



**SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024  
8:15 A.M.**

**ZOOM ONLY**

The public may view the session online. **Registration is required:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ISSH7LAzTdywsrtfD2Q3IA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ISSH7LAzTdywsrtfD2Q3IA)

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
  - A. November 14, 2024
3. Information – WIOA Reauthorization Update
4. Information – Presidential Appointments, US Department of Labor & Education
5. Information – Pell Grant Reauthorization

South Florida Workforce Investment Board dba CareerSource South Florida is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

"Members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a specific agenda item, but must register with the agenda clerk prior to being heard."



**SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE:** 12/12/2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** 2A

**AGENDA TOPIC:** MEETING MINUTES

**SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** November 14, 2024

**LOCATION:** CareerSource South Florida  
7300 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 500  
Miami, FL 33126  
Conference Room 2

**ZOOM:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ISSH7LAzTdywsrtfD2Q3IA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ISSH7LAzTdywsrtfD2Q3IA)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chairman del Valle called to order the regular meeting of the SFWIB Executive Committee Meeting at 8:27AM on November 14, 2024.
2. **ROLL CALL:** 6 members; 4 required; 5 present: Quorum established.

<b>SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>SFWIB MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED</b>	<b>SFWIB STAFF</b>
del Valle, Juan-Carlos, Vice-Chairman Canales, Dequasia Ferradaz, Gilda Gibson, Charles, Chair (Zoom) Loynaz, Oscar, M.D. (Zoom)	Chi, Joe (Excused)	Beasley, Rick Bennett, Renee Morgan, Ebony Smith, Robert  <b>ADMINISTRATION/IT</b>  Gonzalez, Yoandy McFarland, Cassie
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES</b>		

Agenda items are displayed in the order they were discussed.



Before the meeting began, Mr. Beasley shared the passing of Chairman Gibson's mother. The Committee expressed its condolences for his loss and inquired about any ways to show support or provide assistance.

## **2A. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2024**

Vice-Chairman del Valle presented agenda item 2A. September 12, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting minutes for review in advance of approval.

**Motion** for approval of the September 12, 2024 SFWIB Executive Committee Meeting minutes by Ms. Ferradaz; Ms. Canales seconded; **motion is passed without dissent.**

No further comments or suggestions were submitted from the members. Item closed.

## **3. Information – NTIA Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program Application**

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley advised members of our partnership with several organizations throughout the county to apply for the NTIA Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. CSSF submitted a budget of \$400,000, which, if approved, would cover the salaries of two additional mobile drivers. These drivers will be hired to support the Future Ready initiative recently launched in collaboration with Comcast. This project aims to enhance broadband and digital access in several areas across Miami-Dade County. Additional funds will be allocated for occupational training as part of the Women-in-Tech program in collaboration with the YWCA, as well as for wage reimbursements for on-the-job training. The status of the application is currently unknown; however, we are moving forward with these efforts as mentioned.

As an additional caveat to the previous update, we will be partnering with the City of Miami to launch a Women-in-Tech program. The City will invest \$250,000 to fund wages for on-the-job training. The Board will, in collaboration with the Miami Foundation and United Way, cover the training costs and stipend for each participant. An agenda item regarding this project will more than likely be a part of the December 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee agenda.

Furthermore, as part of this grant, we will replace the computers that were initially installed for the TechHire programs at the YMCA and Big Brothers Big Sisters locations. Lastly, Mr. Beasley announced that CSSF will meet with Mr. Garza, a member of the SFWIB, to discuss the possible launch of a TechHire Center in a southern region that will concentrate on the immigrant and refugee population.

There was additional discussion surrounding potential partnerships that would concentrate on enhancing digital access for the ten lowest-income zip codes in Miami-Dade County.

No further comments or suggestions were submitted from the members. Item closed.

#### **4. Information – 2024 & 2025 Local Performance Levels Negotiation Response**

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley reminded the Committee about the annual performance levels negotiation process that CSSF engages in with the Florida Department of Commerce.

Mr. Beasley reviewed the proposed performance levels put forth by the State and compared them with our counter-response for both the 2024-25 and 2025-26 periods. For most areas, he recommended that we maintain our current performance levels, which are generally higher than those proposed by the State. The Measurable Skills Gains were slightly higher than anticipated, as such, he negotiated a rate that serves as a compromise between the State's proposal and our suggested rate. In addition to the Measurable Skills Gains, the State has requested a decrease in the median wage from \$10,476 to \$10,209.

