

Action Item 1

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED STATE PLAN

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RESPONSE TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING FLORIDA'S STATE PLAN MODIFICATION FOR 2009-2010

BACKGROUND

The passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) resulted in additional requirements related to the modification of the State's federal Workforce Investment Plan. To address the additional stimulus funding states were required to a submit stand-alone attachment to respond to a list of questions addressing the Governor's priorities and strategies for the stimulus funds as well as the specific intended uses of the funds in various program areas. This stand-alone document, Attachment A, was submitted along with our plan modification by the June 30, 2009 deadline. However, in mid-August the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) began contacting us with requests for additional information regarding the state's responses to the questions in the stimulus-related Attachment A. Over the course of the last two weeks of August, USDOL sent two detailed requests for information related to 15 of the questions contained in Attachment A. This necessitated the rewriting of some of our responses and the submission of additional clarification on others. All responses were based on exiting policy or strategies previously approved by the WFI Board. A revised Attachment A was submitted as requested by USDOL on August 28, 2009.

SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED

Overview

As much of the requested information regarding the individual questions overlapped, an overview section was added as a preface to the entire attachment. This overview:

- Describes the Governor's Strategic Vision for Florida, itemizing the state's strategic priorities, investment priorities and the state board's response.
- Addresses Florida's Workforce System emphasizing our collaborative partnership where state guidance and oversight is provided from the state level but maximum flexibility is ensured at the local level where the majority specific service strategies are designed and implemented.
- Describes Florida's response to implementing the ARRA.

Section I – State Vision and Priorities

Reponses to three questions in this section were completely rewritten in response to the additional information requested by USDOL. These rewrites and other additional information include:

- The state's guiding principles and strategic priorities for workforce and economic development in light of the economic downturn and the receipt of ARRA funding
- A list specific strategies and initiatives including, among others, Strengthening Youth Partnerships, Banner Centers, the Employ Florida Healthcare Initiative, and Training in Targeted Sectors, Green Jobs, and the STEM Council
- Florida's approach that provides maximum flexibility to the state's regional workforce boards in designing youth service strategies
- Florida's approach to implementing the ARRA funded summer youth program
- Florida workforce system's approaches to serve increased numbers of workers in need, specifically low income individuals

Section II – Service Delivery

Additional information was submitted in variety of areas related to service delivery to include:

- Collaboration with Apprenticeship
- Specific state planning requirements related reemployment services
- Low – income priority of service
- Specific strategies designed to increase services to targeted populations in need, including strategies involving contracts with institutions of higher education
- The assessment approaches utilized in the state's one stop centers and model one-stop service delivery approaches
- Youth strategies for 22-24 year olds, summer youth work experience, and supportive services
- Veterans' priority of service

Section III – Operations

More information was requested one question in this area, Procurement:

- Information was provided to assure that all state-level procurement follows OMB guidelines and that contracts with institutions of higher education are procured through a competitive process.

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NEEDED ACTION

To approve Workforce Florida's supplemental response and clarifications to Florida's state workforce plan modification which was submitted to the US Department of Labor on June 30, 2009 and supplemented on August 28, 2009.