



Jeb Bush  
Governor  
Susan Pareigis  
Director

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 7, 2006

**TO:** Regional Workforce Board Directors

**FROM:** Susan Simpler, Deputy Director for Workforce Services

**SUBJECT:** Announcement of Florida reBuilds Funds

The Florida reBuilds Initiative that provides skills training for construction industry workers was launched in late-December 2005. The early interest in the program by job seekers, employers and industry groups is promising, but the number of individuals actually participating in the program's training has fallen short of expectations. In consultation with construction industry employers, associations and workforce partners, the following improvements have been made to the program:

- 1) Funding will be allocated through a competitive application process to Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs) for both entry-level and advanced-level training;
- 2) RWBs will apply local criteria in selecting the program's training providers and in developing training curriculums;
- 3) The state-established training caps for the amount of funds paid per training hour have been eliminated;
- 4) Supportive services, i.e., transportation and childcare are allowable program costs; and
- 5) RWBs will use the state's regular financial management process in accounting for and reporting program funds.

Funds under this new arrangement are immediately available to RWBs. Due to the dire need to make construction related training available statewide, we encourage you to submit your application(s) as soon as possible. Attached is a narrative that provides more details on the new funding approach and two funding request applications. One funding application is for RWBs to use in requesting entry-level and advanced-level training and the other funding application is for non-workforce boards (employers, associations, etc) to use in requesting advanced-level training directly from WFI.

We are planning to convene a conference call meeting to review the new program procedures and to address any of your related questions. You and your staff may contact Larry McIntyre of AWI regarding program issues and Lisa Hartwell of WFI regarding funding request issues. Larry may be contacted by e-mail at [larry.mcintyre@awi.state.fl.us](mailto:larry.mcintyre@awi.state.fl.us) or by telephone at (850) 921-3323 and Lisa may be contacted by e-mail at [lhartwell@workforceflorida.com](mailto:lhartwell@workforceflorida.com) or by telephone at (850) 921-1119.

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We are hopeful that these recent program changes will allow you and your local partners to offer construction industry training and job placement assistance in a fashion to best meet the need and situations in your local communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can be of any assistance in making this program successful in your area.

Attachments

SS/ljm

cc: Curtis Austin  
Susan Pareigis  
David Armstrong  
Bonnie Marmor  
Larry Champion  
Andra Cornelius  
Mike Switzer  
Barbara Griffin  
Kevin Thompson