

## Abstract

### H-1B Ready to Work Partnership

**Lead applicant name:** Alachua Bradford Regional Workforce Board d/b/a CareerSource North Central Florida

**Lead applicant city/state:** Gainesville, Florida

**Primary partnership entities:** CareerSource Capital Region; CareerSource Flagler Volusia

**Areas served by the grant:** Three Florida workforce regions consisting of 7 counties: Alachua, Bradford, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Flagler, Volusia

**Total Funding Requested:**

**Project Name:** STEM Ready

**Summary of program activities:** CareerSource North Central Florida, the regional workforce board for Alachua and Bradford Counties, is partnering with two other regional workforce boards – CareerSource Capital Region and CareerSource Flagler Volusia to operate an H-1B Ready to Work Partnership program that will provide a three-tiered program to assist long-term unemployed workers get back to work. STEM Ready includes a new initiative: Extreme Employer Engagement. This initiative focuses on direct coaching, training and mentoring of potential candidates from business leadership operating in STEM industries, which have specific technical needs. One goal of the grant is to create a just-in-time delivery model for employers of custom trained candidates that can be trained in their specific needs, whether it is highly technical nuclear chemistry, customer service training for nurses and hospital workers or some type of STEM technician training.

Applicants for the program will receive an upfront assessment, development of a job placement and training plan that will place them as work-ready and needing rapid reemployment or in need of barrier removal and/or occupational skills upgrading. Participants will also be assigned to paid work activities at STEM employer worksites to bolster their resumes while exploring possible occupations

or gain much needed workplace skills in the occupation of their choice. Additionally the program will have a two-week work readiness boot camp to prepare the participants for the program activities. Innovative solutions include working with the post-secondary institutions to develop customized training needed by regional employers in the STEM industries. This program will serve 600 individuals throughout the life of the grant.

**List of Credentials to be Awarded:** Degrees, multiple industry recognized credentials in each industry that are building block toward degrees, and completion certificates for employer approved and needed trainings that lead to employment.

**Populations to be Served:** Long-term unemployed (85%) and other unemployed workers

**Targeted Occupations to be Served:** STEM industries and occupations related to healthcare, information technology, biotechnology and engineering.

**Required Employer Partners:** MindTree (IT), SharpSpring (IT), Mobiquity (IT), Wear Consulting (IT), Innovative Scheduling (IT), SumTotal (IT), Lucravalde (IT), Sporting Odyssey (IT) Neuronet Learning (IT/healthcare), LifeSouth (healthcare), TruVitals (healthcare), Shands Medical Center (healthcare), Florida Biologix (biotechnology), Nanotherapeutics (biotechnology/engineering), Axogen (biotechnology), Altavian (engineering), Prioria Robotics (engineering), Sandvik (engineering), Tech Toy Box (engineering)

**Additional Key Partners:** CareerSource Florida (Florida State Workforce Board), Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (Florida department of labor), Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Santa Fe College, three University of Florida departments; Center of Excellence for Regeneration Health Biotechnology, IFAS Department of Microbiology and Cell Science and the College of Engineering,

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