



**SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025
8:15 A.M.**

VIA ZOOM ONLY

Registration is required:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ISSH7LAzTdywstrtfD2Q3IA

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 - A. January 9, 2025
4. Information – Presidential Order to Stop Grant Payments
5. Information – OJT Waiver Request
6. Information – Florida Legislative Update
7. Information – Improper Extension Update

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"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

DATE: 2/13/2025

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 2

AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: **INFORMATIONAL**

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

STRATEGIC GOAL: **STRONG WORKFORCE SYSTEM LEADERSHIP**

STRATEGIC PROJECT: **National leader in an ROI-focused enterprise**

BACKGROUND:

N/A

FUNDING: N/A

PERFORMANCE: N/A

NO ATTACHMENT



SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: 2/13/2025

AGENDA ITEM: 3A

AGENDA TOPIC: MEETING MINUTES

SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 9, 2025

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

ZOOM: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ISSH7LAzTdywsrtfD2Q3IA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:** Vice-Chairman del Valle called to order the regular meeting of the SFWIB Executive Committee Meeting at 8:23AM on January 9, 2025.

ROLL CALL: 6 members; 4 required; 5 present: **Quorum established.**

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

Agenda items are displayed in the order they were discussed.

2. Public Comment

Public comments should be two minutes or less.

Vice-Chairman del Valle opened the floor for comments from the public. No requests to speak were received by the Executive Office. None presented. Item closed.

4. Information – Arbor d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions: Notice of Potential Breach of Contract

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley informed the Committee of a potential breach of contract with one of our service providers – Arbor d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions.

Mr. Beasley provided a brief overview of our last U.S. Department of Labor audit, which revealed questionable costs related to the extension of participants in the system without providing corresponding services. While that issue has since been resolved, CSSF staff has since implemented service code training for center staff that aims to ensure service providers remain abreast of all current service codes and that they are entered accurately aligned with the services provided.

CSSF has identified a serious issue involving the staff member of a service provider who has improperly initiated over 700 service codes in the system without providing the required services, despite the training he has received. This matter has been escalated to the leadership of Arbor d/b/a Equus Workforce Solutions for prompt resolution. Furthermore, Mr. Beasley informed the Committee that CSSF will be revising Workforce Services contracts to allow for a recommendation for dismissal of any service provider staff who refuse to adhere to policy requirements. We have also notified the state of this incident and are actively seeking their assistance to correct this information, with the caveat that this may have a negative impact on our performance numbers and possibly result in questionable costs.

Ms. Ferradaz demanded clarity on what Equus Workforce's leadership will do to address this issue and how it was initially uncovered. Mr. Beasley confirmed that a meeting is set for Monday, January 13th, and he will deliver an update to the Committee afterward. Mr. Smith further advised that Jarvis Washington, our One-Stop Operator, actively monitors the performance of our service providers. This issue was identified during a routine performance review, specifically targeting high data spikes.

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

[Mr. Joe Chi re-joined the meeting at 8:39am.]

2. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2024

Vice-Chairman del Valle presented agenda item 2A. December 19, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting minutes for review in advance of approval.

Motion for approval of the December 19, 2024 SFWIB Executive Committee Meeting minutes by Mr. Chi; Ms. Canales seconded; **motion is passed without dissent.**

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

5. Information – CSSF 2023-2024 Annual Report Presentation

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley introduced the CSSF 2023-2024 Annual Report, highlighting the overall impact the CSSF has made in the community over the past year. He presented a digital look book of the plan and informed that all SFWIB members will receive a copy of the report during the February board meeting.

The report is currently being printed and will be mailed to all city, state, and federal representatives once it becomes available.

Vice-Chairman Del Valle congratulated the team on the development of the report and inquired about how Balsara Communications would be used to announce it. Mr. Beasley informed him that Balsara had also reviewed the report and would further assist CSSF in publicizing it.

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

6. Approval – Request to Release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Career Centers and Youth Workforce Service Providers for PY'25-28

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley presented the request to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to competitively procure Career Center and Youth Workforce Services Providers for Program Year (PY) 2025-2028.

Motion for approval the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Career Centers and Youth Workforce Service Providers for PY 2025-2028 by Ms. Canales; Mr. Chi seconded; **motion is passed without dissent.**

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

7. Approval – SFWIB Leadership Nominations

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley further presented the SFWIB leadership nominations for 2025-2027.

