

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

**WAIVER OF THE RESTRICTION THAT LIMITS NEEDS RELATED
PAYMENTS TO ONLY THOSE WORKERS WHO DO NOT QUALIFY FOR (OR
HAVE CEASED TO QUALIFY FOR) UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**

Pursuant to WIA Section 189 (i)(4)(B) and the WIA Federal regulations at 20 CFR 661.420, the State of Florida requests a waiver of the existing law and rule that limits the payment of needs related payments to only those adults and dislocated workers who either do not qualify (or have ceased to qualify for) unemployment compensation.

Workforce Florida, Inc. and the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), as the administrative entity for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the State of Florida, submit this request for a general waiver in order to allow the state and its twenty-four regional workforce boards to provide the opportunity for the thousands of Floridians now receiving unemployment compensation benefits to be eligible for additional assistance if needed to support themselves and their families while participating in training provided under the Workforce Investment Act.

A. Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

The state requests a waiver of section 134 (e) (3) of P.L. 105-220 and 20 CFR 663.825 that limit the provision of needs related payments to those individuals who either do not qualify (or have ceased to qualify for) unemployment compensation.

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

The anticipated goal of this waiver is to provide additional flexibility to the state and regional workforce boards to help those adult and dislocated worker participants whose unemployment benefits may not provide sufficient financial support to enable them to enroll and complete their training programs. Additional financial support beyond unemployment benefits might encourage more claimants to consider additional education and training as a strategy to become reemployed more quickly. The state would expect to see an increase in the number of UI claimants that enroll in longer-term training as a result of the waiver.

C. State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers

There are no state or local statutory or regulatory barriers to implementing the state's request or any additional federal waiver necessary to implement the request

D. Description of the Individuals Impacted by the Waiver

Recipients of Unemployment Compensation will be the beneficiaries of this waiver.

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

Public comment on the state's request for this waiver will be encouraged and requested by posting the proposed waiver on the web site of Workforce Florida, Inc. and the Agency for Workforce Innovation. All regional workforce boards, service providers, and other interested parties will be sent a copy of the proposed waiver for their review and comment. Workforce Florida Inc. and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, as the State administrator and overseer of WIA funds, will monitor the implementation of this waiver and the use of funds by the Local Areas. The State's current monitoring policy and procedures will be modified to ensure compliance with the intent of this waiver. Information contained in the state's management information system and financial management tracking system will be reviewed and reported to the local areas and Workforce Florida on a regular basis.