



## Agency for Workforce Innovation Monthly Accomplishments for October 2009 November 1, 2009

Below is a brief summary of the major activities, events, projects and accomplishments of the Agency for Workforce Innovation for October 2009.

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### **OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING (OEL)**

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Activities:**

- **ARRA Report** - The agency submitted its ARRA status report to the federal government. OEL staff collected and submitted, as part of the agency's report, the total numbers of children served and other data. To date, approximately 24,000 Florida children have benefited from ARRA funds.

#### **Other Activities:**

- **ELAC Online** - The Office of Early Learning has created an online resource for Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) members and other stakeholders. The ELAC was established in 2005 and consists of the chairman, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor, the chairman of each of the state's 31 early learning coalitions, a member who serves at the pleasure of the President of the Senate, and a member who serves at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House. To ensure ELAC members and other stakeholders have access to pertinent information, OEL created *ELAC Online*. *ELAC Online* organizes relevant and current information about the council, the agency and agency partners. Viewers can easily locate historical documents and websites related to certain topics at: <http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/ELAC/ELACOnline/index.html>
- **Florida Adopts Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals** - Members of Florida's Professional Development Initiative are pleased to announce the adoption of *Florida's Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Practitioners*. A collaborative group of early learning stakeholders, including state agencies, early learning coalitions, provider associations and higher learning institutions, developed this set of knowledge and skill standards that define what early care and education teachers should know and be able to do. These Competencies lay the foundation for the professional development and career pathways for Florida's early care and education professionals.

### **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (UC) SERVICES**

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Activities:**

- **Extended Benefits (EB)** - UC Services and AWI's Information Technology office completed programming and testing of the ARRA-created Extended Benefits (EB) program and implemented the program on July 1, 2009.

The total number of claims processed as of October 21, 2009 is 132,087 and a total of \$404,864,642 in EB benefits has been paid to qualified individuals.

This new law will provide a financial lifeline to Floridians who have exhausted their unemployment benefits and boost the state's economy with the infusion of an estimated \$522 million in federal recovery funds through the end of the year.

- **Temporary Federal Additional Compensation Program (FAC)** – As outlined in the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a \$25 weekly supplement is payable to all eligible Unemployment Compensation customers who are entitled to regular Unemployment Compensation for weeks of unemployment.

The first additional \$25 weekly payments were processed March 19, 2009. The cumulative total paid as of October 21, 2009 is \$413,229,380 on 935,990 claims.

- **Extended Emergency Unemployment Compensation** - The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 extends the time period individuals can qualify for Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits from March 29, 2009 to December 20, 2009.

The cumulative total paid as of October 21, 2009 is \$933,826,037 to 396,591 customers as a result of this extension.

#### **Other Activities:**

- **Overflow call center in Orlando:** The agency's new call center has, thus far, hired 349 employees and support staff to help assist Florida's UC customers. The Florida-based overflow call center met the goal they established with the agency on October 14 by responding to 10,000 calls each day.

#### **WORKFORCE SERVICES**

- **Florida FLAGSTONE Initiative** - The Agency for Workforce Innovation, in partnership with Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI) applied with the United States Department of Labor for a \$6 million Energy Sector Partnership grant dubbed the Florida FLAGSTONE Initiative—**F**lorida **A**dvancing **G**reen **S**trategies **t**hrough **O**pportunities **i**n **E**nergy. The 40-member steering committee, including representatives from the Governor's Energy Office, state agencies, state colleges and universities, industry, economic development and community organizations, will be chaired by Workforce Florida Board member, Lila Jaber. This is a statewide initiative involving all 24 Regional Workforce Boards to train 5,466 Floridians in energy efficient and renewable energy occupations. The grant will target populations of unemployed workers, particularly from the hard-hit construction and manufacturing sectors, and existing workers requiring re-skilling.

#### **LABOR MARKET STATISTICS**

- **Real-Time Labor Market Information Products** - Labor Market Statistics is continuing the procurement process for two products that will assist the workforce system in its reemployment efforts:
  - **Help Wanted Online** data series (HWOL) - a product of the Conference Board that gauges labor demand using job ads by region and industry.
  - **Transferable Occupation Relation Quotient** (TORQ) - a transferrable skills analysis tool that provides transitioning jobseekers with career pathways information.

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