Mr. Charles Gibson and Mr. Juan Carlos del Valle will be re-appointed to Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Staff further recommends the following SFWIB members as nominees for Council leadership:

SFWIB Council	Chairperson	Vice Chair Person
Finance and Efficiency	Mr. Kenneth Scott, Jr.	Mr. Joe Chi
Performance Council	Ms. Dequasia Canales	Mr. Rene Mantilla
Global Talent & Competitiveness	Ms. Gilda Ferradaz	Dr. Oscar Loynaz

Motion for approval to recommend to the Board the leadership nominations as so mentioned by Mr. Chi; Ms. Ferradaz seconded; **motion is passed without dissent.**

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

8. Approval – Florida College Plan Scholarships

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley further presented the request to repackage six expiring two-year scholarships and re-allocate them to the 5000 Role Models Program.

Motion for approval to recommend to the Board to repackage and allocate Florida Prepaid College scholarships in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, for the 5000 Role Models Program by Ms. Canales; Mr. Chi seconded; **motion is passed without dissent.**

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

9. Approval – Request to Release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Workforce Services in the Aviation Industry

Vice-Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley submitted a request to issue a Request for Proposal for Aviation Workforce Services. He also provided an overview of discussions with aviation industry leaders who informed him about significant workforce shortages in the sector.

Motion for approval to recommend to the Board to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Aviation Workforce Services by Mr. Chi; Ms. Ferradaz seconded; **motion is passed without dissent.**



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

New Business

Mr. Beasley discussed the allocation of Federal funds to the State and the need for CSSF staff to revise the existing budget to incorporate increases received. He also mentioned the CSSF partnership with Easter Seals and our efforts to enhance services for the blind and mentally disabled populations.

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.

The next SFWIB Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 8:15am.

DRAFT



SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: 2/13/2025

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4

AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT: TEMPORARY PAUSE OF AGENCY GRANTS, LOANS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: **INFORMATIONAL**

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

STRATEGIC GOAL: **STRONG WORKFORCE SYSTEM LEADERSHIP**

STRATEGIC PROJECT: **Strengthen workforce system accountability**

BACKGROUND:

On January 27, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order directing all federal agencies to temporarily pause—to the extent permitted by law—all grants, loans, and other federal financial assistance programs. The order mandates that federal agencies conduct a comprehensive review of all financial assistance programs to ensure alignment with the administration's policies.

Implementation Requirements

To comply with this directive, each federal agency must:

- Conduct a detailed analysis of all federally funded programs, projects, and activities to determine whether they align with the President's policies.
- Temporarily pause, where permissible by law, all obligations and disbursements related to federal financial assistance, including but not limited to:
 - Foreign aid programs
 - Funding for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
 - DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) initiatives
 - Gender ideology programs
 - Green New Deal-related environmental initiatives

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires all federal agencies to submit a report detailing affected programs, projects, and activities no later than February 10, 2025. Until OMB completes its review, agencies must pause:

1. The issuance of new awards
2. The disbursement of funds under existing awards
3. Any agency actions potentially impacted by the Executive Orders

Executive Orders Driving the Review

The temporary pause is specifically tied to the following Executive Orders:

- Protecting the American People Against Invasion
- Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid
- Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements
- Unleashing American Energy
- Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing
- Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government
- Enforcing the Hyde Amendment

Key Considerations

1. This is not a complete freeze on all financial assistance. The pause applies only to programs identified as being impacted by the Executive Orders, such as DEI-related initiatives, Green New Deal funding, and foreign aid to NGOs that may not align with national interests.
2. Programs providing direct benefits to Americans remain unaffected. The following are explicitly excluded from the review and will continue without interruption:
 - Social Security and Medicare
 - Medicaid and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
 - Pell Grants and Federal Student Loans

This temporary review is expected to clarify funding priorities and ensure that federal financial assistance is administered in alignment with the administration's policy goals. The South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) will continue monitoring any potential impacts on local workforce programs and will provide updates as more guidance is issued by OMB.

