



# WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Contact: Tonya Elliott  
(321) 230-7434  
[telliott@wcfla.com](mailto:telliott@wcfla.com)

## **Governor Removes High-Risk Designation Due To Organizational Improvements**

Orlando, FLA – Due to an impressive turnaround and performance improvements, Gov. Rick Scott has removed the “high-risk” designation that was placed on Workforce Central Florida (WCF) in September 2011.

The release of the high-risk status on July 3 follows a clean fiscal audit approved by the Department of Economic Opportunity as well as meeting all conditions to restore the agency to fiscal and programmatic compliance.

“Lifting the high risk designation is a testament to the organization’s commitment to exceeding all of the conditions outlined in the Governor’s letter back in September of 2011” said WCF’s President and CEO Pamela Nabors. “Local officials, business leaders and our customers can have full faith that WCF is administering our federal resources appropriately and efficiently.”

Addressing this issue was a priority for prior Board Chair Kevin Shaughnessy. “The high risk designation was an issue left over from the previous administration,” said Shaughnessy “WCF can now focus on continuing to improve performance and competing for grants that can bring additional services to assist Central Florida businesses and job seekers.”

In May 2013, more than 3,900 Central Florida job seekers found employment after receiving a service from WCF, and of that number 1,433 were reemployment assistance recipients (formerly unemployment compensation). That is a marked improvement compared to May 2012 where 2,246 found employment and of those only 454 were receiving reemployment assistance.

Other notable improvements since September 2011 included having WCF’s 5-county consortium appoint an entirely new board of directors, establishing an audit and youth committee and launching year-round youth programs, hiring a compliance director, renegotiating of existing leases for cost savings, evaluating the organizational structure and working with the Department of Economic Opportunity to develop new policies for purchasing and contracting.

Through these efforts, WCF has already realized cost savings of more than \$450,000 through renegotiated leases, consolidation of administrative office space and organizational restructuring, including the elimination of several vice president positions.

Workforce Central Florida offers tools for residents of Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties to find a job and advance in their careers. On average, WCF provides over 9,000 job seekers each month with services such as an online job bank, career counseling, recruitment events, training, financial aid, career assessments and internships. WCF also assists an average of 1,300 employers each month with recruitment, retention and training. For more information, visit [www.workforcecentralflorida.com](http://www.workforcecentralflorida.com).

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