



Broward Workforce Development Board (BWDB)

2021 Legislative Agenda

Leading Priorities

These are areas we want to emphasize to our legislative delegation as they directly affect workforce development.

1. State: Support the Local Workforce Development Governance Structure

Support: The State of Florida's workforce development governance structure, similar to that of the State of Texas, as it is the most forward looking of all of the states. It allows for innovation, agility, flexibility and integration among the various workforce programs. Local boards can be effective in their role as conveners and catalysts encouraging coordination and collaboration within their local communities while being responsive to their region's individual needs. Regional workforce boards, together with their chief local elected officials, are in the best position to invest resources where they are most needed and will be most useful. With guidance from the Governor through CareerSource Florida and the Department of Economic Opportunity, local boards can quickly and efficiently react in good times and times of crises. This was clearly evidenced during the pandemic by opening all the CareerSource centers across the state to meet the needs of unemployment applicants, even though unemployment is a state administered program.

2. State: Maintain Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Funding

During the pandemic, Welfare Transition Program (WTP) recipients were given waivers from their work requirements and remained eligible for their cash benefits. The waivers are not expected to continue and with a marked increase in unemployment from prior to the pandemic, the WTP caseload will increase. Adequately funding local workforce boards to meet the needs of a caseload all of whom will have to meet work requirements is critical. Meeting the work requirements assures the state will receive 100% of its TANF allocation from the federal government.

Support: Maintaining WTP (TANF) funding for local boards, as it will be critical in assisting welfare recipients and equipping the local boards to assist citizens, while they are receiving training and securing new employment when people try to resume working amid COVID-19.



3. State: Support Apprenticeship Expansion – (Continued from 2020)

The 2019 and 2020, Florida Legislature made changes to increase workforce competitiveness to expand Apprenticeship Training. We **support** additional changes that would continue that expansion, such as:

- a. Senate Bill 366, which proposes to have pre-apprentices covered by state worker compensation coverage similar to that which is provided to work experience participants. This would be for pre-apprentices 18 and under.
- b. Allow Bright Futures scholarships to be used to fund apprenticeships and career and technical education.
- c. Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs, which are a recent expansion of the path to apprenticeships by the U.S. Department of Labor. We recommend no further restrictions at the legislative or administrative level to allow all of the flexibility allowed under the new rules from the U.S. Department of Labor.