FUNDING: N/A

PERFORMANCE: N/A

ATTACHMENT



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

January 27, 2025

M-25-13

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Matthew J. Vaeth, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT: Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs

The American people elected Donald J. Trump to be President of the United States and gave him a mandate to increase the impact of every federal taxpayer dollar. In Fiscal Year 2024, of the nearly \$10 trillion that the Federal Government spent, more than \$3 trillion was Federal financial assistance, such as grants and loans. Career and political appointees in the Executive Branch have a duty to align Federal spending and action with the will of the American people as expressed through Presidential priorities. Financial assistance should be dedicated to advancing Administration priorities, focusing taxpayer dollars to advance a stronger and safer America, eliminating the financial burden of inflation for citizens, unleashing American energy and manufacturing, ending “wokeness” and the weaponization of government, promoting efficiency in government, and Making America Healthy Again. The use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve.

This memorandum requires Federal agencies to identify and review all Federal financial assistance¹ programs and supporting activities consistent with the President’s policies and requirements.² For example, during the initial days of his Administration, President Donald J. Trump issued a series of executive orders to protect the American people and safeguard valuable taxpayer resources, including *Protecting the American People Against Invasion* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Unleashing American Energy* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* (Jan. 20,

¹ 2 CFR 200.1 defines Federal financial assistance to mean “[a]ssistance that recipients or subrecipients receive or administer” in various forms, but this term does not include assistance provided directly to individuals. For the purposes of this memorandum, Federal financial assistance includes: (i) all forms of assistance listed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of the definition of this term at 2 CFR 200.1; and (ii) assistance received or administered by recipients or subrecipients of any type except for assistance received directly by individuals.

² Nothing in this memo should be construed to impact Medicare or Social Security benefits.

2025), *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government* (Jan. 20, 2025), and *Enforcing the Hyde Amendment* (Jan. 24, 2025).

These executive orders ensure that Federal funds are used to support hardworking American families.

To implement these orders, each agency must complete a comprehensive analysis of all of their Federal financial assistance programs to identify programs, projects, and activities that may be implicated by any of the President's executive orders. In the interim, to the extent permissible under applicable law, Federal agencies **must temporarily pause** all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance, and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by the executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal.

This temporary pause will provide the Administration time to review agency programs and determine the best uses of the funding for those programs consistent with the law and the President's priorities. The temporary pause will become effective on January 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Even before completing their comprehensive analysis, Federal agencies must immediately identify any legally mandated actions or deadlines for assistance programs arising while the pause remains in effect. Federal agencies must report this information to OMB along with an analysis of the requirement. OMB also directs Federal agencies to pause all activities associated with open NOFOs, such as conducting merit review panels.

No later than February 10, 2025, agencies shall submit to OMB detailed information on any programs, projects or activities subject to this pause. Each agency must pause: (i) issuance of new awards; (ii) disbursement of Federal funds under all open awards; and (iii) other relevant agency actions that may be implicated by the executive orders, to the extent permissible by law, until OMB has reviewed and provided guidance to your agency with respect to the information submitted.

OMB may grant exceptions allowing Federal agencies to issue new awards or take other actions on a case-by-case basis. To the extent required by law, Federal agencies may continue taking certain administrative actions, such as closeout of Federal awards (2 CFR 200.344), or recording obligations expressly required by law.

Additionally, agencies must, for each Federal financial assistance program: (i) assign responsibility and oversight to a senior political appointee to ensure Federal financial assistance conforms to Administration priorities; (ii) review currently pending Federal financial assistance announcements to ensure Administration priorities are addressed, and, subject to program statutory authority, modify unpublished Federal financial assistance announcements, withdraw any announcements already published, and, to the extent permissible by law, cancel awards already awarded that are in conflict with Administration priorities, and; (iii) ensure adequate oversight of Federal financial assistance programs and initiate investigations when warranted to identify underperforming recipients, and address identified issues up to and including cancellation of awards.



SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: 2/13/2025

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5

AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT: WIOA OPPORTUNITY ZONE OJT WAIVER REQUEST

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: **INFORMATIONAL**

RECOMMENDATION: N/A.

STRATEGIC GOAL: **BUILD DEMAND-DRIVEN SYSTEM W/ EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT**

STRATEGIC PROJECT: **Engage employers and seek continuous feedback**

BACKGROUND:

In response to policy changes requested by the new federal administration, staff has researched and developed the attached WIOA On-the-Job Training (OJT) waiver to enhance work-based learning opportunities in opportunity zones. This waiver is designed to provide the South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) with greater flexibility in addressing the workforce and business needs within Workforce Development Area (WDA) 23 by allowing 100% reimbursement of the extraordinary costs associated with training and additional supervision under OJT.

