, revenues, and funds of each taxing authority derived from or held in connection with the undertaking and carrying out of community redevelopment under this part. Such increment shall be determined annually and shall be that amount equal to 95 percent of the difference between:

1. The amount of ad valorem taxes levied each year by each taxing authority, exclusive of any amount from any debt service millage, on taxable real property contained within the geographic boundaries of a community redevelopment area; and
2. The amount of ad valorem taxes which would have been produced by the rate upon which the tax is levied each year by or for each taxing authority, exclusive of any debt service millage, upon the total of the assessed value of the taxable real property in the community redevelopment area as shown upon the most recent assessment roll used in connection with the taxation of such property by each taxing authority prior to the effective date of the ordinance providing for the funding of the trust fund.

However, the governing body of any county as defined in s. [125.011](#)(1) may, in the ordinance providing for the funding of a trust fund established with respect to any community redevelopment area created on or after July 1, 1994, determine that the amount to be funded by each taxing authority annually shall be less than 95 percent of the difference between subparagraphs 1. and 2., but in no event shall such amount be less than 50 percent of such difference.

(b)1. For any governing body that has not authorized by June 5, 2006, a study to consider whether a finding of necessity resolution pursuant to s. [163.355](#) should be adopted, has not adopted a finding of necessity resolution pursuant to s. [163.355](#) by March 31, 2007, has not adopted a community redevelopment plan by June 7, 2007, and was not authorized to exercise community redevelopment powers pursuant to a delegation of authority under s. [163.410](#) by a county that has adopted a home rule



charter, the amount of tax increment to be contributed by any taxing authority shall be limited as follows:

a. If a taxing authority imposes a millage rate that exceeds the millage rate imposed by the governing body that created the trust fund, the amount of tax increment to be contributed by the taxing authority imposing the higher millage rate shall be calculated using the millage rate imposed by the governing body that created the trust fund. Nothing shall prohibit any taxing authority from voluntarily contributing a tax increment at a higher rate for a period of time as specified by interlocal agreement between the taxing authority and the community redevelopment agency.

b. At any time more than 24 years after the fiscal year in which a taxing authority made its first contribution to a redevelopment trust fund, by resolution effective no sooner than the next fiscal year and adopted by majority vote of the taxing authority's governing body at a public hearing held not less than 30 or more than 45 days after written notice by registered mail to the community redevelopment agency and published in a newspaper of general circulation in the redevelopment area, the taxing authority may limit the amount of increment contributed by the taxing authority to the redevelopment trust fund to the amount of increment the taxing authority was obligated to contribute to the redevelopment trust fund in the fiscal year immediately preceding the adoption of such resolution, plus any increase in the increment after the adoption of the resolution computed using the taxable values of any area which is subject to an area reinvestment agreement. As used in this subparagraph, the term "area reinvestment agreement" means an agreement between the community redevelopment agency and a private party, with or without additional parties, which provides that the increment computed for a specific area shall be reinvested in services or public or private projects, or both, including debt service, supporting one or more projects consistent with the community redevelopment plan that is identified in the agreement to be constructed within that area. Any such reinvestment agreement must specify the estimated total amount of public investment necessary to provide the projects or services, or both, including any applicable debt service. The contribution to the redevelopment trust fund of the increase in the increment of any area that is subject to an area reinvestment agreement following the passage of a resolution as provided in this sub-subparagraph shall cease when the amount specified in the area reinvestment agreement as necessary to provide the projects or services, or both, including any applicable debt service, has been invested.

2. For any community redevelopment agency that was not created pursuant to a delegation of authority under s. 163.410 by a county that has adopted a home rule charter and that modifies its adopted community redevelopment plan after October 1, 2006, in a manner that expands the boundaries of the redevelopment area, the amount of increment to be contributed by any taxing authority with respect to the expanded area shall be limited as set forth in sub-subparagraphs 1.a. and b.

