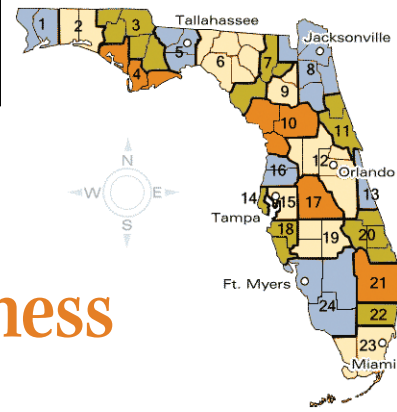


An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.



WORKFORCE FLORIDA

Employ Florida for Small Business Workforce Solutions

Florida's workforce system has come a long way from the "reactive" welfare system of the past. Today, Florida offers a highly proactive system built on strategic partnerships between economic development, workforce development and businesses. This approach enables Florida to be responsive to employers' workforce needs in the current economic environment while keeping abreast of future trends and opportunities. It's a good formula that contributes to keeping Florida competitive and a great place to live and do business.

Small businesses are big business in Florida

The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 75 percent of all Florida's business establishments have fewer than 20 employees. Clearly, small business is big business for Florida.

Challenges like "How can I quickly find the workers I need?" or "How do I assess my current employees' talent?" often are greater the smaller the company. Florida's workforce system is ready to work with the small employer to help turn these challenges into opportunities for growth.

Small businesses need big solutions

Florida's workforce system is a powerful resource for small businesses. Workforce solutions and resources are available through the Employ Florida network of "one-stops" throughout the state.

Local control of the one-stops by 24 regional workforce boards means the local programs and services address the specific economic development, business and workforce needs unique to each region. The map above shows the geographic territory for

the 24 workforce regions.

Each workforce region provides different services to meet local needs. Here are some examples of the services a small business can get locally from Florida's workforce system:

- Employee recruitment services
- Applicant prescreening and job referrals
- Employee skills information, assessment and services
- Labor market analysis and information
- Information and/or assistance in obtaining funding for skills upgrade training for existing workforce
- Rapid Response services in the event of a ramp up or reduction in workforce

Helping small businesses increase competitiveness

Keeping your workforce competitive keeps your business competitive — it also keeps Florida competitive. That's what the state Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program is all about.

The IWT Program is a workforce development resource administered at the state level by Workforce Florida Inc. Since its creation in 1999, this grant program has help provide customized skills upgrade training for over 23,000 employees for more than 300 businesses throughout the state — many of them small businesses. Employers consistently praise the program for its flexible structure that allows them to choose the training provider and customize the training to meet their training objectives.

This kind of training is a win-win solution for the employer and the employee that gains new skills. It's also a win-win situation for Florida —

a more competitive business and a more highly skilled workforce.

Employ Florida: Florida's workforce network

Part of the strength of Florida's workforce system is local control and identity. But trying to locate services with different names can be daunting. So what if you don't know what name to look up? No problem! Florida's workforce services are linked together through the Employ Florida network. That means you only need to remember one name — Employ Florida — to find any of the network members. Just call the Employ Florida toll-free number, 1-866-FLA-2345, or visit: www.employflorida.net.

You can also use the Resources section in this publication to locate contact information for each of Florida's 24 workforce regions identified by the counties they serve.

Whatever your preference — Employ Florida to help you with your workforce needs.

This message brought to you by:

**EMPLOY
FLORIDA**

www.employflorida.net
1-866-FLA-2345

To learn more about Florida's workforce system, programs, policy and initiatives go to:

www.WorkforceFlorida.com

