

**State of Florida**  
**Workforce Investment Act**  
**Waiver Request:**  
**ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING**

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 its waiver approval to implement the Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 16-04. The TEGL encourages states and Regional Workforce Boards to consider entrepreneurial training programs for WIA customers as part of their menu of services and to explore the appropriate partnerships to support these training programs. The U.S. Department of Labor has taken this position based on the results of experimental projects and has recommended that self-employment assistance be emphasized as a reemployment strategy for dislocated and /or unemployed workers. Florida's specific request is to allow local Adult and Dislocated Worker formula funds to be expended on entrepreneurial training with performances to be tracked at the state-level but not aggregated with other local performance data.

**A. Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived**

Should the above request related to allowing local Adult and Dislocated Worker formula funds to be expended on entrepreneurial training, with performances to be tracked at the state-level, but not aggregated with other local performance data, be deemed to be not in accord with any provision of WIA federal regulations at 20 CFR 666 and 20 CFR 667.300, Florida requests waiver of the federal regulation.

In addition, Florida requests a waiver of the provisions of 20 CFR 667.300 which addresses the reporting of performance data and TEGL 14-00, Change 1 to allow the State to submit an addendum to WIASRD to accommodate the exceptions related to this waiver at the local level request while still including the performance outcomes for the above referenced at risk populations at the state level. The federal WIASRD methodology, as now designed, counts everyone served with local funds in whole or in part at the local level.

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

The waiver encourages collaboration with economic development organizations, business, industry associations, and education to foster business innovation, small business start-ups and expansions and job creation.

According to Census data, there are 1,369,002 nonemployer establishments in Florida as of 2004 generating receipts of \$63,915,598,000. Nonemployer establishments are operated by self-employed business owners who operate the enterprise for their own profit and have no paid employees. Over 84 percent of Florida's Employers have less than 10 employees.

The waiver also helps the State in its recovery from the impacts of hurricanes, tornadoes, and tropical storms which continue to be a State challenge. The waiver is also consistent

with the U.S. Small Business Administration's strategic goal to restore homes and businesses affected by such disasters.

Florida benefited immensely from the receipt of National Emergency Grant funds to assist with the humanitarian and clean-up issues as a result of these disasters. These funds—and the performances associated with them—are not aggregated with other local performance data.

Existing State policy promotes the maximum investment of limited Adult and Dislocated Worker funds and increased levels of service. Additionally, the proposed waiver will hold the state performances accountable—rather than local Regional Workforce Board performances—thus spurring more local engagement in entrepreneurial training.

**C. State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers**

There is no state or local statutory or regulatory barrier to implementing the state's request or any federal waiver necessary to implement the request. Indeed the request 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 affected positively by the adoption of this waiver request.

Increased numbers of individuals in need of service, particularly minorities, women, and veterans, will be assisted.

Regional Workforce Boards, identifying unmet needs or experiencing individuals interested in self-employment opportunities in their areas, will have continued flexibility to refer these persons to entrepreneurial training without fear of adverse impacts on local performance data.

The rate of investment of WIA funds will increase.

Public workforce funds will be used to collaborate with economic development organizations and the state's strategic vision to spur more business innovation.

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

Public comment on the State's request for this waiver has been encouraged. Public comment was solicited by email to state agencies, all Regional Workforce Boards, service providers, and other interested parties.

The implementation of this waiver request will be monitored by the Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Agency for Workforce Innovation as they continue to monitor all WIA

## Entrepreneurial Training - Waiver # 7 (2007)

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, Inc., 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.