If approved, this increased reimbursement rate will enable businesses within opportunity zones to build and strengthen their workforce while providing job seekers facing employment barriers with the skills needed for long-term self-sufficiency.

A similar waiver allowing 90% OJT reimbursement has already been approved for workforce boards in nine other states, including California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

Attached is the WIOA Opportunity Zone OJT waiver recommendation for the Committee's review and consideration.

FUNDING: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

PERFORMANCE: N/A

ATTACHMENT

CareerSource South Florida Waiver Request

Opportunity Zone On-the-Job (OJT) Employer Reimbursement

Federal Statutory/Regulatory Requirements to be waived:

In accordance with the waiver requirements and request process of Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) section 189(i)(3); 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 679.600, 680.720(b); and Training, and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 8-18, the South Florida Workforce Investment Board d/b/a CareerSource South Florida (CSSF), designated workforce development board 23 in the State of Florida, is requesting a waiver of the requirements of WIOA §134(c)(3)(H)(i) and 20 CFR §680.720(b) in order to increase On-the-Job Training (OJT) employer reimbursements to 100 percent for small and mid-size businesses located in opportunity zones.

Pursuant to 20 CFR §680.720, employers may be reimbursed up to 50 percent of the wage rate of an OJT participant, and up to 75 percent using the criteria in 20 CFR §680.730(b), for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and additional supervision related to the OJT. This waiver request would allow for OJT employer reimbursements of 100 percent to address critical business and workforce needs in opportunity zones. CareerSource South Florida is requesting this waiver for the WIOA Title I 2024-2025 program year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025).

Background

The term “Qualified Opportunity Zones” (OZ) is defined as a population census tract located in a low-income community.¹ The OZ were included as part of an overhaul of the Internal Revenue Code, passed in December 2017 as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). The OZ were created as part of a new tax incentive program intended to spur economic development and job creation in economically distressed communities. The program’s designation encourages businesses, developers and financial institutions to invest long-term capital in low-income census tract areas.²

The areas were designated as OZ by the U.S. Department of Treasury in June 2018 and sunsets on December 31, 2028. This means new investments cannot be made after this date and only early adopters investing on or before December 31, 2019 will qualify for all of the program’s tax benefits.³

According to a Miami Dade County 2022 Opportunity Zones Update, in 2017 a federal mandate designated OZ along 8,761 census tracts across the United States, of which 427 are located throughout Florida. Governors could nominate up to 25 percent of their state’s eligible tracts to receive the designation. The nomination process in Florida included reviewing over 1,200 recommendations submitted by local governments, regional planning councils, nonprofits, developers, investors and others. Final nominations were based on a comprehensive review and detailed statistical analysis of relevant population, poverty and unemployment rates, and other economic indicators.³

¹ IRC Section 1400Z-1: Designation, Internal Revenue Code: Income Taxes

<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title26-section1400Z-1&num=0&edition=prelim>.

² Office of Commission Auditor Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, 2019 Benefits and Challenges of Opportunity Zones Report

³ *The Opportunity Zone Program*, Department of Economic Opportunity, <https://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource/opportunity-zones> (last visited August 4, 2021).

⁴ South Florida Regional Planning Council: Opportunity Zones, <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/opportunity-zones/>; <https://opportunitydb.com/counties/monroe-county-florida/>; <https://opportunitydb.com/zones/12087971100/>

⁵ Miami-Dade Beacon Council Opportunity Zones Prospectus

There are 67 OZ in Miami-Dade County designated by the State of Florida as needing economic assistance.² Of the 67 OZ located throughout Workforce Development Area (WDA) 23, the largest numbers are close to downtown Miami. The area has an entrepreneurial spirit with an international focus that helps make WDA 23 a successful global business hub and earned it the moniker “Gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean”.

The Miami Dade Beacon Council opportunity zone prospectus shows the opportunity zones are divided into three areas: North, Central and South. The business details for each area is as follows:

- North – this zone has a diverse economy with about 35,900 companies employing 237,866 individuals. In addition, 89.52 percent of the companies have less than nine employees.
- Central – this zone has the Miami International Airport is located in the middle of the area and the Port of Miami is east of Downtown Miami. It has a diverse economy; however, the industries are in distinct clusters. There are approximately 116,170 companies employing 840,543 individuals. In addition, 89.36 percent of the companies have less than nine employees.
- South – this zone has two airports in its vicinity. It has a diverse economy with the industries clustered in distinct areas (i.e., life science, agriculture, agro-tourism & eco-tourism). There are approximately 24,947 companies employing 188,525 individuals. In addition, 88.57 percent of the companies have less than 9 employees.

