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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Workforce Administrators
School District Technical College Directors
School District Career and Technical Education Directors

FROM: Ashley Meros, Ph.D.

DATE: March 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Public Comment Period on proposed Perkins V State Plan Revisions related to the Rural Innovation Grant Allocations

The Florida Department of Education (Department) announces a public comment period and public hearing for proposed revisions to Florida's Perkins State Plan related to the allocations for the Rural Innovation Grant beginning with the 2027-2028 program year. The public comment period runs from March 24, 2026, to April 24, 2026.

The Rural Innovation Grant is based upon geographic identifications of counties classified by the state as rural and rural municipalities in nonrural counties. Rural areas are defined by the state and documented by the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), which recognizes those rural or economically distressed counties or communities designated pursuant to sections 288.0656 and 288.06561, Florida Statutes, as REDI qualified. The designation of the REDI counties is updated periodically. Only rural counties and nonrural counties with rural municipalities as identified by REDI shall be considered for participation in this funding.

Historically, allocations for the rural innovation grant have been determined as follows:

- A base allocation for the rural county of \$50,000.
- A proportionate share of the remaining statewide allocation based on labor force numbers.

The first proposed revision to the state plan is to redefine the rural innovation grant allocation for rural counties as follows:

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Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

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- A base allocation for the rural county of \$50,000.
- An *inverse* proportionate share of the remaining statewide allocation based on labor force numbers. The inverse proportionate share formula allows smaller districts to receive a larger share of the overall allocation.

The second proposed revision is to include in the state plan the current practice of allocating \$25,000 for nonrural districts with rural municipalities as defined by REDI.

A copy of the proposed revisions, as well as the current state plan, can be found at [Perkins V](#).

Those interested in commenting on these proposed changes to do so by completing the brief survey at [Florida Perkins State Plan Proposed Revisions - Rural Innovation Grant Allocation Formula – Fill out form](#) by 5:00 PM April 24, 2026.

In addition, the Division of Career and Adult Education will host a public hearing webinar on March 24, 2026, 2:00 PM EDT, for further review and comment.

You may register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2107897284688613213>

Questions about the public comment period may be submitted to Perkins@fldoe.org or contact Bruce Harrington at bruce.harrington@fldoe.org or 850-245-0949.

AYM/blh

Ashley Meros, Ph.D.
Chancellor of Career and Adult Education