

*Bringing Jobs Home*  
**Florida Back To Work**  
Regional Snapshots



## *Economic Development Success* **Florida's Regional Boards Deliver Florida Back to Work**

On December 17, 2009, Governor Crist announced Florida Back to Work (FBTW). In three weeks time, private employers, non-profit organizations and local governments across Florida responded to the Governor's announcement and the promotion of FBTW by Florida's twenty-four regional workforce boards by submitting 900 projects that will provide 10,000 jobs to unemployed Floridians. On Friday, January 15, local workforce boards submitted over \$231 million in projects that will utilize the \$200 million in federal stimulus funding that has been reserved for Florida.

Certainly this outpouring of job opportunities is staggering and sorely welcome to the citizens in communities across the state that will be employed through FBTW. The economic impact cannot be minimized. Florida's unemployment (UI) trust funds have been depleted to such an extent by our record unemployment that the state is forced to borrow from the federal government at the same time it has raised unemployment taxes on business to record levels. If the jobs created bring 10,000 people off those unemployment rolls for six months, the savings will be approximately \$65 million. How much this will relieve the stressed UI fund is uncertain, but it certainly cannot be taken for granted.

On top of this impact to the UI Trust fund, the multiplier effect of \$200 million in wages paid throughout the State of Florida will inject new spending levels into our customer-driven economy. That injection will stabilize businesses and in some instances allow them to retain or even add employees.

What does this response say about Florida's ability to recover? It is just lacks the initial financing to grow.. That is what FBTW is doing for Florida business-financing recovery's first steps. What could be accomplished if additional federal funds were available and a FBTW effort was funded and targeted only private businesses?

**Congratulations to Governor Crist and the leadership of the Florida Legislature who have supported this concept**

**The Florida Workforce Development Association is proud to be your partner and present this brief snapshots of regional projects.**

# Regional Snapshots

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### Region 1 - Workforce Escarosa

In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, 21 companies will create 316 jobs using federal stimulus dollars under the Florida Back-to-Work Program. The projects represent a combination of large industries, government, non-profit organizations and small businesses.

Hitachi Cable Florida, Inc. has submitted a proposal to create 157 positions at an average wage of \$9.43. The company, based in Pensacola, Florida manufactures and markets hydraulic brake hoses. The majority of the jobs for this project will be assemblers. With many of the region's jobs tied to health care, tourism and telemarketing, this project will provide much-needed manufacturing jobs for the region.

The Escambia County Sheriff's Department has proposed 10 positions for Detention Deputies and Deputy Sheriffs. These non-sworn law enforcement positions, proposed at an average wage of \$14.43 per hour, will provide additional law enforcement protection to the community, will provide employment opportunities over a broad range of skill levels and will introduce job seekers/new employees to careers in criminal justice.

Contact information: Workforce Escarosa, Susan Nelms at [snelms@escarosa.org](mailto:snelms@escarosa.org), [www.workforceescarosa.com](http://www.workforceescarosa.com)

### Region 2

### Region 3

### Region 4

### Region 5

### Region 6

### Region 7 - Florida Crown Workforce Board

Florida Crown is working with the Lake City Humane Society, a non-profit organization in business since 1963. They accept unwanted pets and strays and find new homes for cats, dogs, and small pets such as rabbits and gerbils, generally serving 20-45 animals at a time. Training classes are offered to the public on the care of animals, nutritional education, dog obedience, and dog groomer training. Dogs are also trained as seeing-eye dogs for the Veterans Program. The Humane Society's sole means of funding comes from private donations. The economic downturn has severely affected the financial donations received while increasing the number of animals dropped off by families no longer able to afford them. With the Back to Work Program, the Humane Society will be able to expand their staff to assist with the abundance of animals coming in daily and help with obtaining new adoptive families for them.

Florida Crown is working with Concept Construction, the preferred builder for Dollar General. Dollar General is looking at building an additional 12 stores this year. Crawford Construction defines themselves from other construction businesses because of the Design-Build concept they use. The Design-Build concept begins with the client meeting the architects and proceeding through 8 other steps before the actual building takes place to ensure the client understands the product. This is a locally owned

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business looking to expand. Crawford currently employs approx. 20 people but with the help of Florida Crown and the Florida Back To Work Program will be able to expand the staff by 7 employees. Concept Construction is looking to expand so they will be able to train employees to do the jobs that they would normally have to contract out to other businesses.

