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Strategic Policy

Title:	CareerSource Florida Ethics and Transparency Policy
Adopted:	09/26/2018
Effective:	09/26/2018

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To effectively fulfill the mission of the CareerSource Florida network, volunteer leaders and workforce professionals statewide must ensure ethics and transparency guide their decision-making. This CareerSource Florida Board of Directors policy communicates expectations about ethics and transparency in Florida's workforce system to maintain integrity, accountability and transparency in decisions and actions that earn and protect the public trust. Florida's workforce system consists of CareerSource Florida, which provides policy oversight; the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the administrative entity for state workforce programs; and 24 local workforce development boards, to include the chief elected official and board of directors, as well as the career centers they direct.

At every level of the workforce system, there must be a unified commitment to conduct work in a manner that is business-driven, focuses on talent and continuous improvement, and assures accountability to public and private stakeholders including businesses, workers and job seekers.

State and local workforce development boards must conduct business in an open manner, comply with federal and state laws and ensure the public has electronic or simplified access to information including but not limited to:

- Information about state and local plans;
- Professional employment of workforce development board members;
- Selection of one-stop operators;
- Awards of grants or contracts to eligible training providers of workforce investment activities;
- Minutes of formal meetings of workforce development boards; and,
- Workforce development board by-laws.

State and local workforce development boards are expected to create and enforce policies about the importance of ethics in operations and transparency in public meetings. Boards must ensure these policies align with federal and state laws and communicate clear expectations to board members, their designees, employees and other stakeholders.

II. REGULATORY EXPECTATIONS FOR ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY

Chapter 445, Florida Statutes, creates the Florida workforce system. This law implements Public Law 113-128, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA), and creates CareerSource Florida, Inc., the state workforce investment board, as the principal workforce policy organization for the state. The purpose of CareerSource Florida, Inc., is to design and implement strategies that help Floridians enter, remain and advance in the workplace so they may become more highly skilled and successful, benefiting these Floridians, Florida businesses and the entire state, and fostering development of the state's business climate.

It is the intent of the Florida Legislature that CareerSource Florida, Inc., operate in the most open and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose. The expectation of the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors is that the following laws, rules, and regulations referenced and described below are included in local policies and guide organizational decisions and professional actions.

U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Advisory System Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 35-10 was issued on June 16, 2011. The guidance letter (TEGL 35-10) states that providing responsible stewardship for and oversight of publicly funded workforce programs must be accomplished in a way that demonstrates strong integrity, accountability and transparency to preserve the public trust. The responsibility for this stewardship and oversight is shared in the public workforce system by federal, state and local entities.

Public Law 113-128, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, was signed into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. WIOA Section 107(e) and 20 CFR 679 require local workforce development boards to make certain information available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means, open meetings and upon request. Additional measures may be taken by state and local policymakers to ensure such information is readily accessible to the public.

The Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, adopted by the Florida Legislature as Chapter 112, Part III, Florida Statutes, contains standards of ethical conduct and disclosures applicable to public officers, employees, candidates, lobbyists and others in state and local government. Workforce development board members and their designees are subject to the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

The Florida Legislature specifically declared that CareerSource Florida, Inc., its board, councils, and any advisory committees or similar groups created by CareerSource Florida, Inc., are subject to the provisions of Chapter 119 relating to public records, and those provisions of Chapter 286 relating to public meetings (Chapter 445.004(1), Florida Statutes). Local workforce development boards are subject to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes and Chapter 286, Florida Statutes. Local workforce development boards also are subject to Section 24, Article I of the State Constitution, which describes Access to Public Records and Meetings.

Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, commonly known as Florida's Public Records Law, provides information on public records in Florida, including policies, definitions, exemptions, general information on records access, inspection, examination and duplication. It is the policy of the state of Florida that "all state, county, and municipal records are open for personal inspection and copying by any person. Providing access to public records is the duty of each agency" (Chapter 119.01, Florida Statutes). Included agencies are "public or private agencies, persons, partnerships, corporations or business entities acting on behalf of any public agency" (Chapter 119.011, Florida Statutes), "or other separate unit of government created or established by law" (Chapter 119.0701, Florida Statutes).

Chapter 286, Florida Statutes, also known as Florida's Sunshine Law, establishes a basic right of access to meetings of boards, commissions and other governing bodies of state and local governmental agencies or authorities. The law describes how boards conduct public meetings, how these meetings are noticed, who may attend, and how they may be accessed. This law also describes what records must be kept and made available to the public upon request.

CareerSource Florida and the Department of Economic Opportunity will collaborate with local workforce development boards to support best practices in organizational ethics and implementation of federal and state transparency requirements.

III. AUTHORITIES

[U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Advisory System, Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 35-10](#)

[Public Law 113-128, the U.S. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Of 2014 \(WIOA\), Sections 106-110](#)

[20 CFR Part 679—Statewide and Local Governance of the Workforce Development System Under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#)

[Chapter 445.003-445.007, Florida Statutes](#)

[Chapter 112, Florida Statutes](#)

[Chapter 119, Florida Statutes](#)

[Chapter 286, Florida Statutes](#)