

Broward Workforce Development Board (BWDB)

2023 Legislative Agenda

1. Maintain Our Current Workforce Development Area Boundaries

The 2021 REACH Act (HB 1507) charged CareerSource Florida (CSF) to determine whether the number of local workforce boards should be reduced and the workforce area boundaries be realigned. Ernst and Young was engaged to conduct a study. Our elected officials engaged Tripp Scott to advocate on maintaining our local boundaries. We prepared talking points to educate our legislators and board members on the issues. We expect to hear from CSF in February. Discussion regarding additional efforts to support our position.

2. Support Legislation/Initiatives to Address the Labor Shortage

Employers across the state and the country are asking for help to address labor shortages. In Broward, we have significant shortages in Healthcare, Information Technology, Hospitality, and Construction impacting our local economy. Over the next 10 years the local Hospitality industry is projected to have a shortage of almost 3,000 workers, the Construction industry over 2,000 workers and Healthcare over 1,500 professional workers. This issue is so critical it is recommended that responsive initiatives be included as a thought question at our upcoming planning session. Considerations can include earlier career awareness, high school/college advance placement, stronger foundational instruction in STEM subjects, and better and sooner engagement of legal immigrants that are waiting up to a year for processing their work visa so they can go to work.

3. Support Workforce Housing Legislation/Initiatives

The BWDB supports full use of the dedicated revenues under the **Sadowski Affordable Housing Act** for Broward's housing programs and projects. The BWDB further supports modifying the current requirements for home ownership and for multifamily rental housing to recognize the demand in both the housing and rental markets.

4. Support Legislation That Expands Workforce Development and Apprenticeship Programs

Apprenticeship programs help recruit and develop a highly-skilled workforce, while improving an employer's productivity, profitability, and bottom line. Continue to support legislation and funding to support this work-based training option. Also, support connecting apprentices through the workforce system.