Why Collier?

County Snapshot

Located in sunny Southwest Florida, Collier County provides unique opportunities for growth for new and expanding businesses. The county is comprised of the cities of Naples, Marco Island, and Everglades City, with unincorporated communities including the master-planned Ave Maria, and other communities such as Golden Gate and Immokalee. The county features miles of sandy white beaches and limitless recreational opportunities. Collier County offers a rich tradition of commerce and corporate talent supported by superb access to a world class airport and other Florida markets, including Tampa and Miami, both nearby via interstate.

Business Climate

- Florida was ranked as the 2nd best state in the nation for business according to *Chief Executive* magazine's 2013 rankings.
- Collier County is among Florida's most affluent, with a median household income of $56,876, far above the statewide figure of $47,827.
- Collier County features one of the lowest property tax rates in Florida.
- Collier County's government is committed to assisting businesses through all phases of the expansion or relocation process.
- On a per capita basis, Collier County has more CEO's and successful business experience than any community in the U.S.

Workforce, Education, and Training

- The Collier County School District ranked as an "A" school district in 2012. The district is made up of 48 schools with a total enrollment of 43,793 students.
- Collier County is highly educated; over 1/3 of county residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree.
- Collier County is home to 3 institutions of higher learning:
  - Ave Maria University
  - Hodges University
  - Edison State College
- Florida Gulf Coast University, with a total student enrollment of 11,291 is located only 20 minutes away from Naples.
- The Immokalee Technical Center offers employers an opportunity to access a pool of prospective employees with career-ready technical skills.

Infrastructure

- Superior access to Florida's largest markets including Tampa, Miami-Ft. Lauderdale.
- Elite ground transportation infrastructure, and direct access to Interstate 75.
- High-speed internet and telecommunication infrastructure.
- Collier County is home to 4 airports. The county is also served by Southwest Florida International Airport, only a 30-minute drive by interstate.

Quality of Life and Lifestyle

- Collier County features miles of pristine coastline with several public beach access facilities.
- Outdoor recreational opportunities in Collier County are only limited by one's imagination, with exciting opportunities such as the Paradise Coast Blueway paddling trail.
- The Naples area has over 80 championship golf courses.
- Naples was ranked as the 2nd Happiest Seaside Town according to *Coastal Living*, and was ranked as America's 9th best small town according to *Smithsonian* magazine.
- Collier County was ranked as the 3rd healthiest county in Florida in 2012, and has ranked among the state's top 3 for 4 straight years.
- Collier County features outstanding cultural venues, including the Naples Philharmonic and the Naples Zoo.
- Premier shopping is readily available in Collier County, with retail destinations such as Waterside Shops, Mercado, and Coastland Center Mall.