



# CareerSource RESEARCH COAST Annual Report 2022-2023



# A letter from Brian Bauer, President/CEO



Dear Stakeholders and Partners,

I am thrilled to share with you the remarkable accomplishments of CareerSource Research Coast throughout the year 2023. It is with great pride that I announce our recognition by CareerSource Florida, where we received a 88.97 performance rating, equivalent to an B+ letter grade, under the new grading system introduced in 2022. This acknowledgment, officially announced in October 2022, reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence and accountability. The transparent evaluation, part of Florida's 2021 Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act, underscores our dedication to providing top-notch services to the community.

The new letter grade system introduced by CareerSource Florida provides a standardized, statewide assessment, enabling local workforce development boards to identify both our strengths and areas for improvement. This strategic evaluation aligns perfectly with our vision for continuous growth and improvement.

In terms of employment progress, the CareerSource Research Coast region has witnessed significant advancements, particularly with the unemployment rate in our region dropping to a commendable 2.6 percent in April 2023 and closing the year at 3.4 percent. Noteworthy job gains have been observed across various sectors, including Leisure and Hospitality, Trade, Transportation and Utilities, Education and Health Services, and Professional and Business Services.

Despite challenges faced by certain industries, our overall employment landscape has thrived, contributing to the economic vitality of our region. The Research Coast alone has experienced a robust population increase of 18, 556 more residents in the past year with 14,700 of them accounting for the boom in St. Lucie County. This aligns with the statewide trend, as Florida welcomed an additional 416,754 individuals, bringing our state population to 22,244,823 in 2022. As we navigate this growth, CareerSource Research Coast remains steadfast in facilitating workforce development to meet the evolving needs of our expanding community.

Our 'Summer of Success' program continues to serve as a beacon for young adults, offering paid internships and leadership opportunities. In 2023, we successfully served nearly 200 youth. This initiative resonates deeply with our mission to empower the next generation and bridge the gap between education and employment while providing real-world experiences in the workplace.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated board members, partners, and staff for their unwavering support. CareerSource Research Coast remains steadfast in driving positive change in our community and contributing to the economic prosperity of our region.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Warm regards,



