

SECTION 4



Overview of Funding Sources

CareerSource Heartland (CSH) receives the majority of its funding through federal and state grants. Federal grants are issued by the federal funding source to the State of Florida. CareerSource Florida (CSF) directs the Florida Department of Commerce (Florida Commerce), CSF's contracted administrative entity, to authorize pass-through funds to the Local Areas.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)

Grantor Agency: United States Department of Labor

Grant Program Objectives: Provides workforce career services and training services to adults, youth and dislocated workers through the use of the CSH Centers.

Description of the Grant Program: WIOA funds provide for following levels of service:

Career Services - Job search activities; job referrals; workshops; job clubs; eligibility determination; skills assessment; information regarding training opportunities; group counseling and career planning; adult education and literacy training; workplace learning experience; comprehensive and specialized skills assessment and service needs; interviewing skills; development of individual employment plan; case management

Training – Occupational skills; private sector; entrepreneurial; skill upgrade and retraining; job readiness; on-the-job (OJT); customized training to meet special requirements of an employer

There is broad, nearly universal eligibility for career services, but more restrictive eligibility for training services based on factors such as income, employment barriers and/or dislocation from employment.

Distribution Mechanisms: Federal laws specify formulas for distributing WIOA among states and for sub-state allocations, primarily based upon relative shares of workforce, unemployment and poverty factors.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Grantor Agency: United States Department of Health and Human Services

Grant Program Objectives

TANF serves low-income families with children, including two-parent families. TANF, however, strongly emphasizes a “Work First” philosophy, combining time limits and sanctions with added assistance in obtaining training, engaging in work, receiving transportation and transitional support for retained employment, advancement, and becoming self-sufficient.

Description of the Grant Program

Monetary eligibility limits for receiving temporary cash assistance benefits are fairly complex and rigid. Services/programs which assist families in avoiding welfare dependency by gaining and retaining employment are available in the form of one-time payments, job placement assistance and transitional work support services, and can be more broadly extended to “needy families” (set at 200% of poverty level in Florida). Also, there are other diversion programs designed to reduce and/or prevent welfare dependency, such as teen pregnancy prevention programs, programs that enable the formation and maintenance of two-parent families, post-employment career advancement and job retention programs. Florida is required to provide matching state general revenue funds to satisfy the federal “maintenance of effort” (MOE). TANF funds may not be used for medical expenses, undocumented immigrants or convicted felons. TANF funds, which are unspent at the local level within specified time limits, are restricted to “benefits only” and can no longer be used for other purposes such as workforce and support services.

Distribution Mechanisms

TANF funds are provided to the state by federal block grants with some special supplements provided to Florida and other states. There are no federally established formulas for sub-state distribution of TANF funds, noting that TANF administration in most states is state or county-based, with no decentralized governance/delivery structures. The Florida Legislature approves the annual appropriation of TANF funds to the State’s workforce development agencies to address the state and local needs, which is further directed by CSF.

WAGNER-PEYSER (WP)

Grantor Agency: United States Department of Labor

Grant Program Objectives

To place individuals in employment by providing a variety of placement- related services to job seekers and to employers seeking qualified individuals to fill job openings.

Description of the Grant Program

The Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 established a nationwide system of public employment offices which is known as the Employment Service. Wagner-Peyser was amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 incorporating Employment Service into the One-Stop delivery system (now referred to as “CareerSource Centers”). The Workforce Investment Opportunity Act supersedes the Workforce Investment Act.

WP services are an integral part of the CareerSource Center delivery system, and provide an array of high-quality services for workers, job seekers and businesses under one roof in convenient locations. WP services include: job search assistance, referral and placement assistance to job seekers, Re-employment Assistance (formerly Unemployment Compensation) services to claimants, and screening services to employers with job openings. Services may be delivered through self-service, facilitated self-help services, and staff assisted services. Services may also be available such as assessment of skill levels, abilities and aptitudes; career guidance, when appropriate; job search workshops; and referral to training, as appropriate. The services offered to employers, in addition to referral of job seekers to job openings, include: matching job requirements with job seeker experience, skills and other attributes; assisting employers analyze hard-to-fill job orders; assisting with job restructuring; and helping employers deal with layoffs. Wagner-Peyser funds cannot be used for training costs, which are traditionally borne by WIOA or other funding sources.

Distribution Mechanisms

Section 7(b) of the Wagner-Peyser Act reserves 10% of the available grant funds allocated to the State of Florida for state-level activities including special projects and performance incentives. The remaining grant funds are available for basic employment services. The State reserves 10% of the grant funds for state-level administration, with 80% of the funds available to support local CareerSource Center program services at both the state and local levels. Funds allocated to the Local Area for salaries of Wagner-Peyser staff and associated local expenses are based on the federal formula used to distribute grant funds among the states. WP is a joint-managed program between the Local Area and Florida Commerce. Personnel are hired through the State of Florida and funding for personnel costs is retained by Florida Commerce. Residual funds, referred to as pass-through funds, are provided to the Local Area to support WP travel, supplies and other related costs.

VETERANS PROGRAMS

Grantor Agency: United States Department of Labor

Grant Program Objectives

To provide job development, placement, and support services directly to veterans:

- To develop jobs and job training opportunities for disabled and other veterans through contacts with employers;
- Promote and develop on-the-job training and apprenticeship and other on-the-job training positions within Federal job training (e.g. VA programs);
- Provide employability development and vocational guidance to eligible veterans, especially disabled veterans, utilizing a case management approach to services, wherever applicable;
- Provide outreach to veterans through all community agencies and organizations;
- Develop linkages with other agencies to promote maximum employment opportunities for veterans.

Description of the Grant Program

Funds must be used only for salaries and expenses and reasonable support of Veterans Program staff who shall be assigned only those duties directly related to meeting the employment needs of eligible veterans according to the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 4103A.

Distribution Mechanisms

With the passage of the Jobs for Veterans Act, the United States Department of Labor – Veterans Employment and Training Service, began providing funds to the states for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) programs as a single allocation rather than funding each program separately. However, states must prepare the grant application indicating how that allocation will be spent by each program individually, and then track and report expenditures separately for both DVOP and LVER allocations.

The Veterans Program is a joint-managed program between the Local Area and Florida Commerce. Personnel are hired through the State of Florida and funding for personnel costs is retained by Florida Commerce. Residual funds, referred to as pass-through funds, are provided to the Local Area to support Veterans staff travel, supplies and other related costs.

RE-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (RA) SERVICES

Grantor Agency: United States Department of Labor

Grant Program Objectives

- To facilitate the State and Federal government re-employment/unemployment assistance, disaster RA, RA for federal employees and ex-service members and trade adjustment assistance programs by granting use of data/phone systems at the CareerSource centers for their applicants or recipients of these programs.

Description of the Grant Program

Funds are provided to offset local CareerSource Center costs for assisting RA claimants with instructions for filing RA claims using the State's automated telephone system and use of computer systems for internet access.

Distribution Mechanisms

Funds are distributed to the Local Area based on the relative share of the State's number of initial claims (based on an annualized average).