

FLORIDA BUSINESS INSIGHTS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Question: Can my county be involved in the Pilot?
Answer: Our hope is that we can include any county that wants to be a part of the pilot. However, if funding precludes that, counties will be selected in a way to achieve representation of the geographic and economic diversity of Florida.
2. Question: My organization already uses e-Synchronist. Is there any reason for me to apply?
Answer: Yes. The advantage for current users is that apples-to-apples comparisons will be possible across the state. Arrangements have been worked out with Blane, Canada, Ltd. so that you can migrate to the state-wide system at no cost if the license fees are current. Annual fees will increase from \$325 to \$600 for county-level licensees and regional licenses would increase to \$900 due to the fact that you would be on a web-based rather than a desktop system.
3. Question: When will participants be selected?
Answer: As soon as possible after the application deadline.
4. Question: How does this relate to efforts to develop a way to quickly assess damages to businesses, for example in the wake of a hurricane?
Answer: Synchronist, by the way data gets fed in over time, cannot give you an immediate fix on damage suffered via a hurricane nor will it necessarily include all businesses within a county. What it can do, from the EDO side, once populated with data, is give EDO's a fix on which businesses might be highest on their priority list and where they might first direct their attention.
5. Question: What kind of partnership are you expecting between county-level economic development organizations and regional workforce boards?
Answer: The partnership can be as simple as an agreement to share aggregate data and work together to address business' issues or can be as substantive as the partnering organizations want to make them.
6. Question: Are you going to impose rules on things like how interviews are conducted?
Answer: Our intent is to leave as much decision-making as possible at the partnership level. How interviews are conducted, roles and responsibilities for partnership member organizations, etc. will be left for you to decide. In some cases though we will ask for goals or an agreement to prioritize target clusters.