
Rick Scott
GOVERNOR



Hunting F. Deutsch
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2012
TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors
FROM: Tom Clendenning, Director, Division of Workforce Services
SUBJECT: Allowability of Legal Costs

Question Presented

May Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds be used to pay legal costs incurred in contesting disallowances?

Short Answer

Legal costs incurred in the general administration of a Federal award are allowable. However, it is clear under applicable Federal regulations, and it is the position of the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), that legal costs incurred in defending against actions by the Government or in prosecuting claims against the Government are not allowable.

Please see the attached legal opinion for additional information. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Clendenning at 850/245-7499 or via email at tom.clendenning@deo.myflorida.com or Lois Scott at 850/245-7428 or via email at lois.scott@deo.myflorida.com

TC/vmu

Attachment: [Legal Opinion](#)

cc: Hunt Deutsch, Executive Director, DEO
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Lois Scott, Manager, Workforce Program Support, DEO