

State of Florida
Workforce Investment Act
Waiver #7 – Continuation Request:

RAPID RESPONSE FUNDING FOR ALLOWABLE STATE LEVEL ACTIVITIES

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 a waiver to allow up to 20 percent of its state-level rapid response funds as described by WIA Section 133 (a) (2) to be used for allowable state-level activities (non administrative). Note: Pursuant guidance governing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) this waiver would apply to the state's regular formula funding only and would not apply to ARRA funds.

A. Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

Should the above request be deemed to be not in accord with any provision of WIA Section 134 or WIA federal regulations at 20 CFR 665, Florida requests waiver of the federal regulations.

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

This waiver allows for maximum flexibility and increases the efficiency in which Florida can react to changing conditions by focusing these limited funds on allowable state-level activities which may include: (1) provision of capacity building and technical assistance to local areas, one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and eligible providers, including the development and training of staff and the development of exemplary program activities; (2) conduct of research and demonstrations; (3) implementation of innovative incumbent worker training programs, which may include the establishment and implementation of an employer loan program to assist in skills upgrading; and the establishment and implementation of programs targeted to empowerment zones and enterprise communities; (4) support for the identification of eligible providers of training services as required under section 122; (5) implementation of innovative programs for displaced homemakers; (6) implementation of programs to increase the number of individuals training for and placed in nontraditional employment; and (7) carrying out other activities authorized in WIA that the State determines to be necessary to assist local areas in carrying out activities through the statewide workforce investment system.

C. State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers

There is no state or local statutory or regulatory barrier to implementing the state's policy or any federal waiver necessary to implement this request. Indeed the policy is in accord with the intent of state statutes enacted to implement WIA.

D. Description of the Individuals Impacted by the Waiver

All WIA customers, as well as the state's Regional Workforce Boards, could be positively affected by the adoption of the above requested waiver. In our ever changing climate the flexibility afforded in this waiver will drastically increase the efficiency in which Florida can react to critical needs identified by our strategic team. Increased numbers of individuals that are in need of service will then be provided services.

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

The State's request to use up to 20 percent of its state-level rapid response funds for allowable non-administrative projects was developed by Workforce Florida, Inc., the state's workforce investment board. Public comment on the intent of the State to continue this waiver has been encouraged and received. Public comment was solicited by email to state agencies, all regional workforce boards, service providers, and other interested parties. Review of the implementation and application of policy related to the waiver will regularly be placed on the agenda of public meetings of Workforce Florida and its committees and at regularly scheduled meetings of Board members and staff, with partner agencies, representatives of regional workforce boards, one-stop operators, and other partners.