

Link to Annual Report on the Oklahoma Works web site:

<http://oklahomaworks.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PY15-WIA-Annual-Report-10-17-16.pdf>



# Workforce Investment Act Oklahoma's Annual Report

Program Year 2015  
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

## Executive Summary

In the State of Oklahoma, Program Year 2015 provided the opportunity to close out performance under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and transition the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development (OOWD) to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Closing out WIA and Program Year 2015, there were many changes both with the administrative entity as well as with the Governor's overarching workforce development vision for the State. Oklahoma collected data on a variety of initiatives in 2015, including military hiring events and rapid response layoff events. The results of those events yielded better understanding of the populations we serve and cost-effective approaches to align resources for maximum impact. Oklahoma also made great strides in implementing workforce programs to help improve the skills of our workforce in order for our citizens to find quality employment.

As the state transitioned to WIOA with performance and programs, Oklahoma turned its focus to career pathways for all and Registered Apprenticeship (RA) availability and access during Program Year 2015. Oklahoma is currently developing and implementing the state's RA strategy and partner and industry engagement activities to support RA as a viable path to career entry and career building. By aligning exposure to Career Pathways and Career Options, Oklahoma will be able to prioritize education and training resources to support placement into high demand occupations, and businesses will be able to provide the hands-on training to build the skilled workforce that businesses need to succeed.

Program Year 2015 will also be remembered as a year that brought together a variety of workforce partners in the form of regional planning under WIOA. More than one hundred workforce professionals gathered in the spring of 2015 to explore collaboration at a regional level as part of the new WIOA law. We hope the spirit of regionalism and collaboration evident at this planning is continued into Program Year 2016 and beyond.

Laid out in this report are an overview of changes to the administrative entity and grant recipient for WIA/WIOA funding, updates to the State's overarching workforce initiative, Oklahoma's performance and participation, programmatic activities for target populations which occurred during the program year, results of data collected from workforce events, success stories and opportunities identified for the new program year.