

**State of Florida
Workforce Investment Act
Waiver Request:
TRANSFER AUTHORITY**

Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), as the administrative entity of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the State of Florida, submit this request for continuation of a general waiver to increase the transfer authority of Local Workforce Investment Boards from the current 20 percent to 100 percent for Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. This proposed increase will continue to provide the local boards with greater flexibility for responding to changes in their local labor markets, and will help ensure that the WIA funds allocated to each local area are being utilized in a way that will maximize customer service, especially including Employed Worker Training and other demand-driven needs of the business community. The waiver will apply to Program Year 2007 and subsequent years.

In keeping with the guidelines set forth at WIA Section 189(i)(4)(b) and 20 CFR Part 661.420(c), please accept the following as a request for a waiver.

A. Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

WIA Section 133(b)(4) and 20 CFR Part 667.140 state that a Local Board may transfer, if such a transfer is approved by the Governor, not more than 20 percent of the funds allocated to the local area for a fiscal year between Adult employment and training activities and Dislocated Worker employment and training activities.

The State of Florida requests that Local Boards be allowed to transfer up to 100 percent of a program year allocation for Adult funds and up to 100 percent of a program year allocation for Dislocated Worker funds between the two funding streams.

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

The anticipated goal is increased flexibility for the local areas in allocating and expending Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. Such flexibility will enable local areas to better serve the needs of their customers and will heighten their ability to respond to changes in the local labor market, particularly to respond to the growing employer demand for Employed Worker Training, which can be funded at the local level only with WIA Adult funds. This increased flexibility will also allow greater responsiveness to deal with massive worker dislocations, such as Florida recently experienced following the series of past hurricanes and tornadoes which impacted nearly all Florida counties.

C. State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers

There is no State or local statutory or regulatory barrier to implementing the proposed waiver.

D. Description of Individuals Impacted by the Waiver

All Adults and Dislocated Workers, as well as business customers, will benefit from the waiver. Granting the Local Boards the ability to move substantial funds to the areas of greatest need will ensure optimum service to the general population of that workforce area.

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

This request was developed as a result of concerns expressed by local areas and demand from business partners. As with all other major policy and procedural decisions made by the State, input from local area staff and boards was heavily relied upon. Problems with the current 20 percent limitation on funds transfers between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams have been discussed with the local areas to gain input on those problems and on the benefits of being granted this waiver. This waiver will be especially helpful in serving employed workers in an effort to assist them in retaining employment or obtaining employment leading to self-sufficiency. The request to increase authority to 100 percent was also related to the potential need to greatly increase dislocated worker services, as demonstrated by past hurricanes and tornadoes.

Workforce Florida Inc., and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, as the State administrator and overseer of WIA, will monitor all transfers of funds by the Local Areas. The State's current monitoring policy and procedures will be modified to include this waiver.