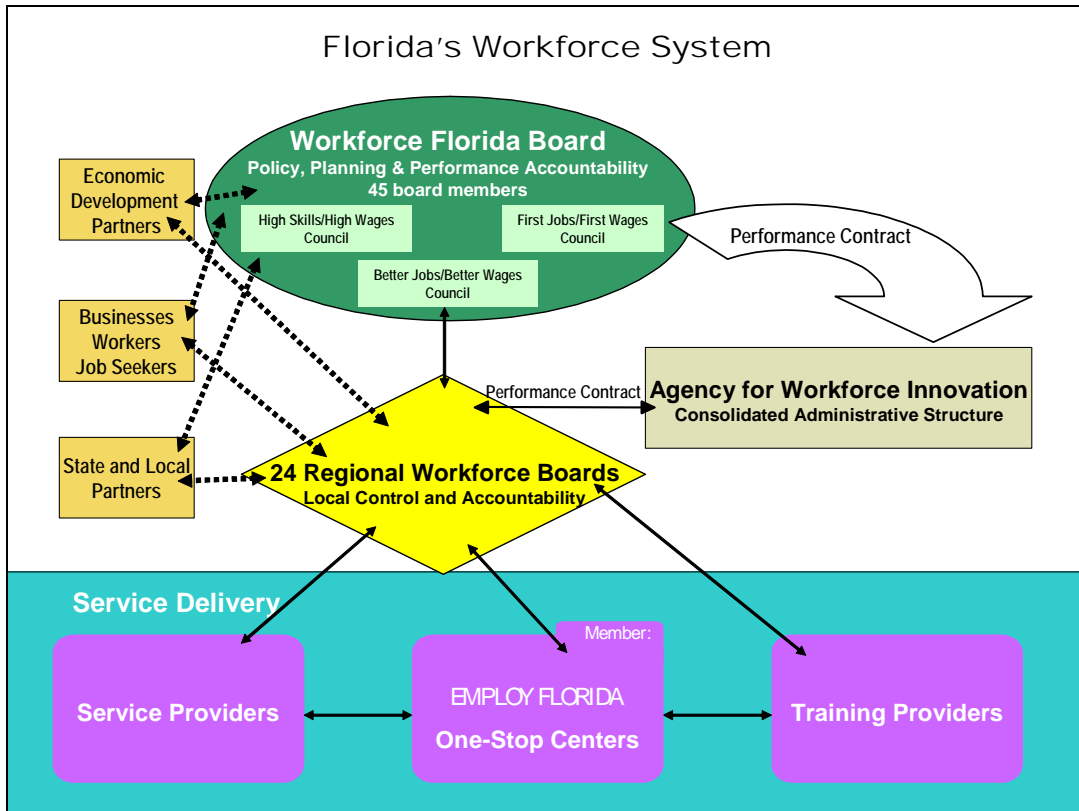


WORKFORCE FLORIDA BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

Workforce Florida, Inc. was created by Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Legislature with the passage of the Workforce Innovation Act of 2000, Chapter 445, Florida Statutes. A 45-member board appointed by the Governor oversees and monitors the administration of the state’s workforce policy, programs and services carried out by the 24 business-led Regional Workforce Boards and the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Direct services are provided at nearly 100 One-Stop Career Centers with locations in every county in the state. This innovative approach to workforce development in Florida is illustrated in the model below.



The Workforce system was re-designed to create partnerships between economic development, workforce development and businesses. In addition, the system is operated through performance based contracts that increase accountability of all entities to meet strategic and legislative mandated goals.

Another key component of the “new” approach is local control. While each regional board has performance measures and contracts to provide accountability, the choice of initiatives and programs it implements are under the local board’s control. This allows for programs to reflect the economic development, business and workforce needs of each particular region of the state.

One Stop Career Centers are the “Front Door” for Workforce

Florida’s One-Stop Career Center system was established to bring workforce and welfare transition programs together under one physical or “virtual” roof to simplify and improve access for employers seeking qualified workers or training programs for their existing employees and job seekers.

- **Serving the Business Customer**

Recent federal and state workforce legislation has emphasized the importance of serving the business customer and making the system more accountable as whole by tying performance funding to customer satisfaction. Florida’s One-Stop Career Center system is a key resource for businesses seeking assistance with training for existing employees or finding qualified workers; several regions have established dedicated employer One-Stop Career Centers in business districts to help local employers recruit, train and retain workers.

- **Serving Job Seekers**

One-Stop Career Centers are the “front door” for Floridians seeking unemployment, temporary cash assistance, job placement, workforce education and training, and workforce support services such as childcare. The federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 mandates participation by nearly a dozen agencies that determine eligibility for and provide:

Adult job placement and training;

Unemployment insurance;

Vocational Rehabilitation services;

Transitional services to assist job seekers move from welfare to work;

Veterans Employment & Training.

Today, there are nearly 100 One-Stop Career centers across Florida managed at the local level by Regional Workforce Boards. Some are full-service centers providing direct access to a comprehensive array of programs at a single location, while others are satellite facilities capable of providing referrals or electronic access. The goal is to move beyond co-location of programs to full integration to provide seamless service to customers. To facilitate finding Florida’s One-Stops, the Employ Florida linking brand has been created with an accompanying website, www.employflorida.net, and a toll-free number 1-866-FLA-2345.



An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.