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AWI Communiqué

DATE: December 17, 2007

TO: Workforce Florida, Inc. and Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs)

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One-Stop and Program Support

SUBJECT: Use of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Funds for Workforce Development Activities in Support of Economic Development

PURPOSE:

To notify the RWBs of workforce investment activities allowable under WIA in support of talent development strategies that drive state and regional economic growth, and to specifically provide guidance on the interpretation of sections of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 that reference allowable activities and prohibitions related to economic development.

REFERENCE:

Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Public Law 105-220, 29 U.S.C. 2931, Section 112(b) (4) (c) and Section 181; 20 CFR parts 667.262 and 667.264.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. economy and its labor markets are undergoing changes of historical proportion. Globalization has forced change in every region in the country and impacted every aspect of our economy. While global competition is typically seen as a national challenge, the front lines of the battlefield are regional, where businesses create a competitive advantage by collaborating with researchers, entrepreneurs, and government entities. That advantage stems from the ability to transform new ideas and knowledge into advanced, high quality products or services- in other words, to innovate. Regions that will be most successful will connect three key elements: talent, infrastructure, and investment. In particular, they will connect workforce skills and lifelong learning strategies; regional infrastructure and economic development strategies; and investment and entrepreneurship strategies.

AUTHORITY:

United States Department of Labor

ACTION REQUIRED:

Regional Workforce Boards are encouraged to provide this information to service providers, workforce partners, and interested parties.

LINKS:

Training and Employment Guidance Letter NO.13-07
http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2560