

Status Report and Recommended Council Action

2008-2009 Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) Plan Modification

Background:

At the April 15, 2009 meeting of the Workforce Florida, Inc. Executive Committee, the decision was made to support a request to the United States Department of Agriculture for a statewide waiver effective July 1, 2009. The waiver means that food stamp recipients who now are mandated to participate in the employment and training program would no longer be required to participate and would no longer be at risk for losing their food stamp eligibility if they did not participate in the program. The waiver requires that the state modify its current plan (effective for the federal fiscal year that began October 1, 2008 and ends September 30, 2009) to incorporate the changes planned to transition from a mandatory program to a program that targets food stamp recipients most likely to want to volunteer to participate in employment and training activities.

Key Plan Changes:

- Target group served changes from mandatory Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) to work registrants who volunteer to participate
- The type of employment and training activities shifts from a mix comprised primarily of work experience designed to ensure that mandatory participants were complying with participation requirements to a mix more heavily devoted to job search activities and training options for food stamp recipients who volunteer for the program. (See attached side by side comparison of service delivery designs)
- Number of participating RWBs decrease from 24 to 20 (All boards were surveyed to determine those that wanted to participate)
- Number of counties where services will be offered decrease from 59 to 47 (Multi-County boards had the option to not provide services in some of their counties)
- Funding for the remaining portion of the fiscal year (July 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009) must be reallocated based on the new mix of regional boards participating (See attached proposed RWB funding allocations)
- The funding allocation formula must be changed to reflect the new target group of work registrants rather than ABAWDs

Action Needed:

Motion to recommend to the WFI Executive Committee approval of the proposed modification to the state's 2008-2009 FSET State for the period beginning July 1, 2009.