Miami-Dade County has a multi-lingual, multi-cultural population of about 2.7 million and is expected to grow to close to 2.75 million by 2028. The three areas the 67 OZ located in Miami-Dade County are further detailed below.⁵

North Miami-Dade County

In 2019, the area had a population of 727,807, which is expected to grow to 752,538 in 2024. The average household income in 2019 was \$68,164 and will increase to \$78,275 in five years. The census tracts that make up the Opportunity Zones in the North Miami Dade Opportunity Zone Area show that it is a diverse area in population and economy.

However, industries have clustered in distinct area such as the Life Science cluster in the Town of Miami Lakes, Warehousing and Distribution (Trade & Logistics) in the Cities of Miami Gardens and Opa-locka, financial services (Banking & Finance) in the City of Aventura, and Film and Recording sector (Creative Industries) in the City of North Miami.⁵

¹ IRC Section 1400Z-1: Designation, Internal Revenue Code: Income Taxes
<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title26-section1400Z-1&num=0&edition=prelim>.

² Office of Commission Auditor Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, 2019 Benefits and Challenges of Opportunity Zones Report

³ *The Opportunity Zone Program*, Department of Economic Opportunity,
<https://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource/opportunity-zones> (last visited August 4, 2021).

⁴ South Florida Regional Planning Council: Opportunity Zones, <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/opportunity-zones/>; <https://opportunitydb.com/counties/monroe-county-florida/>;
<https://opportunitydb.com/zones/12087971100/>

⁵ Miami-Dade Beacon Council Opportunity Zones Prospectus

North Miami-Dade County Opportunity Zone Area Demographics		
	2019	2024
Population	727,807	752,538
Households	242,473	252,567
Families	176,034	182,211
Average Household Income	\$68,164	\$78,275
Owner-occupied Housing	146,688	155,903
Renter-occupied Housing	96,805	96,664
Educational Attainment- Associate Degree and higher	34.12%	34.10%

North Miami-Dade Opportunity Zone Area Major Sector Breakdown	
Industry	Percent of Total Businesses
Agriculture, Mining, Utility Services	0.27
Construction	6.36
Manufacturing	3.53
Wholesalers	4.82
Retail	16.7
Transportation & Warehousing	3.9
Information	2.19
Banking, Finance & Insurance	6.1
Real Estate 7.57	7.57
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs. 11.89	11.89
Holding Companies & Managing Offices 0.73	0.73
Administrative, Support, Waste Mgmt. 4.79	4.79
Education 2.38	2.38
Healthcare & Social Services 7.90	7.90
Arts, Sports, Entertainment & Recreation 2.31	2.31
Accommodation & Food Services 5.69	5.69
Other Services & Unclassified 12.04	12.04
Public Administration 0.82	0.82

Source: MiamiDadesites.com, 2019

¹ IRC Section 1400Z-1: Designation, Internal Revenue Code: Income Taxes
<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title26-section1400Z-1&num=0&edition=prelim>.

² Office of Commission Auditor Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, 2019 Benefits and Challenges of Opportunity Zones Report

³ *The Opportunity Zone Program*, Department of Economic Opportunity,
<https://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource/opportunity-zones> (last visited August 4, 2021).

⁴ South Florida Regional Planning Council: Opportunity Zones, <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/opportunity-zones/>; <https://opportunitydb.com/counties/monroe-county-florida/>;
<https://opportunitydb.com/zones/12087971100/>

⁵ Miami-Dade Beacon Council Opportunity Zones Prospectus

Central Miami-Dade County

In 2019, the area's population is 1,454,025 and expected to grow to 1,502,964 in 2024. The average household income in 2019 was \$74,209 and will increase to \$85,703 in five years. The census tracts that make up the Opportunity Zones in the Central Miami Dade Opportunity Zone Area show that it has a diverse economy.

