

## Customized County Rapid Response SMART (Rapid Permitting Program)

A fast-track permitting system, the Sarasota Means Action Response Team (SMART) program will allow targeted industry companies wishing to expand or relocate in Sarasota County to develop a facility within a time frame that meets corporate goals and deadlines. This time frame is usually shorter than working through the system without special assistance. The SMART program does not eliminate or circumvent existing land use regulations or construction standards; it accelerates the process by making certain determinations and decisions about the development of the land facilities in a more expeditious manner.

### **Eligibility**

Expedited processing is available when a business meets all of the following criteria:

- The business must be considered a Targeted Industry as identified in the Economic Development Element of the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan.
- The business must have an average company wage that equals or exceeds the Annual Average Wage for all private industries in Sarasota County, as published by the Agency for Workforce Innovation, State of Florida in the Annual ES-202 report of Employment and Wages covered by the Florida Unemployment Compensation Law.
- If the company is relocating to Sarasota County, then at least ten (10) new jobs must be created.
- The company must have a demonstrated critical timing need that would jeopardize the project if expedited processing is not utilized.

### **Application Process**

- Applicant contacts the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County to discuss project parameters and needs.
- Applicant files an application with the EDC.

### **Application Approval**

- The Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County will review the application to determine eligibility.
- A letter will be issued to both the county as well as the company approving the SMART status of the project.
- The company will then submit any plans with the SMART approval letter attached.