

U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

**SEP 26 2007**

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of Florida
Office of the Governor
The Capitol, PL-05
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Florida's Strategic State Plan Modification for Title I of the Workforce
Investment Act and the Wagner-Peyser Act

Dear Governor Crist:

This letter provides approval of the modification to Florida's State Strategic Plan ("the Plan") for Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act for the two-year period, July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) received your state's proposed modification on June 29, 2007, and appreciates your timely submission. ETA views the state strategic planning process under WIA as an opportunity for transforming the workforce investment system into a system that is aligned with and supports regional economic development. The role of governors in this process is critical, and we thank you for your leadership and that of your State Workforce Investment Board.

The approval of the modification to Florida's Strategic Plan for the two-year period, July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009, is retroactive to July 1, 2007. The content of the two-year Plan, including the policies and strategies, the approved performance goals, and the approved waivers, is in effect for the full two-year period, July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009, including the transition period of July 1, 2007 to September 28, 2007, when Florida operated through an extension of the Program Year 2005/2006 State Plan. While the Plan being approved by this letter is in effect for the full two-year period, the transition period expenditures made prior to the approval of this Plan modification will not be considered inappropriate if they were consistent with the Program Year 2005/2006 State Plan in effect at the time of expenditure.

Plan Review and Approval

ETA has reviewed the Florida Plan submission for years three and four of its Strategic Five-Year Plan in accordance with Title I of the Workforce Investment Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, the corresponding regulations, and, as required by Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 13-06, the WIA/Wagner-Peyser Act Planning Guidance issued on April 12, 2005. Pursuant to 20 CFR 661.220(e), this letter constitutes a written determination under WIA section 112 (c) (29 USC 2822 (c)), that the Plan as modified, for the two-year period, July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009, is consistent with the requirements of WIA and the Wagner-Peyser Act.

The Grant Officer will issue a Notice of Obligation for the balance of the WIA formula allocations for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs effective October 1, 2007, under the current Program Year 2007 Annual Funding Agreement. The Wagner-Peyser Act program grant documents for Program Year (PY) 2007/Fiscal year (FY) 2008 were executed, effective July 1, 2007, and funds have been and will continue to be obligated under the agreement for the applicable funds.

Performance Levels

Enclosed are the negotiated Program Year 2007 and 2008 performance levels for WIA and Wagner-Peyser Act which were agreed upon in prior discussions with the ETA Regional Office. These performance levels have been incorporated into the State Plan, and approval of this Plan constitutes formal approval of Florida's WIA and Wagner-Peyser Act performance levels for Program Years 2007 and 2008.

Waiver Requests

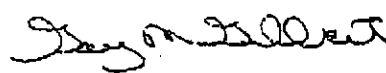
We appreciate that you sought to take advantage of the waiver authority provided in the Workforce Investment Act to expand the flexibility Florida has in implementing your workforce investment system. You will soon receive a separate notification from the Assistant Secretary of the Employment and Training Administration, which will constitute the official response to the waiver requests included in your State Plan modification. All but one of your waiver requests were approved. For reasons of either law and/or policy, the request to waive Wagner-Peyser merit staffing requirements was not approved.

ETA is committed to supporting Florida in driving the workforce investment system to enhance regional economic development in response to changes in the economy brought on by globalization. We look forward to working together in advancing this agenda and assisting you in implementation of your strategic vision for Florida. If you have any questions related to the issues discussed above, please contact Janet Sten, the Federal Coordinator for Plan Review and Approval, at (202) 693-2793 or Sten.Janet@dol.gov, or Gary A. Tyler, the Federal Project Officer for Florida, in the ETA Atlanta Regional Office, at (404) 302-5373, or Tyler.Gary@dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Helen N. Parker
Regional Administrator
Employment and Training
Administration



Gay M. Gilbert
Administrator
Office of Workforce Investment
Employment and Training
Administration

Enclosure

cc: **Monesia Brown, Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation**
Larry Champion, Acting President, Workforce Florida, Inc.
Emily Stover DeRocco, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training
Janet Sten, Federal Coordinator for Plan Review and Approval
E. Fred Tello, Grant Officer
Gary A. Tyler, Federal Project Officer for Florida

Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser Act Performance Levels for PYs 2007 and 2008

Florida

Workforce Investment Act Performance Levels

<u>Adult Measures</u>	<u>PY 2007</u>	<u>PY 2008</u>
Adult entered employment	80.00	81.00
Adult employment retention	85.00	87.00
Adult average six-month earnings	\$15,000.00	\$15,500.00
Adult employment and credential	78.00	79.00
 <u>Dislocated Worker Measures</u> 		
Dislocated worker entered employment	79.00	80.00
Dislocated worker employment retention	85.00	86.00
Dislocated worker average six-month earnings	\$14,500.00	\$15,000.00
Dislocated worker employment and credential	70.00	72.00
 <u>Older Youth Measures</u> 		
Older youth entered employment	73.00	74.00
Older youth employment retention	80.00	80.00
Older youth earnings change	\$3,400.00	\$3,600.00
Older youth credential	55.00	56.00
 <u>Younger Youth Measures</u> 		
Younger Youth Skill Attainment	86.00	87.00
Younger youth diploma	48.00	48.00
Younger youth retention	61.00	62.00
 <u>Customer Satisfaction Measures</u> 		
Participant ACSI	79.00	80.00
Employer ACSI	75.00	76.00

Wagner-Peyser Act Performance Levels

<u>Measures</u>	<u>PY 2007</u>	<u>PY 2008</u>
Entered employment	62.50	64.00
Employment retention	78.00	79.00
Average six-month earnings	\$11,500.00	\$12,000.00

Region 3