

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Doug Tobin

TobinD@CareerSourceTampaBay.com / (813) 397-2054

More Hillsborough County agencies and businesses are now eligible to participate to receive \$21.5 million in federal funding

~Rapid Response Recovery (R³) Program has increased eligible employers~

TAMPA, FL – Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) broadened the type of employers who can participate in the Rapid Response Recovery (R³) job training program on Thursday. The BOCC approved a contract modification at the August 20, 2020 meeting with CareerSource Tampa Bay (CSTB).

Now the program is open to any employer with a Hillsborough County worksite. That includes for-profit, not-for-profit businesses and public-governmental agencies.

“The action the Board of Commissioners took today allows us to expand this program,” said CEO John Flanagan. “We are looking for community partners who want to be a part of this program and helping our residents in Hillsborough County. We want to share this program with as many people as possible so we can overcome the challenges of COVID-19 through training and employment.”

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS: CSTB will be holding two informational sessions about how employers and community partners can participate in the program that has \$21.5 million dollars in aid available. The Rapid Response Recovery (R³) program is operated by CareerSource Tampa Bay (CSTB) with monies approved by Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners.

CSTB will be hosting two separate sessions for Hillsborough County companies and community partners.

The sessions will provide both employers and partners with a way to learn about the benefits of the Rapid Response Recovery (R³) program. Employers can learn how they can receive up to \$12,000 for every employee hired. For job seekers in Hillsborough County they can eligible up to \$5,000 in educational assistance or paid on the job training.

Scheduled Sessions:

- Wednesday, August 26, **9 a.m.**
Employer Information Session
Rapid Response Recovery Assistance Program (R³)

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3126978492987837967>

- Wednesday, August 26, **10 a.m.**
Community Partner Information Session
Rapid Response Recovery Assistance Program (R3)
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4938958262399946511>

Registrants can attend by clicking the link on the scheduled time and date. This information is also available on our website <https://www.careersourcetampabay.com/cares-act>

There is NO COST to Hillsborough employers or partners participating in the program.

Eligible businesses must meet the following criteria:

- Any employer with a Hillsborough County worksite (including for-profit, not-for-profit businesses and public-governmental agencies)
- Eligible positions must meet Florida minimum wage requirements
- Employee worksite location must be in Hillsborough County

Eligible Job Seekers must meet the following criteria

- Hillsborough County resident
- Economically Injured due to COVID 19
- 18-years of age or older
- U.S. Citizen or authorized to work

CSTB has set up a dedicated phone line to assist customers at (813) 360-1444. The R3 CONTACT CENTER is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also contact R3 via this email address: r3trgproviderapp@careersourcetb.com

More information about the program and the FAQ can be found at CareerSource Tampa Bay's website located at <https://www.careersourcetampabay.com/cares-act>

The R3 program is funded through the Federal Cares Act with funding released by the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners.

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