

Broward Workforce Development Board

2025 Legislative Agenda

Introduction

The local Public Workforce System is lean, effective and efficient, returning \$6.13 to the public coffers for every \$1.00 invested based on individuals placed into permanent and full-time jobs. This does not include reductions to TANF and Medicaid, as individuals enter the workforce or additional funds leveraged to support local programs, such as summer youth employment and apprenticeship programs.

1. Fully Fund the Workforce System

Concern: The workforce system has been funded at less than recommended levels for many years.

Recommendation: Fund the workforce system at authorized levels to maximize its impact on job placement and business support, enabling more individuals to secure employment and businesses to thrive. As stated above, the local Public Workforce System is lean, effective and efficient, returning \$6.13 to the public coffers for every \$1.00 invested based on USDOL data.

2. Maintain Flexibility in Use of Funds by Adopting a Broader Definition of Training

Concern: WIOA reauthorization would require 50% of the formula adult and dislocated worker funds be spent on training.

Recommendation: Provide flexibility in the definition of training. The 50% training expenditure requirement is currently in force in many states. The governors in those states have incorporated flexibility in their policies which is not currently found in proposed WIOA reauthorization. Allow governors to adopt definitions of training as appropriate to their states; or define training to include paid work experience (a form of on-the-job training), the cost of books and fees, and the cost of case management during the period participants are actually in training. Finally, grant governors waiver powers to address economic shifts.

3. Preserve Local Control and Support Workforce Boards and Designation of Workforce Areas

Concern: Proposed legislation would allow reorganization of local boundaries 4 years following passage.

Recommendation: Local Workforce Board input, control, and oversight in partnership with local elected officials is the engine that drives local workforce development and the entrepreneurial revolution needed to propel local economies to new heights. Local workforce boards and local areas comprised of like-seeing contiguous counties and cities are the most responsive to employer and job seeker needs. It is local events that impact businesses and job seekers, requiring a local response and the ability to be nimble, flexible and impactful. Local workforce areas and their combination of local elected officials and labor are unique in being able to cut through red tape and provide customized, tailored approaches to meet employer needs. Further, current oversight and accountability measures have successfully resulted in effective and efficient local governance.