Contact information: Florida Crown Workforce Board

[www.floridacrown.org](http://www.floridacrown.org), John Chastain at [jc@flcrown.org](mailto:jc@flcrown.org)

**Region 8**

**Region 9**

**Region 10**

**Region 11**

**Region 12**

**Region 13**

**Region 14**

**Region 15 – Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance**

The Epilepsy Services of West Central Florida is committed to promoting health and facilitating healthy lifestyle choices for persons with seizure disorders and their families living in West Central Florida. The Epilepsy Services of West Central Florida promotes community and individual responsibility to attain quality of life. Its purpose is to decrease the number of persons with uncontrolled seizures, emotional challenges and problems and unemployment or under-employment by supporting and enhancing community-based health and social programs in West Central Florida.

By providing current information about epilepsy, and how to prevent it, the Epilepsy Services of West Central Florida helps people learn about seizures and the social issues that go along with having a seizure disorder. The organization is seeking funding for two positions a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and an Event Fundraiser Planner through the Florida Back to Work Program. The Licensed Mental Health Counselor will provide families with the skills to cope with the emotional, social, family and personal challenges and problems facing them. The Event Fundraiser Planner will help to generate additional financial commitments from the community through targeted events. These positions will help Epilepsy Services of West Central Florida further their mission and help to ensure that participants are better prepared to work with persons with epilepsy and have a more positive attitude about epilepsy.

Private Sector - 3D Eyewear is a full service Vision Center. 3D Eyewear's vision is to be able to provide affordable services to the community. The services provided are vision screenings, frames, and lenses assessments. They offer vision screenings at various schools and health fairs throughout Hillsborough County. Through the Florida Back to Work Program, 3D Eyewear is expanding its optical business, thereby, creating eight new positions. Their new positions include two licensed opticians, two

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retail salespersons, two lab technicians, and two secretarial positions. The new positions will help support the community by participating in numerous health screening and health fairs.

Contact information: Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance [www.workforcetampa.com](http://www.workforcetampa.com) Carol Brinkley at [brinkleyc@workforcetampa.com](mailto:brinkleyc@workforcetampa.com)

**Region 16****Region 17****Region 18****Region 19 - Heartland Workforce****Town of Zolfo Springs**

Our present economic climate has proven especially difficult for small, rural townships such as Zolfo Springs which has an estimated population of 1,705. Located within rural Hardee County, the small town has a long history of fighting to overcome adversity and economic woes. The Florida Back to Work Program has enabled the town government to apply for 5 full-time positions ranging from a Customer Service/Accounting/Utility Clerk to Water/Wastewater personnel. Skill sets range from general clerical and accounting to water/wastewater equipment maintenance. The Town is committed to retaining the employees after the subsidization period.

**Pacer Marine Engineering, Inc.**

Private businesses, such as Pacer Marine Engineering, Inc., are also feeling the sting of our economic duress making expansion difficult or nonexistent. The Florida Back to Work Program will provide this company with the financial boost they need to hire six new employees to expand their existing manufacturing business of the electrical wiring of harnesses. Skills include the ability to work in an assembly line environment to wire harnesses, quickly and efficiently.

Contact information: Heartland Workforce, [www.heartland-workforce.org](http://www.heartland-workforce.org), Ann Martin, [amartin@heartland-workforce.org](mailto:amartin@heartland-workforce.org)

**Region 20****Region 21****Region 22****Region 23****Region 24 - Career and Service Centers of Southwest Florida**

No projects for round 1. Submitted a few small ones for round two. – Follow up for more info

Contact information: **Career and Service Centers of Southwest Florida**, [www.careerandservicecenter.org](http://www.careerandservicecenter.org), Joseph Paterno, [jpaterno@sfwdb.org](mailto:jpaterno@sfwdb.org)

**Contact**

Contact Rusty Skinner, association president of The Florida Workforce Development Association, at [rskinner@clmworkforce.com](mailto:rskinner@clmworkforce.com), for additional information.