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CareerSource Florida applauds new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

TALLAHASSEE—CareerSource Florida applauds today's signing of the bipartisan, bicameral Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by President Barack Obama. The new federal Act, which reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act, was approved by the U.S. Senate on June 25 and the U.S. House on July 9.

"The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is an important step forward as we collectively work to ensure Floridians—and all Americans—have the skills needed to connect to 21st century job opportunities and businesses have access to a globally competitive workforce," said Chris Hart IV, President/CEO of CareerSource Florida. "Florida's workforce leaders will work diligently to continue to build on our past success as we support new economic opportunities for job seekers, workers, businesses and communities across our state."

The CareerSource Florida network assisted more than 489,000 Floridians who found jobs and more than 101,300 employers with services such as job listings, recruitment, referrals and training during the fiscal year that concluded June 30.

WIOA focuses on improvements to publicly funded employment and job training programs. The new law codifies and reinforces many innovative policies and strategies Florida's state and regional workforce investment boards have developed and implemented since 2000 through the Workforce Investment Act. Among the law's key provisions it:

- Calls for a single, unified state plan with common performance standards and metrics aligned to outcomes designed to create opportunities for long-term career pathways and the delivery of market-relevant skills
- Restores the 15-percent reserve for statewide workforce investment priorities
- Permits local boards to transfer up to 100 percent of funding between the adult and dislocated worker employment and training programs
- Further emphasizes training and career opportunities for out-of-school youth
- Emphasizes business engagement, incumbent worker training, on-the-job and customized training and attainment of industry-recognized credentials
- Calls for smaller, more focused and business-led state and local workforce boards to enhance efficiency
- Strengthens alignment between local workforce areas, labor markets and economic development regions

WIOA has received widespread local, state and national support from businesses and labor organizations as well as leaders in education and workforce, economic and community development. For information on the new law, click [here](#).

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About CareerSource Florida

CareerSource Florida is the statewide workforce policy and investment board of business and government leaders charged with overseeing the CareerSource Florida network, which includes the Department of Economic Opportunity, 24 regional workforce boards and nearly 100 career centers. CareerSource Florida connects employers with qualified, skilled talent and Floridians with employment and career development opportunities to achieve economic prosperity. Learn more at careersourceflorida.com or 1-866-352-2345.

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