However, industries have clustered in distinct area such as a technology cluster in the City of Miami, warehousing and distribution (Trade & Logistics) in the Cities of Doral and Hialeah, financial services (Banking & Finance) in the Cities of Miami and Coral Gables, Creative Industries in the City of Miami.⁵

Central Miami-Dade County Opportunity Zone Area Demographics		
	2019	2024
Population	1,454,025	1,502,964
Households	531,318	550,165
Families	342,676	354,044
Average Household Income	\$74,209	\$85,703
Owner-occupied Housing	247,260	264,588
Renter-occupied Housing	284,058	285,577
Educational Attainment- Associate Degree and higher	39.78%	39.70%

¹ IRC Section 1400Z-1: Designation, Internal Revenue Code: Income Taxes
<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title26-section1400Z-1&num=0&edition=prelim>.

² Office of Commission Auditor Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, 2019 Benefits and Challenges of Opportunity Zones Report

³ *The Opportunity Zone Program*, Department of Economic Opportunity,
<https://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource/opportunity-zones> (last visited August 4, 2021).

⁴ South Florida Regional Planning Council: Opportunity Zones, <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/opportunity-zones/>; <https://opportunitydb.com/counties/monroe-county-florida/>; <https://opportunitydb.com/zones/12087971100/>

⁵ Miami-Dade Beacon Council Opportunity Zones Prospectus

Central Miami-Dade Opportunity Zone Area Major Sector Breakdown	
Industry	Percent of Total Businesses
Agriculture, Mining, Utility Services	0.32
Construction	5.46
Manufacturing	3.26
Wholesalers	5.38
Retail	16.33
Transportation & Warehousing	4.03
Information	2.45
Banking, Finance & Insurance	6.61
Real Estate	7.01
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	14.06
Holding Companies & Managing Offices	1.03
Administrative, Support, Waste Mgmt.	4.88
Education	1.99
Healthcare & Social Services	7.29
Arts, Sports, Entertainment & Recreation	2.17
Accommodation & Food Services	6.86
Other Services & Unclassified	9.75
Public Administration	1.09

Source: miamidadesites.com

South Miami-Dade County

In 2019, the area had a population of 727,807, which is expected to grow to 752,538 in 2024. The average household income in 2019 was \$68,164 and will increase to \$78,275 in five years. The census tracts that make up the Opportunity Zones in the South Miami Dade Opportunity Zone Area show that it has a diverse economy.

However, certain industries have clustered in distinct areas such as the life science cluster in the Kendall area and the agriculture, agro-tourism & ecotourism in the Cities of Homestead and Florida City.⁵

¹ IRC Section 1400Z-1: Designation, Internal Revenue Code: Income Taxes
<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title26-section1400Z-1&num=0&edition=prelim>.

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³ *The Opportunity Zone Program*, Department of Economic Opportunity,
<https://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource/opportunity-zones> (last visited August 4, 2021).

⁴ South Florida Regional Planning Council: Opportunity Zones, <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/opportunity-zones/>; <https://opportunitydb.com/counties/monroe-county-florida/>;
<https://opportunitydb.com/zones/12087971100/>

⁵ Miami-Dade Beacon Council Opportunity Zones Prospectus

South Miami-Dade County Opportunity Zone Area Demographics		
	2019	2024
Population	638,272	659,777
Households	199,793	252,567
Families	157,116	162,752
Average Household Income	\$83,036	\$95,823
Owner-occupied Housing	130,930	138,435
Renter-occupied Housing	68,863	68,419
Educational Attainment- Associate Degree and higher	40.70%	40.58%

South Miami-Dade Opportunity Zone Area Major Sector Breakdown	
Industry	Percent of Total Businesses
Agriculture, Mining, Utility Services	0.77
Construction	8.2
Manufacturing	2.88
Wholesalers	4.24
Retail	16.30
Transportation & Warehousing	2.82
Information	2.00
Banking, Finance & Insurance	6.09
Real Estate	5.95
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	12.12
Holding Companies & Managing Offices	0.56
Administrative, Support, Waste Mgmt.	5.6
Education	2.58
Healthcare & Social Services	8.79
Arts, Sports, Entertainment & Recreation	2.28
Accommodation & Food Services	5.87
Other Services & Unclassified	12.09
Public Administration	0.87

Source: miamidadesites.com

¹ IRC Section 1400Z-1: Designation, Internal Revenue Code: Income Taxes
<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title26-section1400Z-1&num=0&edition=prelim>.