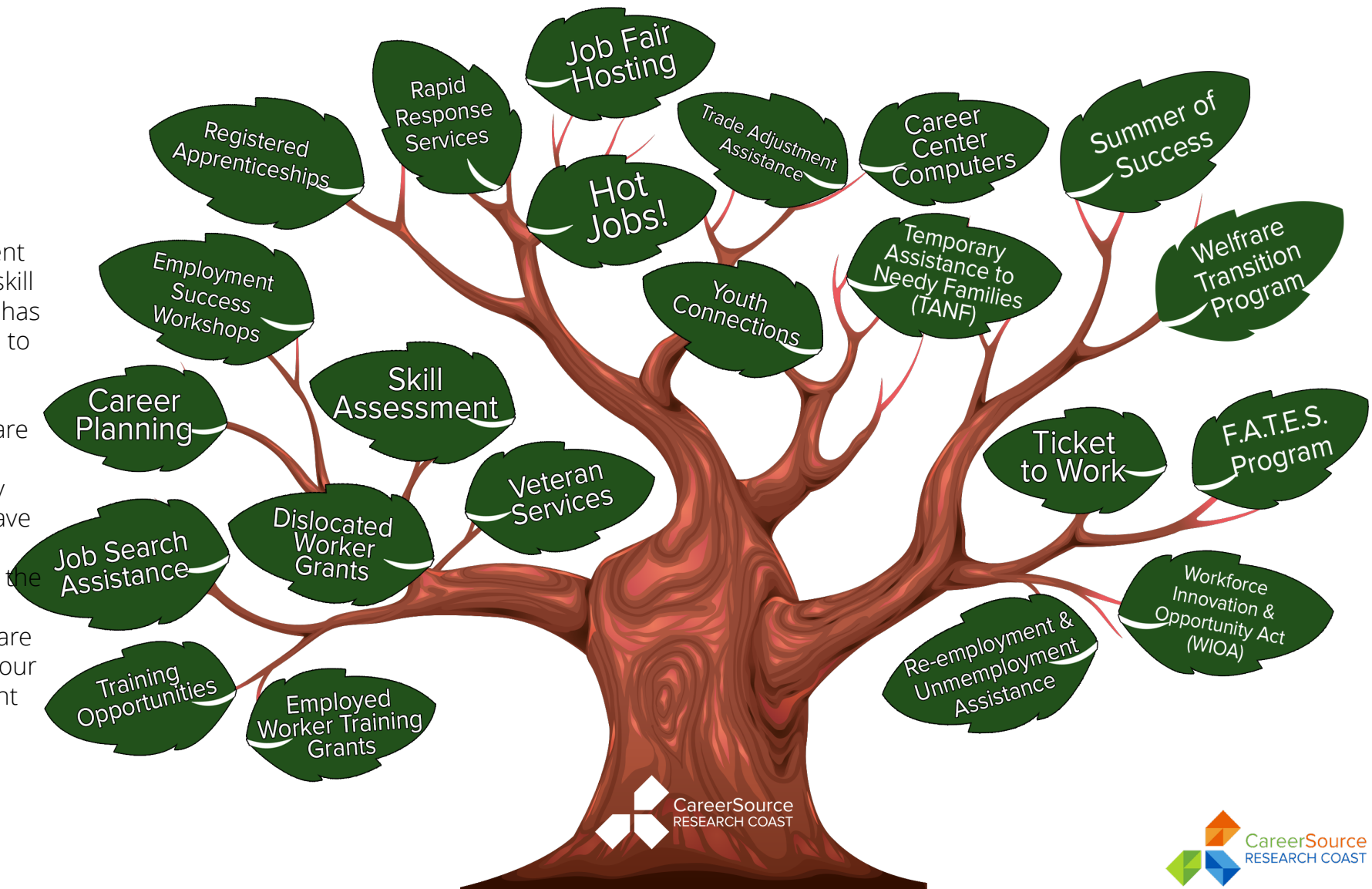
# So many branches in our tree

The CareerSource Research Coast tree has many branches designed to serve the community with services that benefit job seekers with purposeful employment and businesses with a skilled staff.

Looking for a job can be emotionally overwhelming to job seekers of all ages. Individuals are provided with safe environment to speak with a recruiter while sharing their skill set while looking for the perfect fit. Our staff has completed many hours of training to be able to assist them with the best fit possible.

For businesses and their staffing needs, we are working in ways there is no playbook for. We have never had a pandemic in contemporary times with employment issues the way we have now.

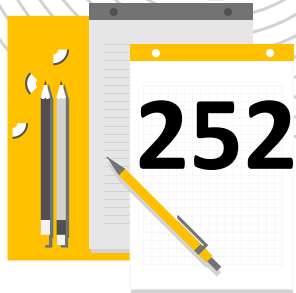
Our staff can help guide businesses through the hiring process so they can get back to doing what they do best. Our Business Navigators are always available to have a one-on-one with your company to assist where there is a need right path. Veterans and their eligible spouses are huge priority to our staff.



# Welfare Transition Program



The Welfare Transition Program (WTP) provides emphasis on work and personal responsibility as well as opportunities for temporary cash assistance recipients to achieve self-sufficiency.



**252**

WTP Cases  
Closed

**\$13.44**



Average  
hourly  
wage  
earned by  
participants

**\$503,193.60**

Contribution to the local economy

# Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

WIOA promotes accountability and transparency through negotiated performance goals that are publicly available, fosters regional collaboration within states through local workforce areas, and improves the American Job Center system.

**127**

Adult and Dislocated Workers received career services through the WIOA Program.



**52**

Were employed at an average wage of

**\$24.13**

per hour.



**52**

Participants enrolled in classroom or skills training pathways

**43**

Enrolled in On-The-Job-Training

**5**

Participated in the Truss design apprenticeship, investing a total of

**\$43,542**



**\$373,294.12**

Spent on WIOA Adult / Dislocated Worker Training programs including On-the-Job-Training (OJT), Individual Training Account (ITA), Job Readiness, and Customized Training

