

## Regional Workforce Council 2020 Legislative Agenda

### Vocational & Technical Training

**Policy:** We support the continuation of the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.

**Solution:** The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund funding level should be maintained or increased.

**Policy:** We support legislation to include career dual enrolled students in the acceleration calculation for state high school grades, which is currently provided for academic dual enrolled students.

**Solution:** School Districts should be encouraged to provide career/technical education in middle schools; and increase dual enrollment for high school students in career/technical courses; and shouldn't count against school districts.

**Policy:** We support funding all Florida's Public Technical College/Centers Workforce Education Programs at a minimum funding level of 100% of the state model as developed and approved by the State FLDOE Workforce Education Funding Committee.

**Solution:** The state funding formula should be updated to distribute funds closely following enrollment growth at technical schools.

**Policy:** We support pre-apprenticeship programs with industry stakeholders.

**Solution:** Workers Compensation statutes should be amended so pre-apprenticeship students can be covered.

**Policy:** We support fully funding appropriations to school district workforce education programs for performance-based industry certifications earned by post-secondary students.

**Solution:** Fully fund post-secondary institutions for workforce education and careers in high demand as statutorily authorized.

### Early Learning & Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

**Policy:** We support a needs-based School Readiness Funding Formula to provide a proportional allocation of funding across the state.

**Solution:** The Legislature should create a new formula for the proportional reallocation of funding to the Florida Department of Education's Office of Early Learning for VPK providers.

**Policy:** We support affordable access to high quality Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK).

**Solution:** Per-child funding for the state VPK program should be increased to the national average for per-student funding. Creation of statewide standards for VPK providers and institute minimum threshold for education/ certification.

## **Healthcare & Mental Health**

**Policy:** We support mental health funding is needed to address the mental health crisis occurring at the VPK through high school levels.

**Solution:** Funding for mental health consultation services should be provided for schools (including early-learning providers) to address social, emotional, and mental health concerns of students.

## **Transportation & Affordable Housing**

**Policy:** We support accessible transit that creates mobility to major employment centers in a regionally efficient and collaborative effort.

**Solution:** Continued coordination of transit issues to foster the creation of workforce transportation hubs utilizing new and innovative mobility options.

**Policy:** We support affordable housing opportunities through the alignment of public-private partnerships in conjunction with a workforce transportation initiative.

**Solution:** Provide incentives for urban infill projects with higher densities; encourage innovative building types. Reduction of government fees.

**Policy:** We support the full utilization of the Sadowski Trust Fund for affordable housing.

**Solution:** The Sadowski Trust Fund should be proportionally distributed among the 67 counties.

## **Benefits Cliff**

**Policy:** We support modifications to the social benefits system that will allow for a gradual exit-path for working families.

**Solution:** Amend current policies to allow working families to maintain access to social benefits by creating a sliding scale; thus removing penalties for marginal increases in family income.

**Policy:** We support increased access to childcare benefits for working families.

**Solution:** Eligibility requirements for working families should be modified to increase access.