² Office of Commission Auditor Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, 2019 Benefits and Challenges of Opportunity Zones Report

³ *The Opportunity Zone Program*, Department of Economic Opportunity,
<https://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource/opportunity-zones> (last visited August 4, 2021).

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<https://opportunitydb.com/zones/12087971100/>

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Local Strategic Goals

CareerSource South Florida will utilize the waiver to incentivize businesses with work-based learning opportunities in opportunity zones to establish and/or re-establish their workforce and provide job seekers with barriers to employment, including those that lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the opportunity to learn skills to establish self-sufficiency. The waiver will also enhance CSSF's existing efforts to create a talent pipeline that will address the labor market needs of businesses in Miami Dade County.

On-the-job training is a proven, reliable method to implement work-based training in an effective and efficient manner that meets the immediate state and local workforce needs. Providing employers with a quick and effective approach to training that leads to a skilled workforce is critical to their viability. The waiver allows employers to hire job seekers and utilize limited resources for other critical aspects of their business.

Action to remove state or local statutory or regulatory barriers:

At present, there are no local statutory or regulatory barriers that would prohibit implementation of the waiver. CareerSource South Florida's policies meet current state and federal program requirements.

¹ IRC Section 1400Z-1: Designation, Internal Revenue Code: Income Taxes
<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title26-section1400Z-1&num=0&edition=prelim>.

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⁵ Miami-Dade Beacon Council Opportunity Zones Prospectus

February 14, 2025

Adrienne Johnston
President & CEO
CareerSource Florida
2308 Killearn Center Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Dear Ms. Johnston,

The South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB), d/b/a CareerSource South Florida (CSSF), respectfully requests approval of the enclosed statutory waiver to increase On-the-Job Training (OJT) employer reimbursements to 100 percent. This request is submitted pursuant to the Secretary of Labor's waiver authority under Section 189(i)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and 20 CFR 679.620, which permits the Secretary to waive specific provisions of WIOA Title I, Subtitle A, B, and E, as well as sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Purpose of the Waiver Request

CSSF seeks this waiver to enhance employer reimbursement to 100 percent for OJT in designated Opportunity Zones (OZ) to address critical workforce and business needs. Opportunity Zones are low-income census tracts that face significant economic challenges. According to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners' 2019 Benefits and Challenges of Opportunity Zones Report, 67 of Florida's 427 Opportunity Zones are located within Workforce Development Area (WDA) 23 (Miami-Dade County), with the highest concentration near downtown Miami.

Rationale and Economic Impact

The Miami-Dade Beacon Council's Opportunity Zones Prospectus highlights that approximately 90 percent of businesses within WDA 23's Opportunity Zones employ fewer than nine workers. By increasing employer reimbursement to 100 percent, CSSF aims to:

- Encourage businesses in Opportunity Zones to hire and train job seekers with barriers to employment, including individuals who lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support small businesses in establishing or re-establishing their workforce through work-based learning opportunities.
- Strengthen the local talent pipeline to meet the evolving labor market needs of businesses within WDA 23.

Scope of the Waiver

The 100 percent employer reimbursement will apply to all OJT contracts supported by WIOA formula funds, including Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs, where applicable. CSSF is requesting this waiver for the WIOA Title I 2024-2025 program year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

Your consideration and approval of this waiver request are greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at (305) 929-1501 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

DRAFT



SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: 2/13/2025

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 6

AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT: 2025 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: **INFORMATIONAL**

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

STRATEGIC GOAL: **STRONG WORKFORCE SYSTEM LEADERSHIP**

STRATEGIC PROJECT: **Strengthen workforce system accountability**

BACKGROUND:

Legislative Developments and Budget Considerations

The Florida Legislature convened for one week of committee meetings beginning January 13, but subsequent meetings were canceled due to inclement weather. Today would have marked the start of the fourth week of committee meetings; however, the Legislature instead convened in a Special Session. Notably, both the House and Senate initially opened and adjourned the Special Session called by the Governor before immediately reconvening under Special Session B, initiated by the Senate President and House Speaker. This shift rendered the originally filed bills inactive, with new legislation focused on immigration now under consideration. Additionally, both chambers introduced bills to override vetoes from the prior session's budget.

Workforce Legislation and Implementation

Two committees were originally scheduled to meet to discuss the implementation of workforce legislation, specifically HB 1267, and associated programs. Chair Melo had planned for the Department of Children and Families, CareerSource Florida, and the Department of Commerce to present updates on HB 1267 implementation. Similarly, Chair Jacques intended to lead discussions on workforce programs and legislative execution. As of today, no presentation materials have been made publicly available. CSSF will continue monitoring developments and will provide further updates as more information becomes available.