The State initially recommended a credential attainment rate of 92.8%; however, we successfully negotiated it down to 85.9%. Mr. Beasley has agreed to evaluate the feasibility of meeting the original 92% threshold as we progress throughout the year. One effective strategy for achieving the new credential attainment rate is to ensure that providers input data accurately. Additionally, we can utilize the reconciliation tool, which reconciles student progress between the provider and the training vendor, to better track student progress and enhance credential attainment.

No further comments or suggestions were submitted from the members. Item closed.

#### **5. Information – PY 23-24 Earning Gain Analysis**

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley presented the PY 2023-2024 Earnings Gain Analysis, which will be included in the annual report. He highlighted several achievements from PY 23-24, including a comparison of pre- and post-wage data that shows an increase in wages across all funding streams. Additionally, over 6,900 job seekers were placed, resulting in an increase of nearly \$94.9 million in salaries contributed to the local economy. The data underscores the significant impact of CSSF's employment and training services.

No further comments or suggestions were submitted from the members. Item closed.

## 6. Information – Layoff Aversion Analysis

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley presented the Layoff Aversion Analysis, which assessed the financial health of approximately 227,000 businesses in Miami-Dade County. Based on their levels of financial stress, organizations were categorized into three groups: low risk, moderate risk, and high risk.

The report highlights that the retail and transportation sectors are the most vulnerable, necessitating immediate intervention and potential assistance with reemployment efforts. The services and healthcare industries present a moderate risk, indicating the need for proactive outreach. Additionally, Mr. Beasley outlined the strategy that CSSF, in collaboration with its business intermediaries, will adopt to support these organizations.

There was further discussion about the EconoVue tool and the organizations we have shared access with.

No further questions or comments were presented for consideration. Item closed.

With no further business presented to the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.



**SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 12/12/2024

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3

**AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT:** WIOA REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** **INFORMATIONAL**

**RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** **STRENGTHEN THE ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM**

**STRATEGIC PROJECT:** **Strengthen partnership w/required WIOA partners**

**BACKGROUND:**

On Thursday, November 21, staff from the House and Senate authorizing committees announced an agreement on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization legislation. They provided stakeholders with a high-level overview of the compromise bill. The bill summary and text were subsequently released on Monday, November 25, 2024.

Beginning Monday, November 30, Senate staff will initiate the "hotlining" process for the bill, which involves polling senators for any objections. Despite its bipartisan nature, the bill closely aligns with the House-passed "A Stronger Workforce for America Act" (ASWA). However, it retains several provisions opposed by mayors and the local workforce system, including:

- Training mandates for adult and dislocated worker formula funds,
- Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) redesignation and single state designations,
- Increased state set-aside funding.

The future of the bill remains uncertain. Even if there are no significant objections during the hotlining process, the time available to pass the bill in both chambers before the year's end is limited. The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) continues to collaborate with House and Senate staff and leadership to address local concerns in the reauthorization process.

The SFWIB should closely monitor the developments of the WIOA reauthorization and engage with USCM and other stakeholders to ensure that local workforce priorities and concerns are effectively communicated and addressed.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**PERFORMANCE:** N/A

*ATTACHMENT*

## ***A Stronger Workforce for America Act***

Bipartisan, Bicameral Bill Summary

November 2024

A strong workforce development system is vital to strengthening our economy and providing economic opportunity for more Americans. When the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was enacted in 2014, it made critical improvements to streamline the maze of federal workforce development programs and enhance accountability through a single set of performance metrics. However, a decade later, significant challenges persist that hamper the workforce system's ability to fund high-quality services to youth, workers, and employers to help fill job openings in growing and in-demand industries.

*A Stronger Workforce for America Act* makes critical updates to WIOA that will improve the skills development of workers provided under the law, strengthen connections between employers and the workforce system, and put more Americans on the pathway to a successful career.

### **Upgrades the skills of more Americans**

- Dedicates 50 percent of the adult and dislocated worker funding toward upskilling workers through “individual training accounts” (ITAs), on-the-job learning, and other employer-led and industry relevant initiatives. Allows local areas to count a portion of spending on supportive services for adults and dislocated workers participating in skills development toward this requirement.
- Provides eligible displaced workers with ITAs with a minimum value of \$5,000 to enroll in high-quality reskilling programs and reconnect with the workforce by repurposing existing resources at the Department of Labor.
- Allows states to set-aside funds from their state allocation to establish an “industry or sector partnership and career pathways development fund.” Through the fund, states will establish a competitive grant to support new or existing industry or sector partnerships to fund a range of education, skills development, and employment-related activities, with a non-federal cost sharing requirement based on the size of the participating employers.
- Allows states to set-aside additional funds from their state allocation to establish a “critical industry skills fund.” Through the fund, states will provide reimbursements to employers, sector partnerships, and other intermediaries for upskilling workers in the priority industries selected by the state. Reimbursements will occur only when the workers complete their program and are employed and retained in that industry.
- Raises the cap on “incumbent worker training” so local workforce boards, particularly in areas with low unemployment or high labor force participation, can help the currently employed workforce gain new skills to increase their wages, avoid displacement, and advance their careers.
- Enhances the *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act* (WIOA Title II) by including digital literacy skills as a core component of adult education and emphasizing the use of “integrated education and training” so adult learners can develop basic skills while simultaneously preparing for an in-demand occupation or industry.
- Improves service delivery and skills development opportunities through apprenticeships and industry or sector partnerships, as well as, encourages programs to implement the

principles of universal design for learning.

