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## Strategic Policy

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Comprehensive Employment, Education and Training</b>
<b>Adopted:</b>	12/09/2021
<b>Effective:</b>	12/09/2021

### I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors is to design, implement and invest in strategies that foster collaboration and cooperation among workforce, education and industry partners to help Floridians enter, remain and succeed in the workforce. These strategies help Floridians and businesses and advance the development of the state's business climate. A knowledgeable and skilled workforce is essential for attracting economic development opportunities that align with Florida growth strategies. Efforts at enhancing employment, education and training offers economic growth, upward mobility and diversification of Florida's economy.

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), partner programs and entities jointly responsible for workforce and economic development, educational and other human resource programs are responsible for collaborating and creating a seamless, customer focused career center network that integrates service delivery across all programs. This integrated system will enhance job seekers' access to quality skills and employment and create a pipeline of talent for employers to find and hire qualified candidates. Local workforce development boards are encouraged to collaborate with all partners and to develop innovative strategies that focus on:

- Creating simplified access to and providing excellent customer service for Florida's workforce;
- Focusing on continuous improvement, strengthening partnerships to leverage shared resources and eliminate duplication of services;

- Aligning programs and resources to meet local market demand in occupations that lead to self-sustaining jobs; and,
- Implementing data-driven accountability measures and quantifiable outcomes related to training programs, employment and services to Florida businesses.

This policy applies to CareerSource Florida, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and all local workforce development boards. Workforce development boards shall align local strategies and policies for employment, education and training with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Florida law and the state's workforce development plan.

Local strategies shall prioritize employment, emphasize education and training, and ensure local boards are responsive to Florida employers' demand for qualified workforce talent. These strategies shall be written and placed in each local workforce development board's four-year plan and reflected in the local workforce development board operating policies.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

Public Law 113 – 128, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, requires each 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. The strategic policy of Florida's state workforce development board provides direction to ensure that publicly funded workforce development programs are administered consistent with the state plan and are compliant with WIOA.

Florida's WIOA state plan outlines strategic guidance on delivering services under WIOA and the Wagner-Peyser Act as described in Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 19-16. The guidance includes developing strategies to create a seamless customer-focused career center network that integrates service delivery across all programs to make it easier for workers to access the services they need to obtain skills and employment.

Florida's WIOA state plan also aligns with the Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act. The REACH Act establishes a blueprint for Florida's talent ecosystem to ensure the state has the talent it needs to remain competitive in the new global economy. This blueprint includes strategies to integrate education and workforce systems that will expand and expedite opportunities through increased collaboration aimed at forming education, workforce and industry partnerships.

Local WIOA plans must align with Florida's WIOA state plan. Local WIOA plans describe how local workforce development boards implement strategies that help Floridians secure good jobs, while providing employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

### III. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Workforce-related programs must be responsive to business and industry needs by providing recruitment, hiring and training to satisfy Florida employers' current and future talent needs. Strategies should align with state board strategic guidance, local labor market data and industry sector and local business needs. A collaborative approach including industry, education and workforce partners should ensure the efficient use of resources.

It is the policy of the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors, designated as Florida's state workforce development board, that local workforce development boards shall leverage all allowable tools and resources in their authority to:

- Assist Floridians in securing employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency and reduces the need for public assistance.
- Provide opportunities for Floridians to develop skills intended to meet the present and future needs of Florida employers.
- Ensure that workforce-related programs — including those programs operated, delivered, or enabled, in whole or in part, by a state or local entity using federal funds or state appropriations to offer incentives, funding, support or guidance for any of the purposes below — are responsive to present and future business and industry needs and complement the initiatives of state and local economic development partners, including Enterprise Florida, Inc., in relation to:
  - Job training;
  - The attainment of a credential of value identified pursuant to Section 445.004(4)(h)4.c., Florida Statutes;
  - The attainment of a postsecondary degree or credential of value; and,
  - Any other program that has, at least in part, the goal of securing employment or better employment for an individual and receives federal funds or a state appropriation.
- Prioritize evidence-based, results-driven solutions to improve outcomes of workforce programs for Floridians and Florida businesses.
- Develop collaborative partnerships that leverage multiple sources of funding to provide services to all customers seeking assistance, especially Florida's vulnerable populations.
- Identify barriers to coordinate and align workforce-related programs and develop solutions to remove such barriers.

Local workforce development boards shall develop strategies and policies that provide simplified and expanded access to employment, education and training services. Allowable tools and

resources include, but are not limited to, those described in Training and Employment Guidance Letter Number 19-16:

- Career services
- Transitional jobs
- Training services
- Training contracts including contracts with individual training providers
- Services for individuals with barriers to employment
- Dislocated worker services
- Services for underemployed and low-income individuals
- In-school and out-of-school youth services
- Work-based training including pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, customized training and on-the-job training
- Incumbent Worker Training and Quick Response Training
- Supportive services and needs-related payments
- Other job seeker services, other employer services and other coordination activities
- Rapid response and layoff aversion
- Coordination with WIOA core programs including adult education and vocational rehabilitation
- Services for trade-impacted workers

Local workforce development boards should ensure local policies and procedures allow sufficient use of available and allowable service strategies to meet the goals of the state workforce development board.

#### **IV. AUTHORITIES**

[Public Law 113-128, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#)

[Chapter 445.003 – 445.004, Florida Statutes](#)

[Chapter 2021-164, Laws of Florida](#)

[Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 19-16](#)

#### **V. RESOURCES**

[Required Elements for Submission of the Unified or Combined State Plan and Plan Modifications Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#)

[Enterprise Florida Major Industries](#)