



STATE OF FLORIDA
AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION

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Reference: Section 445.056, Florida Statutes

AWI Communiqué

DATE: August 8, 2005

TO: Workforce Florida, Inc. and Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs)

FROM: Susan Simpler, Deputy Director, One-Stop and Program Support
Susan B. Simpler

SUBJECT: Citizen Soldier Program

PURPOSE:

To announce the forthcoming State of Florida Citizen Soldier Program created by the Florida Legislature.

BACKGROUND:

Effective July 1, 2005, the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) was appropriated \$1,862,961 in General Revenue funds to operate the Citizen Soldier Program (CSP). A total of \$169,360 was awarded to AWI to establish two positions to operate the program. The balance of the appropriation, \$1,693,601, is to reimburse Florida private sector employers who pay wages to employees who are Florida residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces Reserves or the Florida National Guard. AWI will reimburse the employers 50% of the supplemental wages paid to those employees. The reimbursement calculation will be made after comparing their gross private sector wages prior to being called for active duty to the employee's gross active duty pay, housing, variable allowances and subsistence allowance. No funds can be used to reimburse employers until AWI's Implementation Plan is approved by the Legislative Budget Commission which may be sometime in late September or early October. The funding is approved through June 30, 2006 and employers will be funded on a first come first serve basis.

AUTHORITY:

Section 445.056, Florida Statutes (Chapter 2005-48, Section 1, Laws of Florida).

ACTION REQUIRED:

Upon approval of AWI's Implementation Plan, flyers will be sent to the RWBs and to One-Stop Centers which will advise private sector employers about this program. In the meantime, if RWBs get inquiries about this program they should advise interested employers or employees to contact AWI by calling 1-800-342-3450 .

LINK:

The AWI website for this program is in the developmental stage.