(2)(a) Except for the purpose of funding the trust fund pursuant to subsection (3), upon the adoption of an ordinance providing for funding of the redevelopment trust fund as provided in this section, each taxing authority shall, by January 1 of each year, appropriate to the trust fund for so long as any indebtedness pledging increment revenues to the payment thereof is outstanding (but not to exceed 30 years) a sum that is no less than the increment as defined and determined in subsection (1) or paragraph (3)(b) accruing to such taxing authority. If the community redevelopment plan is amended or modified pursuant to s. 163.361(1), each such taxing authority shall make the annual appropriation for a period not to exceed 30 years after the date the governing body amends the plan but no later than 60 years after the fiscal year in which the plan was initially approved or adopted. However, for any agency created on or after July 1, 2002, each taxing authority shall make the annual appropriation for a period



not to exceed 40 years after the fiscal year in which the initial community redevelopment plan is approved or adopted.

(b) Any taxing authority that does not pay the increment revenues to the trust fund by January 1 shall pay to the trust fund an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount of the increment revenues and shall pay interest on the amount of the unpaid increment revenues equal to 1 percent for each month the increment is outstanding, provided the agency may waive such penalty payments in whole or in part.

(c) The following public bodies or taxing authorities are exempt from paragraph (a):

1. A special district that levies ad valorem taxes on taxable real property in more than one county.
2. A special district for which the sole available source of revenue the district has the authority to levy is ad valorem taxes at the time an ordinance is adopted under this section. However, revenues or aid that may be dispensed or appropriated to a district as defined in s. 388.011 at the discretion of an entity other than such district shall not be deemed available.
3. A library district, except a library district in a jurisdiction where the community redevelopment agency had validated bonds as of April 30, 1984.
4. A neighborhood improvement district created under the Safe Neighborhoods Act.
5. A metropolitan transportation authority.
6. A water management district created under s. 373.069.
7. For a community redevelopment agency created on or after July 1, 2016, a hospital district that is a special district as defined in s. 189.012.

(d)1. A local governing body that creates a community redevelopment agency under s. 163.356 may exempt from paragraph (a) a special district that levies ad valorem taxes within that community redevelopment area. The local governing body may grant the exemption either in its sole discretion or in response to the request of the special district. The local governing body must establish procedures by which a special district may submit a written request to be exempted from paragraph (a).

2. In deciding whether to deny or grant a special district's request for exemption from paragraph (a), the local governing body must consider:

- a. Any additional revenue sources of the community redevelopment agency which could be used in lieu of the special district's tax increment.
- b. The fiscal and operational impact on the community redevelopment agency.
- c. The fiscal and operational impact on the special district.
- d. The benefit to the specific purpose for which the special district was created. The benefit to the special district must be based on specific projects contained in the approved community redevelopment plan for the designated community redevelopment area.
- e. The impact of the exemption on incurred debt and whether such exemption will impair any outstanding bonds that have pledged tax increment revenues to the repayment of the bonds.
- f. The benefit of the activities of the special district to the approved community redevelopment plan.
- g. The benefit of the activities of the special district to the area of operation of the local governing body that created the community redevelopment agency.

3. The local governing body must hold a public hearing on a special district's request for exemption after public notice of the hearing is published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the county or municipality that created the community redevelopment area. The notice must describe the time, date, place, and purpose of the hearing and must identify generally the community redevelopment area covered by the plan and the impact of the plan on the special district that requested the exemption.



4. If a local governing body grants an exemption to a special district under this paragraph, the local governing body and the special district must enter into an interlocal agreement that establishes the conditions of the exemption, including, but not limited to, the period of time for which the exemption is granted.

5. If a local governing body denies a request for exemption by a special district, the local governing body shall provide the special district with a written analysis specifying the rationale for such denial. This written analysis must include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- a. A separate, detailed examination of each consideration listed in subparagraph 2.
- b. Specific examples of how the approved community redevelopment plan will benefit, and has already benefited, the purpose for which the special district was created.

6. The decision to either deny or grant an exemption must be made by the local governing body within 120 days after the date the written request was submitted to the local governing body pursuant to the procedures established by such local governing body.

(3)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), the obligation of the governing body which established the community redevelopment agency to fund the redevelopment trust fund annually shall continue until all loans, advances, and indebtedness, if any, and interest thereon, of a community redevelopment agency incurred as a result of redevelopment in a community redevelopment area have been paid.

