



HELP IS HERE:

*Support you need
when you need it*

Trying to predict exactly where we are vis-à-vis returning to normalcy is tricky indeed. Writing this column for July has to take place in May and we certainly know how much, and how fast, things can change in a short period of time when it comes to the coronavirus.

As this goes to print, CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion has been balancing support of the local economy and reopening of businesses with our continued efforts to maintain protocols for the health and safety of our customers and staff.

But who knows? Maybe by the time you read this, and we've celebrated the Fourth of July, we'll all enjoy our Independence from the need for social distancing, limited gatherings and wearing face coverings. One can hope.

However, because I cannot prognosticate, I will not attempt to do so. So, here's what I can tell you: Help is here.

Help is here with the launch of a new outreach initiative to:

- Connect job seekers and businesses to critical resources for local, personalized help
- Develop innovative solutions to generate job recovery/retention and business continuity, driving economic recovery
- Provide links to state and federal assistance programs for job seekers and businesses

You can access our new Help is here portal at <https://citruslevymarion.helpisherefl.com/> or via the Quick Link on our website careersourceclm.com.

Help is here in person with the reopening our Career Centers in Ocala, Lecanto and Chiefland. At least through the end of June, our centers are open by appointment only weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The

appointments help ensure staff can thoroughly clean and sanitize work stations before opening the centers, after each appointment and after closing. Other safety measures are in place and expected of customers, too.

The immediate focus of our fee-free in-person services is helping those who lost their jobs or have been furloughed due to COVID-19, but we're happy to work with any job seeker.

Appointments may be made by calling either our Marion County career center at 352-840-5700 or hotline at 800-434-JOBS or via Live Chat at careersourceclm.com.

But as I mentioned earlier, things can and do change with COVID-19, so for the latest information about hours of operation, in-person services and safety measures, please call us or visit our website.

Help is here in the form of virtual services for businesses and job candidates, too. Again, these services are also offered at no charge and are available online, by phone, email and Live Chat at careersourceclm.com.

Help is here with new tools on our website to help you from the comfort/safety of your home, including a Daily Jobs Report that provides information about all new career opportunities in our region posted in Employ Florida - there's also a weekly roundup, too.

We've added a new "Hiring Now" feature that lists businesses working with us in our region that are actively hiring. It may surprise you to know that there are four-five times as many businesses with immediate jobs to fill as there those holding off on hiring right now.

You'll also find Help is here in a series of on-demand employability workshops to help you navigate today's workplace, craft a targeted resume and crush your next job interview, whether that interview is in person or via Zoom.

And speaking of which, by the time you read this we hope to have interactive, video conferencing workshops available.

One aspect of this "new normal" is discovering how virtual services can provide customers added value and convenience. In June, we held a Virtual Job Fair on Zoom highlighting 10 regional businesses' job openings. While there is certainly much to be said of face-to-face, look-them-in-the-eye, smile and give-them-a-firm-handshake job fairs, who knows when, or if, we'll be able to return to that? So yes, Help is here as we leverage and embrace technology to help businesses meet their hiring needs and job seekers find new opportunities.

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Help is here

We connect local talent to the businesses that want to hire them. At no charge.

Call 800-434-JOBS or visit careersourceclm.com

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