

Action Item 1

INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM

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Florida's Incumbent Worker (IWT) Program was established by the 1998-99 Legislature as part of the State's early implementation of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). State law required the state-level grant program to be administered by a private-sector entity. The pilot program has been extremely popular and positive performance outcomes are anticipated.

The current grant administrator, the Florida Mediation Academy, has performed its contracted duties satisfactorily, however, out-of-house grant administration has added an unnecessary administrative layer. It has also impeded staff's ability to coordinate the state IWT program with the Quick Response Training (QRT), the other major employer-focused training initiative administered by the state Workforce Board.

The 1999-00 Legislature modified the statute that addresses administration of the IWT program as follows:

FS 445.003 (3) (a) 3. a. *The Incumbent Worker Training Program will be administered by Workforce Florida, Inc.. Workforce Florida, Inc., at its discretion, may contract with a private business organization to serve as grant administrator.*

Administering the Incumbent Worker Training Program in-house will provide one point of contact for employers, regional board staff, and economic development professionals seeking information about state training incentives. Workforce Florida, Inc. has the infrastructure and expertise in training incentive programs and the Workforce Investment Act, the funding source for IWT.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Incumbent Worker Training Program should be administered directly by Workforce Florida, Inc., beginning July 1, 2000.