(b) Alternate provisions contained in an interlocal agreement between a taxing authority and the governing body that created the community redevelopment agency may supersede the provisions of this section with respect to that taxing authority. The community redevelopment agency may be an additional party to any such agreement.

(4) The revenue bonds and notes of every issue under this part are payable solely out of revenues pledged to and received by a community redevelopment agency and deposited to its redevelopment trust fund. The lien created by such bonds or notes shall not attach until the increment revenues referred to herein are deposited in the redevelopment trust fund at the times, and to the extent that, such increment revenues accrue. The holders of such bonds or notes have no right to require the imposition of any tax or the establishment of any rate of taxation in order to obtain the amounts necessary to pay and retire such bonds or notes.

(5) Revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this part shall not be deemed to constitute a debt, liability, or obligation of the public body or the state or any political subdivision thereof, or a pledge of the faith and credit of the public body or the state or any political subdivision thereof, but shall be payable solely from the revenues provided therefor. All such revenue bonds shall contain on the face thereof a statement to the effect that the agency shall not be obligated to pay the same or the interest thereon except from the revenues of the community redevelopment agency held for that purpose and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the governing body or of the state or of any political subdivision thereof is pledged to the payment of the principal of, or the interest on, such bonds.

(6) Moneys in the redevelopment trust fund may be expended from time to time for undertakings of a community redevelopment agency as described in the community redevelopment plan for the following purposes, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Administrative and overhead expenses necessary or incidental to the implementation of a community redevelopment plan adopted by the agency.



- (b) Expenses of redevelopment planning, surveys, and financial analysis, including the reimbursement of the governing body or the community redevelopment agency for such expenses incurred before the redevelopment plan was approved and adopted.
- (c) The acquisition of real property in the redevelopment area.
- (d) The clearance and preparation of any redevelopment area for redevelopment and relocation of site occupants within or outside the community redevelopment area as provided in s. 163.370.
- (e) The repayment of principal and interest or any redemption premium for loans, advances, bonds, bond anticipation notes, and any other form of indebtedness.
- (f) All expenses incidental to or connected with the issuance, sale, redemption, retirement, or purchase of bonds, bond anticipation notes, or other form of indebtedness, including funding of any reserve, redemption, or other fund or account provided for in the ordinance or resolution authorizing such bonds, notes, or other form of indebtedness.
- (g) The development of affordable housing within the community redevelopment area.
- (h) The development of community policing innovations.
- (7) On the last day of the fiscal year of the community redevelopment agency, any money which remains in the trust fund after the payment of expenses pursuant to subsection (6) for such year shall be:
  - (a) Returned to each taxing authority which paid the increment in the proportion that the amount of the payment of such taxing authority bears to the total amount paid into the trust fund by all taxing authorities for that year;
  - (b) Used to reduce the amount of any indebtedness to which increment revenues are pledged;
  - (c) Deposited into an escrow account for the purpose of later reducing any indebtedness to which increment revenues are pledged; or
  - (d) Appropriated to a specific redevelopment project pursuant to an approved community redevelopment plan which project will be completed within 3 years from the date of such appropriation.
- (8) Each community redevelopment agency shall provide for an audit of the trust fund each fiscal year and a report of such audit to be prepared by an independent certified public accountant or firm. Such report shall describe the amount and source of deposits into, and the amount and purpose of withdrawals from, the trust fund during such fiscal year and the amount of principal and interest paid during such year on any indebtedness to which increment revenues are pledged and the remaining amount of such indebtedness. The agency shall provide by registered mail a copy of the report to each taxing authority.

**History.**—s. 11, ch. 77-391; s. 78, ch. 79-400; s. 9, ch. 83-231; s. 15, ch. 84-356; s. 27, ch. 87-224; s. 35, ch. 91-45; s. 4, ch. 93-286; s. 10, ch. 94-236; s. 1, ch. 94-344; s. 10, ch. 98-314; s. 8, ch. 2002-18; s. 8, ch. 2002-294; s. 7, ch. 2006-307; s. 1, ch. 2016-155.