

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CareerSource Tampa Bay signs \$609,000 dollar contract with Hillsborough County

~Hillsborough youth to get connected with ACE Program career training and education ~

TAMPA, FL – *CareerSource Tampa Bay* will be working with *Hillsborough County's Board of County Commissioner's (BOCC)* to administer the Apprenticeship-to-Career Empowerment Program starting April 1, 2021. CareerSource Tampa Bay will help in identifying and training eligible young adults through education and experience.

The *ACE Program* was created so that the youth of Hillsborough County have the resources to connect to a career ladder with future, self-sustaining wages, employment security and the training to succeed in industries with high demand occupations such as IT, Health Care, and Manufacturing.

The program is designed to reach out to young adults in low-income households, especially those exiting the foster care system and those escaping from human trafficking, to connect them with apprenticeship opportunities and occupational skills training. These opportunities serve as meaningful work experience with local employers and will result in industry-recognized certifications and a pathway for a brighter future.

CareerSource Tampa Bay will play the critical role as the hub for training and financial resources and operate the participant counseling, training, placement and participating employer relations of the *ACE Program*.

CareerSource Tampa Bay will also collaborate with community partners with strong business relationships to identify businesses that will host the job seeking participants during the on-the-job training period.

Participants in the *ACE Program* will spend an estimated two days a week in a classroom setting and three days a week in on-the-job training to earn while they learn. Training will last eight to 12-weeks depending on the industry and the curriculum shall be targeted to build employability or soft skills customized to meet the needs of the industry.

It is expected that most *ACE Program* participants will also be qualified for other *CareerSource Tampa Bay* managed federal training and financial support. *CareerSource Tampa Bay* can act as the vehicle for the federal support and make Hillsborough counties aid go a step further.

Hillsborough County's role in the *ACE Program* shall be to provide guidance to ensure consistency within the program and to provide funding. Hillsborough county will also act as the marketer and promoter of the program to the community, potential employers and participants.

A Pilot Program has been proposed for the latter part of fiscal year 2021 and it has been targeted to serve an estimated 100 young adults.

The initial effort of this program will allow Hillsborough county and its partners to make any improvements to processes and procedures to ensure smooth implementation on a full-scale in fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023 as well as helping to establish a pipeline of business participants and business acceptance and credibility.

CareerSource Tampa Bay will be making announcements at a later date as to how we will implement the *Ace Program*.

About CareerSource Tampa Bay

Programs and initiatives are sponsored by CareerSource Tampa Bay and the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity and fully supported by the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture as part of awards totaling \$23,321,277.

CareerSource Tampa Bay works with businesses and candidates to leverage their training, retraining, and competitive opportunities in the workforce. CareerSource Tampa Bay provided 173,319 services to 37,054 active Wagner-Peyser individuals during the program year 2019-2020. CareerSource Tampa Bay, with our five career centers, is the single largest source of job candidates in the region, from entry-level to executive-level candidates.

Businesses can access CareerSource's wide range of services that include recruiting, training for new and existing employees, targeted hiring events, and retention support strategies. All resources and services are provided at no cost to both businesses and job candidates. Programs funded through CareerSource Tampa Bay are equal opportunity programs with auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Persons using TTY/TTD equipment use Florida Relay Service 711. A proud partner of the American Job Center network to learn more, visit www.careersourcetampabay.com.

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