



# Get There Faster WIOA Competitive Grants

Fiscal Year 2021-2022  
Applications Due: Oct. 4, 2021

# CareerSource Florida

## Get There Faster WIOA Competitive Grants

### Grant Application Information and Form

#### Background

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allows governors to reserve 15 percent of the state's WIOA allocation to support innovative projects that enhance opportunities for employment and economic advancement, particularly for job seekers who face barriers to employment. Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors will use WIOA funding to chart new and expanded pathways to employment, education and training, and support services for Floridians who need additional workforce-readiness assistance on their path to self-sufficiency and economic prosperity. To support this vision, the Governor's discretionary funds for fiscal year 2021-2022 have been allocated to support initiatives that close achievement and attainment gaps for Floridians, build on evidence-based practices to serve job seekers facing barriers to employment, promote strategic and cross-sector partnerships and ensure Floridians are equipped to enter in-demand occupations and career pathways in key industry sectors.

As Florida's workforce system reimagines how to improve alignment and bolster outcomes through better collaboration and a more efficient use of resources across the broader workforce development ecosystem, these grants will help propel the rebounding economy and strengthen families and communities by supporting an inclusive economic recovery.

#### Purpose

Get There Faster WIOA Competitive Grants aim to ensure all Floridians have access to education and training that lead to career paths for in-demand, middle-to-high wage jobs. Through competitive grant opportunities, funding is available to address priority commitments for programs and initiatives that will have long-term impact in enabling program participants to gain and retain employment and attain self-sufficiency.

Successful grant applications will align with WIOA priorities for employment, wages, and training. Grant-funded initiatives should incentivize enrollment and completion in degree and certification programs that demonstrate high value to Florida employers and businesses. Successful proposals should demonstrate the collaboration of education, workforce, and community partners, including businesses that allow the targeted populations to receive the education and support services needed to enhance their employability and increase their opportunity for economic self-sufficiency.

Funds are available for grant awards focused on the following specific targeted opportunity groups:

- Veterans and Military Spouses (\$7,000,000 total available)
- Low-Income Returning Adult Learners (\$5,000,000 total available)
- At-Risk Floridians (\$5,000,000 total available)

A description of each target group is included later in this application.

Grant recipients will be chosen through a collaborative selection process by the professional teams of CareerSource Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Florida Department of Education.

## Eligible Applicants

Get There Faster WIOA Competitive grants are funded by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and require a sub-grantee agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity. Florida's 24 local workforce development boards currently operate under a sub-grantee agreement with DEO. Therefore, local workforce development boards must be designated as the lead agency.

Grant applications should demonstrate collaboration among key partners. Successful proposals will demonstrate strong partnerships with education, workforce and community partners, including businesses that allow the target populations to receive education and support services needed to enhance employability and increase opportunities for economic self-sufficiency.

## Target Populations

Applicants seeking funding for multiple programs should submit one application per program. Applicants may submit up to one application per target population. Each application submitted should focus on one of the three target populations described in these instructions.

### *Veterans and Eligible Spouses*

Grant-funded programs for this population group should provide targeted, in-demand employment opportunities through career, training, and supportive services to military veterans and eligible spouses of active-duty military or veterans facing barriers to employment, with a focus on homeless and disabled veterans. See Definitions section below for definition of veterans and eligible spouses.

Veteran unemployment increased from 2.8 percent annually in 2019 to 5 percent in 2020; meanwhile, veteran labor force participation decreased from 45.1 percent to 43.0 percent over this same period.

In addition to employment and training opportunities, these funds will support convening community partners to ensure supportive services are available to assist veterans on their path to economic self-sufficiency, to include:

- Housing assistance
- Financial counseling
- Access to military benefits
- Mental health and substance use disorder

Local workforce development boards may utilize current Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) staff to administer this program. For questions about this option, please contact Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Workforce Administrator Steven Gustafson at [Steven.Gustafson@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:Steven.Gustafson@deo.myflorida.com).

