

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
WORKFORCE FLORIDA, INC.;
AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION
AND
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA - FLORIDA**

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Partnership Agreement is to establish a cooperative and mutually beneficial working relationship between:

**Workforce Florida, Inc (WFI)
Agency For Workforce Innovation (AWI)
and
Volunteers of America - Florida (VOAF)**

to initiate and promote cooperation between Workforce Florida Inc., (WFI), Regional Workforce Boards (RWB), and the Agency For Workforce Innovation (AWI) for delivery of services with the common goal of enabling veterans to achieve greater independence through employment.

Further, the purpose of this agreement is to strengthen the one-stop delivery system through maximum cooperation between these partners, at the state level, to share information and services that are necessary to best serve the targeted customers, and to help them achieve their goal of self-sufficiency through employment and career advancement.

This agreement outlines each partner's roles and responsibilities, referral procedures, information exchange methods, and implementation/evaluation/amendment and termination procedures.

WHEREAS, WFI is the state's chief workforce policy organization, created by the Workforce Innovation Act of 2000, as codified in Chapter 445, Florida Statutes. WFI ensures that workforce programs, authorized under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, are administered at the regional level through the 24 RWBs, with significant representation from the business community. WFI is charged with providing policy direction as well as developing a workforce strategy that improves and retains a highly competitive workforce responsive to the needs of employers and the community.

WHEREAS, the AWI is the designated state administrative agency for receipt of federal workforce employment and training funds and other federal funds and acts as the fiscal agent on behalf of WFI, ensuring that the state appropriately

administers federal and state workforce programs by implementing plans and policies of WFI; and

WHEREAS, AWI is responsible for implementing policy dealing with workforce development programs, welfare transition, unemployment compensation, and labor market information, and has dedicated staff providing services to veterans through local one-stop career centers.

WHEREAS, VOAF is an affiliate of Volunteers of America, a national, nonprofit, spiritually-based organization which provides local human service programs and outreach to families and individuals in need from rural to inner city neighborhoods. Those served include veterans, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons who are abused or neglected, ex-offenders, and the homeless. VOAF serves an estimated 23,000 homeless, military veterans in Florida. VOAF provides transitional living services, supportive housing, supportive employment, drop-in centers, supported living, service coordination and management of HUD 811 housing.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and mutual agreements contained herein, the Partners agree to the following:

2. PARTNERS:

The Partners in this partnership agreement are:

**WORKFORCE FLORIDA, INC
1974 COMMONWEALTH BLVD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

**AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION
107 EAST MADISON STREET
CALDWELL BUILDING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

**VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA - FLORIDA
605 SOUTH BOULEVARD
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33606**

3. TERMS OF AGREEMENT:

This non-financial agreement is hereby entered into in a spirit of cooperation by the signatory partners beginning on the date on which it is signed by all partners. This agreement will continue in effect until such time as it is revised, extended, or terminated as provided below. This agreement may be extended by written agreement between

VOAF, AWI and WFI, provided such agreement is signed by all partners, prior to termination date of this agreement.

Any partner in this partnership agreement may terminate its participation without cause by delivering a thirty-day (30) written notice to the other partners. All partners agree to review this agreement annually and provide written suggestions for recommended changes, clarifications, deletions, or additions. On or before July 1 of each year, suggested changes shall be submitted to other partners for consideration. An addendum signed by authorized representatives of each partner shall be sufficient to modify the Agreement.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Partners agree that their respective duties and responsibilities, under this agreement and to the extent possible, shall be as follows:

- Encourage staff to participate in ad-hoc work meetings and partnership meetings or related functions.
- Promote information sharing and the coordination of activities to improve performance of RWBs, one-stop career centers, and local partners through the development and implementation of local MOUs.
- Promote information sharing on joint training opportunities.
- Encourage and facilitate local partnerships and work together for grant funding opportunities that include addressing homeless and disabled veterans.
- Identify suitable grant and other supplemental funding opportunities to increase resources available for workforce initiatives, vocational rehabilitation services, and veteran services by assisting local partners in jointly applying for federal, state, and private sector grants.
- Exchange information and coordinate programs for a more streamlined and efficient workforce development system for veterans.
- Promote the development of additional linkages with other appropriate public agencies, statewide coalitions and nonprofit organizations, and work with the local RWBs and one-stop operators to promote the availability of services.

5. REFERRAL OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Partners agree to promote the inclusion of descriptions of methods for referral of persons with disabilities in the MOUs developed by the RWBs. Interested veterans with service-connected disabilities will be referred to the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program for educational, training and rehabilitation assistance. Interested veterans with non-service-connected disabilities or handicaps will be referred to the Florida Department of Education, (DOE), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, (DVR), for the above assistance.

6. UNIVERSAL ACCESS/ACCESSIBILITY

The Partners agree to encourage equal, effective and meaningful participation by veterans and veterans with disabilities through promotion of program accessibility, reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids and services, and rehabilitation technology. The Florida DOE-DVR funding stream is the primary source of funding for the needs of those clients who have been identified as "veterans or eligible persons."

7. ORGANIZATIONAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

WFI, AWI, RWB, ONE-STOP RELATIONSHIPS

Section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act 1998 (WIA) requires RWBs to develop MOUs with the one-stop career centers to detail how resources will be coordinated across funding streams to operate and provide workforce services

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

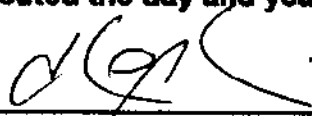
The Partners acknowledge their separate obligation to perform this agreement in compliance with the requirements of the Public Records Law, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes and with other applicable statutes that constitute express exceptions to the requirements of Section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, by making certain categories of records "confidential", exempt from disclosure, or accessible, as prescribed by statutes. (See section 945.10, Florida Statutes.) The Partners acknowledge that the data exchanged between agencies has been provided for official purposes and that public access to such data is limited and prescribed by statute. The parties agree to disseminate data only in compliance with confidentiality restrictions and in recognition of the exemptions from disclosure provided by law. Each partner will secure the other's agreement prior to publishing that agency's data. AWI has MOUs with all RWBs that outline the confidentiality requirements for data received in the course of delivering workforce services. This agreement requires the following:

- Employees of AWI, one-stop career centers, RWBs, and their contractors and subcontractors, in the performance of their duties and in the course of delivering workforce program services, receive information obtained from employers, participants, and unemployment compensation claimants. The information received includes, but is not limited to, job and program applicant registrations, job orders, employer reports, unemployment compensation claims, and related records. This information is confidential, as required by Federal law and by subsection 443. 1715 (1), Florida Statutes. The board, and their contractors and subcontractors, in the course of receiving and utilizing confidential, workforce program information for the purpose of performing their duties, shall maintain the confidentiality of employer, employee, and participant identity, and all

related information pursuant to State and Federal regulations, as identified in the annually executed "RWB Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement."


9. SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Partners have caused this Agreement to be duly executed the day and year written below:




**Curtis C. Austin, President
Workforce Florida, Inc.**

10/29/04
DATE



**Susan Pareigis
Director
Agency For Workforce Innovation**

10/26/04
DATE



**Kathy Spearman
President and Chief Executive Office
Volunteers of America - Florida**

10/21/04
DATE