

Background

In 2018, the US Army Reserve contacted Alachua County regarding the availability of the old Fairgrounds site on 39th Avenue to house an Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) by 2021. ECS facilities support the public works-type and disaster preparedness roles of the US Army Reserve. Alachua County has acquired an alternative site in Newberry, Florida to host Fair and agricultural events.

An ECS represents a significant redevelopment option because of its compatibility with the surrounding land uses and due to the economic opportunities for East Gainesville.

ECS Direct Economic Impacts:

- \$36M construction project. The most competitive bidders will want to maximize their use of local sub-contractors and suppliers in order to have the best proposals.
- \$2.8M-\$3.0M annual payroll.

ECS Indirect Economic Impacts:

- Supply purchases (safety equipment, office supplies, and standard automotive parts)
- Transportation purchases: Parts deliveries, equipment pick-ups, and deliveries.
- Employees will live in the community, go to our schools, pay taxes, and increase demand for goods and services.

Job Opportunities

The Army Reserve ECS will employ approximately 60 people. Many of them will be equipment mechanics, but there will also be some supply and administrative positions. These are civilian positions and will be filled using the federal hiring process and subject to the applicable conditions of employment. They will be skilled positions that make around \$21-\$22 per hour, plus full federal benefits.

Facilities like this provide local and regional benefits, providing stable, well-paying vocational jobs with benefits; local contracting and material purchasing opportunities; as well as indirect and induced economic benefits to the surrounding community because of the local pass-through of visiting personnel.

Disaster Preparedness

An ECS makes Alachua County and Gainesville better prepared to respond in event of natural disasters. Equipment and personnel supplement the local and regional community's ability to bounce back after a storm as well as making East Gainesville a logistics hub for help in the State of Florida.

- Assistance with State and Local Emergencies
- Generators, trucks and other materials as needed at the request of local government
- Center of resilience operations to help our coastal neighbors and the Florida National Guard in hurricane response and other natural disasters

Ready-To-Go Partnership

The US Army Reserve is ready to develop the project in the near term with possible construction beginning as soon as January - February 2021. The site is strategically important to its mission and to the security of the United States.