



State Fiscal Year 2016 Oklahoma Works At A Glance

Oklahoma Works is a statewide initiative connecting an unprecedented number of businesses, state agencies and educators. The coalition of partners aligns resources, education, training and job opportunities to build the state's workforce. The initiative aims to ensure all Oklahomans have the skills and education necessary to enter and advance in rewarding careers and Oklahoma businesses have the talented workforce they need to succeed.

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PLAN

In November 2015, Oklahoma began developing a state plan for Oklahoma Works. Representatives from the public and private sectors, including multiple state agencies, came together to identify and prioritize goals, strategies and milestones through 2019. Eight overarching metrics were established to track progress and success. The Strategic Delivery Plan was approved by Gov. Fallin and key state leaders in December 2015.

KEY ECONOMIC NETWORKS (KENS)

Oklahoma identified Key Economic Networks (KENS) based on labor market data on occupations and commuting patterns. Gov. Fallin appointed a business leader to represent each KEN region. These KEN Champions build local partnerships and spearhead efforts to align and connect education and industry to help meet regional workforce needs. In fall 2015, Oklahoma Works and the State Chamber of Oklahoma partnered with Gov. Fallin and the KEN Champions to host nine regional kick-off meetings. Input was gathered from partners and stakeholders about workforce needs, barriers and opportunities. That information informed the Oklahoma Works Strategic Delivery Plan goals and objectives. The KEN Champions continue to build networks of community leaders.

STATEWIDE ASSET MAP

State agency partners collaborated to create a statewide asset map to understand the current resources being used for workforce-related activities and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement in the system. The asset map includes all state and federal funding contributing to the state's workforce development activities. A "digital asset map," or searchable state-level resource tool, was then created to facilitate new conversations among state agencies around maximizing state and federal funds through increased efficiencies and new collaborations. The tool allows agencies to see current programs, request new partnerships, and explore the feasibility of the proposed collaboration. By the end of 2016, all 18 partner agencies will have entered into at least one new formalized partnership.



DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

Using workforce and economic development data to inform policy, track progress and measure success is integral to Oklahoma Works. Education and workforce partners began regularly meeting in 2015 to identify ways to improve information sharing leading to stronger, more aligned education and workforce systems. Dozens of metrics and benchmarks were established and included in data dashboards available through www.OKStateStat.ok.gov and www.OklahomaWorks.gov. Ongoing analysis of this information leads to data-driven decision making and promotes continuous improvement and accountability among partners.

NEW SKILLS FOR YOUTH

By leveraging the achievements and infrastructure of Oklahoma Works, the State Department of Education received a JPMorgan Chase New Skills for Youth planning grant to improve and expand career pathways in the state. The detailed career-readiness action plan compliments priorities outlined in the Oklahoma Works Strategic Delivery Plan and allows for additional capacity to carry out career pathways activities within the state.

STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS

Two statewide stakeholder surveys were completed; one targeted business and one was aimed at educators. These surveys gathered quantitative data on the employability skills needed now and in the future by business, existing relationships between industry and education, and opportunities for students to explore career options and participate in post-secondary opportunities in high school. These data will inform regional and statewide strategies.

What's Next for Oklahoma Works?

- Host Governor's STEM Summit to develop local strategies to enhance STEM education
- Establish a statewide Educational Attainment Goal
- Develop regional metrics for each KEN region to track progress and success
- Create a Regional Asset Map for each KEN region
- Leverage 'United We Ride' initiative to improve access to transportation services
- Establish key determinants and benchmarks for employability informed by business and industry

