DATE: January 25, 2010

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

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

SUBJECT: Employ Florida Marketplace – Geographic Solutions Community Site

PURPOSE:

To notify RWBs of additional functionality and system updates within the Employ Florida Marketplace (EFM) – Geographic Solutions Community Site.

BACKGROUND:

EFM is the State’s official online portal for job-matching and other workforce services. The system is the result of collective efforts of the State of Florida and Geographic Solutions, Inc. EFM services are available wherever there is a computer with access to the Internet. As such, service availability is greatly increased because users are not restricted by time parameters.

The Geographic Solutions Community Site incorporates many functions of Web 2.0 into EFM by allowing staff users to post comments, follow discussion threads, and be notified of updates on subjects of interest. As such, the community site can serve as a significant electronic information resource.

AUTHORITY:

Agency for Workforce Innovation

ACTION REQUIRED:

Use of this functionality allows sharing of ideas and information about best practices. This system component is currently available to all EFM staff users. As an informational tool and forum for updates, it is requested that this site not be used as a medium for posting technical assistance requests, systems functionality problems, or requests for systems enhancements. Technical issues, requests for enhancements or systems problems should be transmitted to Geographic Solutions via the OPC (On-Line Project Communication System) process via your Regional Security Officer (RSO).

RWBs should become familiar with the community site feature. Instructions to access the site within EFM and “screen shots” are included in the attachment to this communiqué. Individuals needing access to the community site that do not have EFM accounts should contact their local RSO for an account. RSO’s can request additional accounts by creating an OPC ticket with Geographic Solutions.

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.
Community Site Instructions

- Log in to EFM.
- Navigate to “Geographic Solutions Community Site” under “Other Staff Services” on the left navigation bar. Clicking this selection opens the Community for Florida Users Home Page.

- Help is available within the site by clicking the underlined “help” link at the top of the web page located under the word “Forum.”
The main page in the virtual community forum includes choices of topics (left-hand side of page), discussion posts from other community users (center page), and personal options (right-hand side of page).

The community site includes a “follow” feature that allows users to stay abreast of posts on specific topics or discussions posted by a specific individual.

To follow a specific person, click on that users name at the bottom of any discussion post submitted by that person. Then, click “Follow (the name of person)” on the next page displayed.

You can also click “View (the name of the person)’s Posts” if you want to see ONLY what that person has posted.
To set up automated e-mail notifications of new posts and comments (by topic or by those you follow), click on your username at the top of the page.

Then, click the box by any topic or select “posts from users I’m following,” etc.