# Hurricane Ian Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG)

16 DWG participants were placed in  
disaster relief employment with a total  
investment of

**\$503,193.60**

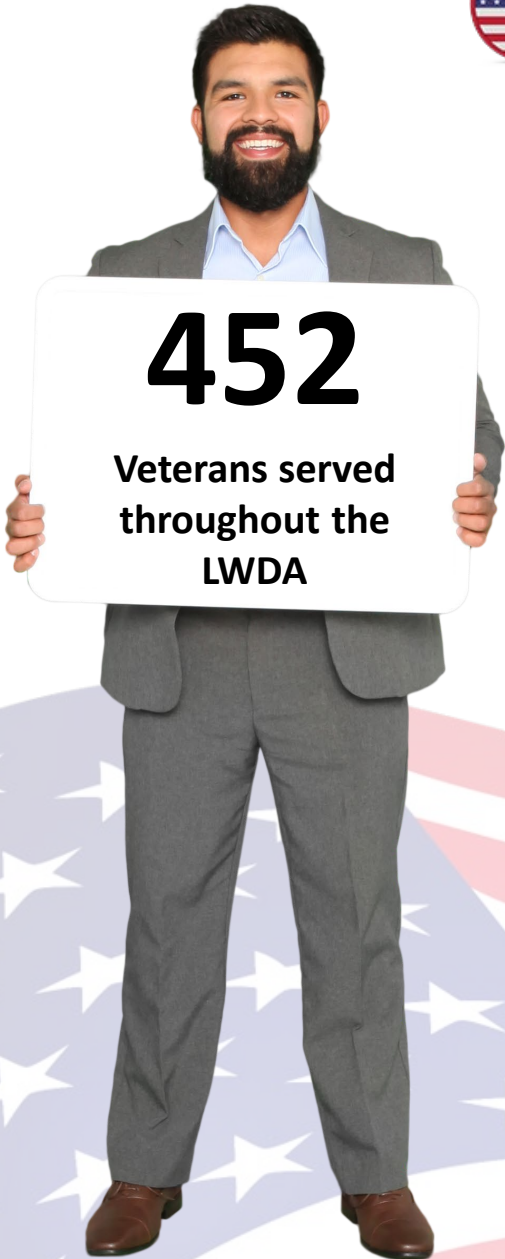




# Veteran Services



Paychecks for Patriots Job Fair was held Nov. 8, 2022, serving 25 Veteran Job Seekers



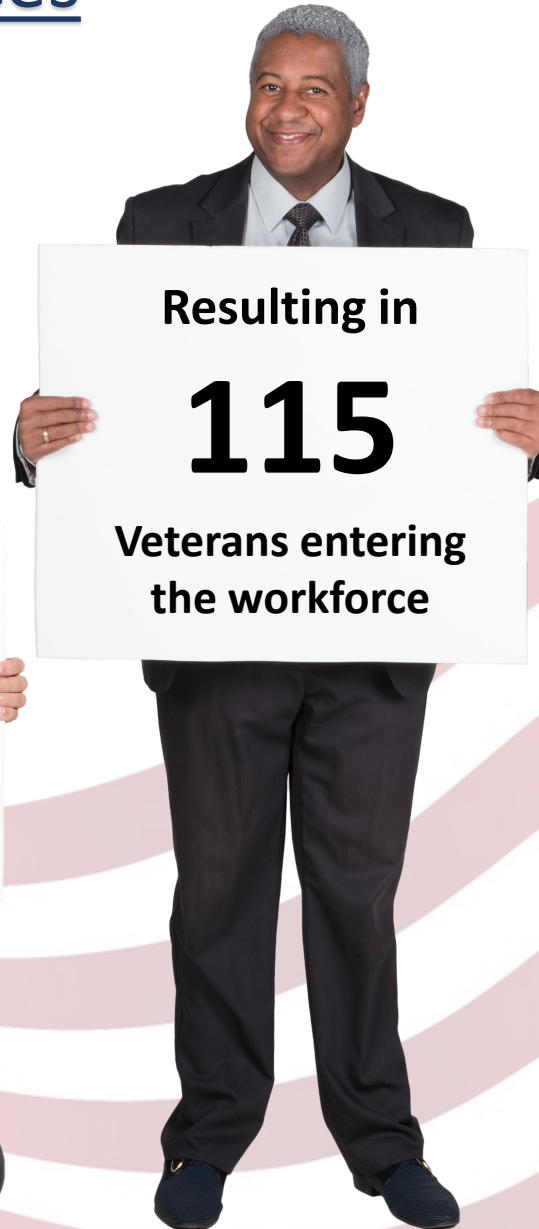
# 452

Veterans served throughout the LWDA



# 5,121

Services provided



Resulting in

# 115

Veterans entering the workforce

## Homeless Veteran's 'Stand Down' Event

CSRC teamed up with community partners to deliver resources to our homeless veterans. The JVSG team assisted 21 veterans and two spouses in the tri-county region providing hot meals, food, and supplies.

# Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Program (MSFW)



**7,268**

Services provided to the MSFW community

**552**

Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers served



**79**

Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers obtained employment

**15**

Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers participated in the weekly class

Speaking English has been a barrier for employment among MSFW workers. To address this, the Migrant Seasonal Outreach Specialist facilitated a weekly English as a second language class



# Business Services

**12,573**

Services provided to employers,

**782**

Employers that received services and focused on sector strategies including construction, Manufacturing, healthcare, skilled trades and logistics.



