

State of Florida
Workforce Investment Act
Waiver Request:
EMPLOYED WORKER TRAINING FUNDING

Pursuant to WIA Section 189 (i)(4)(B) and the WIA Federal regulations at 20 CFR 661.420, the State of Florida requests continuation of a waiver to enable local Regional Workforce Boards to expand employed worker training (EWT) activities by allowing up to 20 percent of local adult and dislocated worker funds as described by WIA Section 133 (b) (2) to be expended on incumbent worker training activities pursuant to the rules adherent to statewide activities described by WIA Section 134 (a) (3). Additionally, the State requests any waiver approval necessary to allow up to 20 percent of its state-level rapid response funds as described by WIA Section 133 (a) (2) to be shifted to local workforce boards for the purpose of providing incumbent worker training and other allowable state-level activities (non administrative).

A. Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

Should the above request be deemed to be not in accord with any provision of WIA Section 134 or WIA federal regulations at 20 CFR 667.160, 20 CFR 663, or 20 CFR 665, Florida requests waiver of the federal regulations.

B. Goals of the Waiver and Expected Programmatic Outcomes if Waiver is Granted

This waiver encourages Regional Workforce Boards to further expand EWT activities, which enables further use of the public employment system through a demand-driven, business focus. The waiver also promotes maximum investment of these limited funds and increases levels of service as well as promotes strengthening of regional economies by focusing on employer and worker competitiveness through skills upgrade training.

C. State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers

There is no state or local statutory or regulatory barrier to implementing the state's policy or any federal waiver necessary to implement this request. Indeed the policy is in accord with the intent of state statutes enacted to implement WIA.

D. Description of the Individuals Impacted by the Waiver

All WIA customers, as well as the state's Regional Workforce Boards, will be positively affected by the adoption of the above requested waiver. Increased numbers of individuals that are in need of service will be provided service. Regional Workforce Boards, identifying unmet needs or experiencing the sudden need for increased services in their areas, will have more timely access to additional resources. The rate of investment of WIA funds will increase.

E. Opportunity for Public Comment and the Process for Monitoring Implementation of the Waiver

Employed Worker Training – Waiver # 5 (2007)

The State's request to enable local Regional Workforce Boards to expand employed worker training (EWT) activities by allowing up to 20 percent of local adult and dislocated worker funds to be expended on EWT activities, as well as the use of state-level rapid response for allowable non-administrative projects including employed worker activities was developed by Workforce Florida, Inc., the state's workforce investment board. Based on its review of the goals established in the State's strategic plan, the Board identified the need to revise policy governing the investment of local allocation funds in order to achieve the maximum investment of WIA funds. Indeed, in 2002, the Board approved start-up funds to each RWB to allow local EWT programs to be initiated. The EWT program has been extensively discussed at RWB business liaisons meetings and through guidance papers.

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Workforce Florida, Inc. and the Agency for Workforce Innovation as they continue to monitor all WIA performance and the progress towards goals and objectives expressed in the State Plan. Information contained in the state's management information system and financial management tracking system will be reviewed and reported to the local areas and Workforce Florida on a regular basis. Review of the implementation and application of the policy will regularly be placed on the agenda of public meetings of State Board and regular scheduled meetings of the Board members and staff, with partner agencies, representatives of Regional Workforce Boards, one-stop operators and other partners.