

**Action Item 1**

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Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

# Action Item 1

## CAREERSOURCE FLORIDA STRATEGIC POLICY REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS

Public Law 113 – 128, The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), requires the state workforce development board to assist the Governor in developing, implementing and modifying a State Workforce Development Plan. Florida's WIOA State Plan describes Florida's strategy for supporting the publicly funded workforce system. WIOA Section 106 describes the process by which the Governor designates local workforce development areas within the state. Local areas are designated consistent with labor market areas in the state; are consistent with regional economic development areas in the state; and have available the federal and non-federal resources necessary to effectively administer WIOA activities including whether the areas have the appropriate education and training providers such as institutions of higher education and career and technical education schools.

The Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act was signed into law in June 2021. The REACH Act addresses the evolving needs of Florida's economy by increasing the level of collaboration and cooperation among state businesses and education communities while improving training within and access to a more integrated workforce and education system for all Floridians. The law takes an integrated, collaborative approach to strengthen partnerships and enhance access to education, training and employment opportunities within and across key workforce, education and support services systems that are the backbone of Florida's comprehensive workforce development ecosystem.

In December 2021, the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors approved CareerSource Florida Policy 2021.12.09.A.1 – Comprehensive Employment, Education and Training Strategy. This strategic policy encourages local workforce development boards to use all allowable resources and to collaborate with all partners to develop innovative strategies that create simplified access to and provide excellent customer service for Florida's workforce; focus on continuous improvement, strengthen partnerships to leverage shared resources and eliminate duplication of services; align programs and resources to meet local market demand in occupations that lead to self-sustaining jobs; and, implement data-driven accountability measures and quantifiable outcomes related to training programs, employment and services to Florida businesses.

The REACH Act amended Chapter 445, Florida Statutes. One key change introduced by the REACH Act was the creation of Section 445.006(4), Florida Statutes, which authorized FloridaCommerce to prepare a federal waiver to be submitted by the Governor to the U.S. Department of Labor that allows the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors to fulfill the roles

and responsibilities of local workforce development boards or reduce the number of local workforce development boards based on population size and commuting patterns in order to:

- Eliminate multiple layers of administrative entities to improve coordination of the workforce development system.
- Establish consistent eligibility standards across the state to improve the accountability of workforce-related programs.
- Provide greater flexibility in the allocation of resources to maximize the funds directed to training and business services.

Revisions to the REACH Act in Senate Bill 240, signed into law by the Governor on May 15, 2023, further require Regional Planning Areas to establish administrative cost arrangements.

On Feb. 23, 2023, the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors approved the Florida Workforce System Transformation Plan, a three-pillar plan for accomplishing the REACH Act charge to reduce the number of local workforce development boards while allowing the CareerSource Florida network to modernize and better position the system to be more customer-centered, cost effective and responsive to meet workforce talent demands. The plan focuses on:

- Alignment and consolidation for local workforce development boards.
- System-wide improvements for improved customer consistency and better leveraging of public funds.
- Regional planning to further promote workforce system alignment with education and economic development and optimize opportunities for regional growth.

This Regional Planning Area Strategic Policy defines the goals for Regional Planning Areas to include but not be limited to:

- Aligning workforce strategies to address the needs of shared industry sectors, employers, and significant populations of job seekers.
- Addressing common labor shortages and worker skill gaps with aligned service strategies.
- Realizing system efficiencies through reducing resource costs (monetary, time, or other).

Additionally, the policy defines the requirements for Regional Planning Areas in Florida.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

- **Approve CareerSource Florida Strategic Policy – Regional Planning Areas, implementing the requirements for Regional Planning Areas.**