### *Low-Income Returning Adult Learners*

Grant-funded programs for this population group should provide low-income adults and youth seeking education and training the opportunity to earn industry-recognized cloud computing or other IT-related credentials of value. Through partnerships among Florida's 48 technical colleges, 28 state colleges and 24 local workforce development boards, low-income returning adult learners and youth who reside in high-poverty Florida zip codes will be prioritized for support to participate in an available postsecondary degree, non-degree training program or registered apprenticeship program. See Definitions section for definitions of low-income, youth, and high-poverty zip codes.

Grant applicants must demonstrate how they will provide the following services to low-income adult learners and youth:

- Enrollment in Amazon Web Services, CompTIA, Microsoft, or other IT-related certifications
- Training programs, including the cost of the associated certifications
- Employer engagement, including placement in jobs after completion
- Referrals to community partners for wraparound services
- Support services (such as transportation assistance, childcare, and books/fees) to help individuals successfully complete the training program
- Work readiness activities, including soft skills training, interview techniques, etc.

Data from DEO indicate youth and Floridians with minimal education were among the hardest hit by the pandemic's economic toll. The unemployment rate in 2020 for Floridians with less than a high school diploma was 13.3 percent. Among young Floridians, females ages 16-19 experienced a 22.8 percent unemployment rate in 2020, while those ages 20-24 had an unemployment rate of 12.2 percent. Similarly, male Floridians ages 16-19 also experienced high unemployment of 17.9 percent in 2020, followed by those ages 20-24, who experienced a 13.3 percent unemployment rate.

### *At-Risk Floridians*

Grant-funded programs for this population group should provide the opportunity to receive the education and work skills needed to enhance employability and likelihood of achieving economic self-sufficiency for: at-risk individuals who are receiving public assistance, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and/or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, individuals recovering from substance use disorders, and justice-involved citizens returning to the community. Participants will receive ongoing intensive employment services and support aimed at removing employment barriers, increasing participants' likelihood of obtaining and maintaining unsubsidized employment, and decreasing their reliance on public assistance benefits.

Grant applicants must demonstrate how they will provide the following services to public assistance recipients:

- Enrollment in secondary and/or postsecondary education that leads to an industry-recognized credential of value
- Dedicated case manager and job coach (responsible for coordination with employers, job placement, employment mentoring, progress monitoring, etc.)
- Work-based learning opportunities including registered apprenticeships
- Comprehensive assessments (i.e., skills assessments, interest inventory, etc.)

- Work readiness activities (soft skills training, interviewing techniques, employability skills, etc.)
- Job matching and referrals
- Coordinated referral and service delivery with other agencies for services, such as medical assessments, housing assistance, mental wellness service, substance use disorder support and domestic violence resources as needed
- Transitional support services including but not limited to, follow-up, childcare, transportation, employment-related equipment/supplies, etc.

See Definitions section below for definition of industry-recognized credential of value.

## Application Requirements

### Performance Outcomes

The measured performance outcomes for the Get There Faster Competitive Grants include:

- Number of individuals served
- Number of individuals enrolled in training
- Number of individuals enrolled who receive SNAP or TANF
- Percent and number of individuals who participated in training and obtained employment
- Number of individuals enrolled in work-based learning
- Percent and number of individuals who participated in work-based learning and obtained unsubsidized employment
- Wages after participation
- Percent and number of individuals who obtained an in-demand industry recognized credential
- Number of individuals closed out of SNAP or TANF due to employment
- Cost per participant
- Long-term impact on employment, with tracking of retention in employment for one, three and five years after participation.