### **Delivers greater accountability and program quality**

- Streamlines the “eligible training provider list” to ensure programs promote positive outcomes for workers and are aligned with the skill and hiring demands of employers by focusing the eligibility process on employment outcomes and improving consumer choice by elevating high-performing providers through a new “Workforce Innovation Leader” designation.
- Updates the performance indicators to better evaluate program success. The bill makes the percentage employed during the fourth quarter after exiting a program a labor market retention measure to hold programs accountable for ensuring participants have the skills to stay in the workforce. The bill also reforms the “effectiveness in serving employers” indicator to measure the percentage of participants in employer-connected learning such as “on-the-job training” or an apprenticeship.
- Strengthens and fully implements the performance accountability system in the law to hold states and local workforce boards accountable for achieving positive labor market outcomes for program participants and drive continuous improvement across the system, while providing incentive payments to states and local workforce boards that demonstrate significant improvements in outcomes for program participants. Modernizes the delivery of services to jobseekers by directing states to periodically reassess whether their WIOA “local areas” match the labor markets and economic development initiatives of the state, while encouraging the use of virtual services and existing community hubs to reach more jobseekers at a lower cost.
- Promotes program quality improvement and raises the standards for performance and student safety in the Job Corps program by conditioning the award and extension of campus operator contracts on successful performance. Creates a comprehensive program improvement period to enhance Job Corps program quality and set clear steps for the improvement actions that must be taken if a Job Corps campus is not achieving successful student outcomes or keeping students safe. Affords campuses more local control over budgeting and programming and behavioral management and removes overly broad offenses from the list of zero-tolerance offenses while also creating an appeals process for zero-tolerance offenses.

### **Strengthens pathways to economic opportunity for youth and adults**

- Creates a new definition of “opportunity youth”, to replace “out-of-school youth”, by including youth experiencing homelessness and youth in foster care in the definition regardless of school enrollment status, and provides greater flexibility to respond to local needs by requiring 70 percent of youth funds statewide be dedicated towards serving opportunity youth while allowing states to work with their local boards to determine the appropriate percentage for each local area.
- Establishes the Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grant (YARG) program to increase youth participation in new or existing apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs and support high-quality career pathways for in-school and opportunity youth. Provides \$65 million annually to support these partnerships by repurposing existing resources at the Department of Labor.
- Places a greater emphasis on work-based learning, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships for youth and enhances the quality of summer and year-round employment opportunities



available, while authorizing the use of ITAs for in-school youth to participate in skills development programs outside of the courses offered by their school district.

- Codifies and strengthens a program to help justice-involved individuals released from the nation's prisons transition back to meaningful employment and access skills and career pathways, while identifying and disseminating effective strategies to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism.
- Codifies and strengthens workforce education programs at community colleges that align with in-demand jobs by emphasizing programs with industry partnerships and those that use competency-based assessments to award academic credit for prior learning.
- Codifies the authority to issue dislocated worker grants to entities serving areas with employment and upskilling needs related to widespread substance use disorders, including to support preparation of individuals who have been impacted by substance use disorder in health professions involved in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

### **Fuels innovation for a skills-based economy**

- Authorizes a demonstration authority to allow several states and local workforce boards to receive their Title I funds as a consolidated grant for five years, with flexibility to restructure their state or local workforce system to meet the needs of their workers and employers, while retaining basic workforce protections and programmatic accountability.
- Provides transparency on the credentials that are awarded by eligible providers to include credential-specific information on the awarding entity, industry recognition, the skills and competencies the credential signifies, and the employment and earnings outcomes of participants who receive the credential.
- Facilitates skills-based hiring by authorizing state and local boards to provide on their own, or in partnership with industry associations, technical assistance to employers on implementing skills-based hiring practices, while embedding competency-based assessments in the participant intake process.
- Codifies and enhances Workforce Data Quality Initiative grants to improve state workforce data capabilities by fostering cross-state collaboration, promoting integration between education and workforce longitudinal data systems, improving the timeliness and relevance of labor market data, supporting the adoption of credential navigation tools, and advancing the use of evidence and data to drive decision-making.
- Raises the cap on pay-for-performance contracting and simplifies the process for local workforce boards to contract with programs committed to delivering good outcomes, including for individuals with barriers to employment, while removing the prohibition on states using their governor's reserve on incentives for local boards using pay-for-performance contracting.
- Authorizes studies of pressing issues such as the employment conditions of WIOA program participants, improving workforce services for individuals with disabilities, the effectiveness and use of emerging technology in the workforce development system, alignment between education and workforce development systems, and the effectiveness of Job Corps.



