

**State of Florida
Workforce Investment Act
Waiver # 6 - Continuation Request:**

ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING

Pursuant to WIA Section 189 (i) (4) (B) and the WIA Federal regulations at 20 CFR 661.420, the State of Florida requests continuation of its waiver approval to implement the Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 16-04. The TEGL encourages states and Regional Workforce Boards to consider entrepreneurial training programs for WIA customers as part of their menu of services and to explore the appropriate partnerships to support these training programs. The U.S. Department of Labor has taken this position based on the results of experimental projects and has recommended that self-employment assistance be emphasized as a reemployment strategy for dislocated and /or unemployed workers. Florida's specific request is to allow the tracking of program performance associated with entrepreneurial training funded with local Adult and Dislocated Worker formula funds to be done at the state-level and not aggregated with other local performance data.

A. Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

Florida requests a waiver of the provisions of 20 CFR 667.300 for those individuals who receive entrepreneurial training with WIA formula funds. This waiver will allow the state to exclude these individuals from local performance calculations. The state will report the performance for these individuals in its state reports.

B. Goals of the Waiver and Expected Programmatic Outcomes if Waiver is Granted

Small employers make up over 80 percent of Florida's employer base. In November 2008, Florida lost more jobs than any other state in the nation and state government economists do not expect the job market to begin improving until mid-to-late 2009 with slower than average growth in 2010 and 2011. The waiver will encourage collaboration with economic development organizations, business, industry associations, and education to foster business innovation, small business start-ups and expansions and job creation. Starting up your own business is a viable alternative to many of the individuals who have recently lost their jobs.

Existing State policy promotes the maximum investment of limited Adult and Dislocated Worker funds and increased levels of service. The proposed waiver will hold the state performances accountable—rather than local Regional Workforce Board performances—thus spurring more local engagement in entrepreneurial training.

C. State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers

There is no state or local statutory or regulatory barrier to implementing the state's request.

D. Description of the Individuals Impacted by the Waiver

The waiver will provide Regional Workforce Boards an incentive to invest in entrepreneurial training that is more risk than providing occupational training that leads to a traditional job placement. It will provide an alternative opportunity for unemployed individuals during the current economic decline to consider starting a business as opposed to going back to a job. The waiver will allow these public workforce funds to further collaborate with economic development organizations and support the state's strategic vision to spur more business innovation.

E. Opportunity for Public Comment and the Process for Monitoring Implementation of the Waiver

Public comment on the State's request for this waiver has been encouraged and solicited from state agencies, all Regional Workforce Boards, service providers, and other interested parties. This request for continuation will be posted on the web sites of Workforce Florida, Inc. and the Agency for Workforce Innovation to allow the public another opportunity to comment on the proposed extension of this waiver.

Information contained in the State's management information on the number of individuals enrolled in entrepreneurial training will be reviewed and reported to the local areas and Workforce Florida, Inc., on a regular basis. Review of the implementation and application of the policy will regularly be placed on the agenda of public meetings of State Board and regular scheduled meetings of the Board members and staff, with partner agencies, representatives of regional workforce boards, one-stop operators and other partners.