

Section I-State Workforce Strategic Plan

Governor's Strategic Vision and Goals:

According to an analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Oklahoma Employment Security Commission unemployment data, Oklahoma has about 21,000 job openings across the state. Unemployment figures for the state show 107,000+ people out of work. This means that for every one job in Oklahoma, 5 people are competing for it. The national average is 4 to 1.

Further, the unemployment figure doesn't account for those who have given up looking for work or for those who are currently employed but looking for better opportunities and better wages. One in four working Oklahomans live in poverty.

Strategic Direction Guiding Investments in Workforce Preparation, Skill Development, and Education/Training

With this in mind, Governor Mary Fallin's strategic economic and workforce development vision focuses on job creation and skill attainment as crucial to addressing these issues of limited opportunity and underemployment. Oklahoma needs high-touch and high-tech, regional, and statewide systemic innovation to create jobs, to raise the education and skill levels of its citizens, and to connect employers with the workforce they need.

Governor Fallin has charged Oklahoma's workforce system to secure competitive funding, leverage resources, improve efficiency, cut costs, and commit to reinventing workforce delivery for our state's employers and to develop the framework in which radical change can occur.

State Plan Development Process:

All strategic planning documents of the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development (two of which are detailed and linked below), the industry sector and employer needs studies conducted over the years, and the economic data contained within the *Economic and Workforce Information Context and Analysis* section serve as the foundational pieces of data and the key documents used to compile Oklahoma's Strategic Five-Year Workforce Investment Plan.

The Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development serves as the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB). The Council meets every other month. The Council meeting agenda routinely includes time set aside for a "Council Roundtable," which is strategic in nature. The primary purpose of the Council has been to discuss workforce issues and related strategies for developing and implementing solutions to Oklahoma's workforce issues.

The information gained through this regular agenda item at Council meetings serves as a primary source of data and vision for developing strategic plans, including Oklahoma's Strategic Five-Year Workforce Investment Plan.