## **SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 12/12/2024

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 4

**AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT:** NOMINATIONS FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EDUCATION SECRETARIES

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** **INFORMATIONAL**

**RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** **STRENGTHEN THE ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM**

**STRATEGIC PROJECT:** **Strengthen partnership w/required WIOA partners**

### **BACKGROUND:**

President-elect Donald Trump has nominated outgoing Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer (OR) as U.S. Secretary of Labor. Her nomination has sparked both praise and criticism. Chavez-DeRemer, who narrowly lost her reelection bid earlier this month, stands out due to her pro-union stances, which are a notable departure from traditional GOP labor picks. She is one of only three House Republicans to support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, a labor reform bill aimed at strengthening collective bargaining rights, and she co-sponsored legislation to expand bargaining rights for public safety workers. Her record has earned endorsements from several Oregon unions, including strong backing from Teamsters President Sean O'Brien.

Despite strong union support, Chavez-DeRemer's nomination has faced pushback from conservative groups such as the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace, which represents employers opposing the PRO Act. They argue the legislation threatens secret ballot protections and restricts independent contracting, which are key tenets of the GOP's pro-business platform. Business-friendly Republicans, including Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chair Bill Cassidy (LA), have also raised concerns about her labor positions, signaling a potentially contentious confirmation process.

In addition, President-elect Trump has nominated Linda McMahon as U.S. Secretary of Education, reflecting a focus on workforce development rather than traditional education policy. McMahon is known for championing alternatives to four-year college degrees, prioritizing the expansion of apprenticeships and extending Pell Grant eligibility to short-term training programs. As chair of the pro-Trump America First Policy Institute, she has opposed diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in higher education, advocated for reducing foreign influence at universities, and criticized K-12 schools for allegedly promoting "gender confusion."

These nominations indicate a shift in Trump's cabinet picks aimed at appealing to his working-class voters by emphasizing labor and education policies that resonate with his base. Chavez-DeRemer's union-friendly record and McMahon's workforce-focused agenda align with Trump's effort to solidify support among blue-collar Americans.

The SFWIB should monitor these nominations closely, as their outcomes could significantly impact workforce development and labor policies. Engaging with relevant stakeholders and preparing for potential changes in federal labor and education policy will be crucial.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**PERFORMANCE:** N/A

*NO ATTACHMENT*



## **SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 12/12/2024

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 5

**AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT:** PELL GRANT UPDATE

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** **INFORMATIONAL**

**RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** **STRENGTHEN THE ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM**

**STRATEGIC PROJECT:** **Strengthen partnership w/required WIOA partners**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The effort to expand Pell Grants to include short-term education programs remains a key priority and could still advance during the lame duck session. House Education and the Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (NC) continues to advocate for the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, which aims to allow students to use Pell Grants for workforce education programs as short as eight weeks. Currently, Pell Grants are restricted to programs lasting at least 15 weeks.

Although an earlier attempt to attach the measure to the stalled National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was unsuccessful, Chair Foxx remains optimistic about advancing the bill. She has stated her commitment to pursuing "any available path" for its passage. The bill received bipartisan support in committee last December but has faced opposition from higher education groups and the nation's largest teachers union. If the legislation does not pass this Congress, it is expected to resurface in the next.

Congressmen Burgess Owens (UT) and Tim Walberg (MI), both current contenders to chair the committee in the 119th Congress, support the initiative. They emphasize the importance of providing students with diverse educational pathways, including certification and apprenticeship programs that address workforce needs.

President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for Education Secretary, Linda McMahon, has also championed the expansion of Pell Grants for short-term workforce programs. In an opinion piece earlier this year, McMahon criticized traditional degree programs for being outdated and called for educational systems to offer more flexible and relevant options to meet the evolving needs of the workforce.

The SFWIB should support the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act and monitor its progress closely. Expanding Pell Grant eligibility to short-term programs aligns with our commitment to providing diverse educational opportunities and meeting the demands of the modern workforce. Engaging with policymakers and stakeholders to advocate for the bill's passage will be essential.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**PERFORMANCE:** N/A

*NO ATTACHMENT*