In collaboration with partners and community stakeholders, CSRC hosted these events

Early Learning Coalition Job Fair
United Against Poverty Job Fair
Burlington Job Fair
Hale Groves Job Fair
Martin County Correctional Recruitment Event
Paychecks for Patriots Job Fair
8 <sup>th</sup> Annual City of Fort Pierce Job Fair
Martin County Board of County Commissioners Job Fair
Renaissance Charter School Job Fair
Indian River State College Job Fair
Walmart Distribution Recruitment Event
Second Chance Job Fair - Garden City Career Center
Second Chance Job Fair - Vero Career Center
Second Chance Job Fair - Martin County Career Center
Indian River County and Treasure Coast Technical College Job Fair
City of Sebastian Job Fair
City of Port St. Lucie Job Fair

# WIOA - Youth Connections



CSRC contracted with Eckerd Connects, through a sub-recipient agreement, to provide WIOA Youth Programming for In-School and Out-of-School youth.

The CSRC Youth Council meets quarterly to monitor the activities and quality of the WIOA Youth Program



**140**

Youths served by the Youth Connections team. Of those, 74 were new enrollments

**54**

Young adults were placed in work experience opportunities, with 43 completing the program successfully.

# Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Summer Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program



In 2023, CSRC partnered with local organizations, The Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County and END It! Corporation, to launch a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program targeting youth aged 13-19 in Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie Counties. Aligned with the TANF objective of curbing out-of-wedlock pregnancies, the program offered summer initiatives and support services. It also featured activities fostering cultural enrichment, experiential learning, financial literacy, work experience, and leadership development for students.



**140**

Youths served by the Youth Connections team. Of those, 74 were new enrollments

**54**

Young adults were placed in work experience opportunities, with 43 completing the program successfully.

# Apprenticeship Expansion

CareerSource Research Coast (CSRC) secured grant funding for an Apprenticeship Navigator dedicated to expanding and supporting Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs). The Navigator engages with local apprentices and employers, attending various events like job fairs, industry roundtables, and community meetings to promote apprenticeship opportunities. They also participate in educational initiatives, including school advisory board meetings and classroom engagement to encourage students to consider RAPs as a career path. The Apprenticeship Navigator is working closely with the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners to develop a new registered apprenticeship for Public Safety Telecommunicators, which is locally in high demand.



# Families Ascent to Economic Security (F.A.T.E.S)



The FATES project, a collaboration between CSRC, ELC of St. Lucie and Martin Counties, the Florida Children's Council, and the Children Services Councils, addresses the cliff effect faced by low-income families. Supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Department of Economic Opportunity, it focuses on affordable, high-quality childcare.

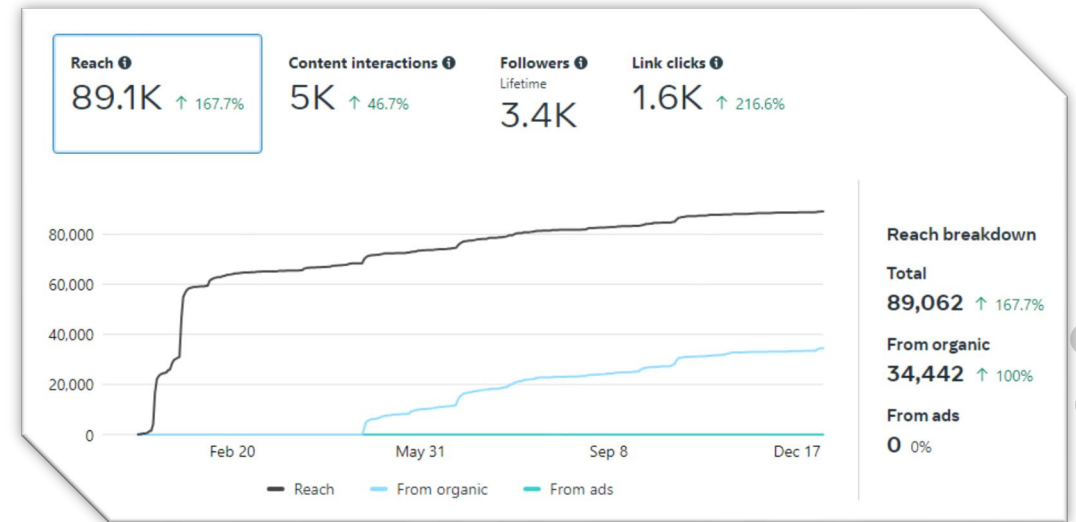
The project involves career readiness, sector strategies for wage progression, and a phase-out period to mitigate the abrupt termination of childcare benefits. CSRC offers comprehensive career counseling, skill development, and funding assistance for high-demand jobs. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta provides a customized career counseling tool. ELC implements a three-year graduated cost phase-out plan instead of automatic termination, promoting financial stability.

In the 2022-2023 Program Year, FATES served five individuals with \$14,322.12 in ITA expenditures.

# CareerSource Research Coast Broadcast



WPBF News 25 – Monthly Employment Report



Social Media Reach - Facebook



Weekly *Hot Jobs* with Rona

# 2022-23 Board of Directors



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