Grant applications submitted should address the following requirements:

- 1) Clearly document the need within the service area for the target population served by the proposed program. For example, current local and comparative demographic data, documented number of individuals experiencing the need, etc.
- 2) Provide a program description that includes:
  - a. How the program proposes to address the need for the target population
  - b. The types of services offered and by whom, including the frequency and duration of services
  - c. How the program will collaborate with various partners to address customer needs and avoid duplication of services
  - d. Eligibility requirements
  - e. Outreach methods used to recruit and retain customers
  - f. Employer engagement

- 3) Provide a budget narrative that includes a detailed description of the funding request broken down by cost category (staffing, outreach/participant recruitment, direct client costs, etc.), cost per client served, and total clients anticipated.
- 4) Describe any performance-related measures used by the program in addition to those defined in the Performance Outcomes section above.
- 5) Provide these required documents:
  - a. Contact Information (for each partner described in the program proposal)
  - b. Budget Summary
  - c. Participant Release Form
  - d. Letters of Support from each partner
  - e. Project Narrative describing the program, population served, summary of partners and roles served, and return on investment for the outcomes sought.
- 6) To provide required information, applicants should complete the form at <https://form.jotform.com/212235265351145>.

## Award Requirements

Upon notice of selection for the Get There Faster grant opportunity and prior to any funding award, the lead grantee will be required to:

- 1) Enter into a Sub-Grantee Agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity
- 2) Provide a copy of an executed Memorandum of Understanding signed by all partners that sufficiently describes partner roles

## Application Evaluation

Grant applications will be evaluated through a collaborative process involving the professional teams of CareerSource Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Department of Education. Applications will be evaluated for each of the five requirements above. Consideration for awards will be prioritized based on applications that demonstrate:

- A variety and strength of partnerships with local workforce development boards, education institutions, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, businesses, business foundations, economic development partners, and others to provide holistic client services
- A regional approach to service delivery as reflected in partnerships among multiple local workforce development boards and/or education institutions
- A thorough knowledge of the target population served and the unique services required to generate desired outcomes
- The ability to maximize funding to direct participant services including training, career, and support services
- Sustainability of the program beyond the term of this grant.
- The ability to leverage two or more sources of funding to support participants' completion of the program, with emphasis placed on braiding funds from public and/or private sources to execute innovative strategies

- The program's focus on assisting individuals on public assistance programs and with other barriers to employment in achieving the skills needed to enhance employability and increase opportunity for economic self-sufficiency
- An ability to connect individuals with high-demand jobs that are mid-to-high wage and are of high value to Florida employers and businesses, as evidenced by partnerships with businesses in targeted industry sectors identified in the local workforce board WIOA plan

## Definitions

**High-Poverty Zip Codes** – Zip codes that have been identified as having an under-18 poverty rate higher than the state average, as determined by the Florida Chamber Foundation Prosperity Project ([Florida Prosperity Project: Zip Code Maps – Florida Chamber of Commerce \(flchamber.com\)](http://flchamber.com))

**Industry Recognized Credential of Value** – A credential that is included on the state [CAPE Industry Certification Funding List](#) or [CAPE Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List](#)

**Low-Income** – An individual who:

- Receives, or in the past six months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past six months has received, assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the program of block grants to States for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or the Supplemental Security Income program established under Title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or state or local income-based public assistance;
- Is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the poverty line; or 70 percent of the Lower Living Standard Income Level;
- Is a homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2(6)), or a homeless child or youth (as defined under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a (2)));
- Receives, or is eligible to receive, a free or reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);
- Is a foster child for whom state or local government payments are made; or
- Is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement, but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this income requirement.

**Public Assistance Recipient** – An individual who receives, or in the past six months has received, or is a member of a family that receives or in the past six months has received, assistance through one or more of the following:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Supplemental Security Income
- Other state or local income-based assistance

**Veterans** – A person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable (38 U.S.C. 101(2)).

**Disabled Veteran** - A veteran who is entitled to compensation, or who, except for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation, under the Department of Veteran Affairs,

or a veteran who was discharged or released from active duty, because of a service-connected disability. 38 USC 4211

**Eligible Veteran Spouse** - “Eligible spouse” as defined in section 2(a) of the JVA (38 U.S.C. 4215[a]) means the spouse of any of the following:

- a) Any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
- b) Any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for the priority, is listed in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days: i. Missing in action; ii. Captured in the line of duty by a hostile force; or iii. Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power;
- c) Any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or
- d) Any veteran who died while a disability was in existence.

