

Opportunities:

Improvements to broadband infrastructure could encourage businesses to locate in the county – this could also encourage new workers to relocate here and to keep existing young people from moving to larger cities

If retail shopping was enhanced, this could improve the quality of life for residents

Higher paying businesses could be encouraged to relocate to the county

Expand the Valdosta Young Professionals group to encourage them to stay in Valdosta and grow their careers locally

Workforce certificates and/or apprenticeship programs for transitioning prisoners could meet gaps in hiring for local businesses

An overnight freight/truck parking lot with truck wash could be an amenity for businesses

Focus on workforce development

Recruit new businesses to Lowndes County

Retain existing businesses in Lowndes County

Provide façade improvement program

Provide incentives for targeted industries

Promote and encourage sports tourism

2. Education**Needs:**

Coordinate with all providers of education

Encourage collaboration between education providers and jobs providers

Address educational needs of adults

Meet needs of students with educational challenges

Address educational transportation challenges

Opportunities:

Expand the work-based learning programs in the Lowndes and Valdosta School systems

Conduct gap analysis for educational offerings across the County

Provide support to parents without degrees