State Budget and Revenue Outlook

The cancellation of two weeks of committee hearings may impact the budget rollout timeline, though the overall process remains intact. Legislative leadership has signaled a deliberate and competitive budget approach, with differing strategies expected between chambers:

- The House is likely to propose a more austere budget, emphasizing spending reductions and minimal new expenditures.
- The Senate is also expected to seek reductions but may adopt a more moderate fiscal approach.

This budget cycle will commence with a Base Budget Review, a process that has not been conducted in the past four years. President Albritton has expressed a commitment to prioritizing investments in rural communities, agricultural issues, behavioral/mental health, and rural healthcare access.

Revenue Projections and Fiscal Challenges

State General Revenue collections remain approximately 1% above annual estimates, though November 2024 sales tax collections declined by approximately \$15 million. The overall trend indicates a return to normal revenue growth, leaving the Legislature with an estimated \$1 billion to \$1.6 billion in new General Revenue for budgetary considerations.

Revenue Trends:

- November 2021: \$398.8 million surplus
- November 2022: \$447.2 million surplus
- November 2023: \$243.6 million surplus
- November 2024: \$14.9 million deficit

Over the past three years, revenue collections consistently exceeded estimates due to economic recovery and pandemic-related spending. However, projections for the next three years indicate tightening fiscal conditions:

- Year 2 Outlook: \$2.9 billion revenue shortfall
- Year 3 Outlook: \$7 billion revenue shortfall

Both the Senate President and House Speaker have publicly committed to addressing these shortfalls through spending reductions in the 2025 legislative session. While this is not a crisis, it does indicate fewer discretionary funds available for new initiatives.

Key Budget Considerations:

- Base Budget Review: Appropriations Committees will begin scrutinizing programs and base budgets, impacting funding allocations.
- Medicaid Enrollment Projections: Enrollment is expected to increase in FY 2025-26, necessitating an additional \$1.2 billion in General Revenue expenditures.
- Property Insurance Market: Rising costs and impacts on residential and commercial properties may affect tax revenue from construction-related activities.
- Condominium Maintenance and HOA Assessments: Structural and financial concerns could have broader economic implications.

Governor's Budget Recommendations

The Governor's budget recommendations must be released no later than February 2, 2025, in accordance with state requirements. CSSF will conduct a thorough analysis of the proposed budget upon its release and provide relevant insights regarding potential workforce funding allocations and policy implications.

CSSF will continue to engage with legislative stakeholders and monitor workforce-related developments, ensuring strategic alignment with statewide policy changes.

FUNDING: N/A

PERFORMANCE: N/A

NO ATTACHMENT



SFWIB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: 2/13/2025

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 7

AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF FOLLOW UP TO IMPROPER EXTENSIONS

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: **INFORMATIONAL**

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

STRATEGIC GOAL: **STRONG WORKFORCE SYSTEM LEADERSHIP**

STRATEGIC PROJECT: **Provide technical assistance to service providers**

BACKGROUND:

On January 9, 2025, the South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) Executive Committee was notified of an issue involving a staff member at one of the Career Centers who improperly extended the active participation of over 700 Wagner-Peyser clients.

In response, SFWIB staff met with the service provider's leadership to assess the potential impact on the region's Wagner-Peyser Employment 2nd Quarter After Exit performance metrics. Following initial investigations by the service provider's local leadership and the One-Stop Operator, a second internal investigation was conducted.

As a result of this investigation, the staff member responsible for the improper extensions, along with their immediate supervisor, was removed from their position. To prevent future occurrences, the service provider will implement enhanced leadership oversight and allocate additional resources to ensure consistency across all locations.

In addition, the service provider will introduce targeted coaching and training programs to reinforce contract expectations and eliminate any confusion among team members.

To further safeguard compliance, SFWIB staff has developed a Service Code Monitoring Report to track all service codes related to the soft exit process. This report will be reviewed daily to monitor service entries by FloridaCommerce and provider staff, ensuring real-time oversight of Wagner-Peyser Employment After Exit data and preventing improper extensions.

FUNDING: N/A

PERFORMANCE: N/A

NO ATTACHMENT