A spouse whose eligibility is derived from a living veteran or service member (i.e., categories b. or c. above) would lose his or her eligibility if the veteran or service member were to lose the status that is the basis for the eligibility (e.g. if a veteran with a total service-connected disability were to receive a revised disability rating at a lower level). Similarly, for a spouse whose eligibility is derived from a living veteran or service member, that eligibility would be lost upon divorce from the veteran or service member.

Reference: [Training and Employment Guidance Letter/TEGL 10-09](#)

**Youth** – Youth may be in-school youth or out-of-school youth, as defined below:

- a. In-School Youth – An individual who meets the In-School Youth eligibility criteria must:
  - Be attending school, including secondary or postsecondary school and,
  - Be between the ages of 14 and 21 at the time of enrollment and,
  - Low-income, and
  - Meet one or more of the following conditions:
    - Basic skills deficient
    - An English language learner
    - An offender
    - A homeless individual
    - A runaway
    - An individual in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system
    - A child eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act or in an out-of-home placement
    - An individual who is pregnant or parenting
    - A youth who is an individual with a disability
    - An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment

Reference: [WIOA section 129\(a\)\(1\)\(C\)](#)



- b. Out-of-School Youth – An individual who meets the Out-of-School Youth eligibility criteria must:
- Not be attending school and,
  - Be between the ages of 16-24 at the time of enrollment, and
  - Meet one or more of the following conditions:
    - A school dropout.
    - A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter.
    - A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is:
      - Basic skills deficient; or
      - An English language learner.
    - An offender.
    - A homeless individual.
    - A runaway.
    - In foster care or has aged out of the foster care system.
    - Eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act.
    - In an out-of-home placement.
    - Pregnant or parenting.
    - Has a documented disability.
    - A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

Reference: [WIOA section 129\(a\)\(1\)\(B\)](#)

## BUDGET SUMMARY

FY21-22 Get There Faster Budget Request Form / Project Plan		
Board Name:		
Program Costs	Amount	Cost Detail
<b>Case Management Staff Costs</b>		<b>Include planned number of staff</b>
Case Managers' salaries and benefits		
Travel		
Supplies		
Case Managers' allocated costs (rent, phone, etc)		
<b>Total Cost of Case Managers</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Direct Participant Services Costs</b>		<b>Include planned number of participants</b>
Training		
Work Experience		
Supportive Services		
<b>Total Direct Participant Services</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Directly Allocated Management Costs</b>		
Supervisor salaries and benefits		
Management allocated costs (rent, phone, etc)		
<b>Total Directly Allocated Management Costs</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Program costs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
Project Narrative		
Describe the Boards Service Delivery Plan for this project, including how participants will be engaged in services.		

## PARTICIPANT RELEASE FORM

Grantees will be asked to share success stories from the grant program. A release form, like the example below, should be used to ensure permission is granted to share participant information.



### PARTICIPANT RELEASE FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (first and last name), for good and valuable consideration, hereby irrevocably authorize [Company Name] to use the success story, photographs or video of me and/or my property and authorize clients, licensees, legal representatives and transferees to use and publish (with or without my name, company name, or with a fictitious name) story elements, photographs and/or pictures herein described in any and all forms and media and in all manners including composite images or distorted representations, and the purposes of publicity, illustration, commercial art, advertising, videos, publishing (including publishing in electronic form on CDs or internet websites), for any product or services, or other lawful uses as may be determined. I further waive any and all rights to review or approve any uses of the images, videography, any written copy or finished product.

This agreement represents my entire understanding with [Company Name]. I have read this agreement prior to signing and understand its contents. This agreement may not be amended unless [Company Name] agreed upon in writing. This agreement, which has been signed as a contract under seal, will be governed by and understood under Florida law (excluding its conflicts of laws principles).

#### SIGNATURES

I am of legal age and have read and fully understand the terms of this release.

##### Participant (if 18 years of age)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

##### Legal Guardian (if under 18 years of age)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

##### Witness

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_