



South Western Oklahoma Development Authority FACT SHEET

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WORKFORCE

SWODA's Workforce Division assists employers and job seekers in the eight-county SWODA region as part of the Workforce Development System. Multiple programs are available to best suit the employment needs of both the individual job seeker and business. This division administers employment programs provided for under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and Title V of the Older Americans Act.

SOUTHWEST WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB)

The SW WIB is the governing Board for the Workforce Investment Act funds managed through SWODA as fiscal agent. WIB staff are located at SWODA and serve the Board in the capacity of WIB Executive Director and WIB Monitor/Program Coordinator.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) replaced the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) in 1998. Programs offered under this Act include adult, dislocated workers, and youth programs.

Adult & Dislocated Worker Programs

The WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs are designed to increase the employment, retention and earnings of participants, and to increase occupational skills attainment of those participating in the services offered. As a result, the programs strive to improve the quality of the workforce, enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the workforce, and aid economic development in the area

Services are provided to businesses and job seekers at two integrated Workforce Centers in the SWODA area—The Clinton Workforce Center at 1120 Frisco and the Altus Workforce Center at 1115 N. Spurgeon.

Job seekers can access staff assisted services at these Centers by completing a short registration and skills assessment process in the Welcoming Unit of the Center. Further services are offered in the Skills Development Unit and the Employment Assistance Unit.

The Centers utilize KeyTrain© pre-assessments and curriculum to determine a job seeker's skill level and assist them with "upskilling" - or short term, prevocational training - when their skills levels are below that needed by local employers.

WorkKeys© assessments in Math, Reading and Locating Information are utilized by trained staff to assist job seekers with obtaining their Oklahoma Career Ready Certificate (CRC) and determine their readiness for Training Services offered through the WIA Title 1 program.

Adults or dislocated workers may be determined eligible to receive Training Services funded through the Workforce Investment Act.

Training Services include:

- Occupational skills training
- On the job training
- Training programs operated by the private sector
- Skills upgrading and retraining
- Entrepreneurial training
- Job readiness training
- Adult education and literacy activities provided in combination with the above described services
- Customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of training

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Youth Programs

The WIA Youth program helps eligible youth who seek assistance in achieving academic and future employment success through comprehensive, ongoing activities. After a thorough assessment of needs, barriers, abilities and educational and skills attainment levels, a service strategy is developed for each youth entering the program, and the participant is referred to a service provider that is responsible for ensuring ongoing mentoring of the youth participant by adults committed to providing such opportunities. The participant is provided other program elements which are determined to best suit the needs of the particular youth, and which can include:

- Opportunities for training
- Activities related to leadership development, decision-making, citizenship, and community service
- Paid and unpaid work experiences
- Occupational skill training
- Summer employment opportunities directly linked to academic and occupational learning
- Supportive services
- Follow up

The Youth program operates under the leadership of a youth council, whose members are chosen from organizations that serve youth in the SWODA area.

For summer 2009, the WIA Youth program will be operating a special Summer Youth Employment Opportunity with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Income eligible youth up to age 24 will be placed in work experiences with private or public employers to gain work readiness skills. ARRA funding should allow up to 50 youth to receive work experiences this summer

TITLE V

OLDER AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

This program provides subsidized, part-time employment opportunities for people over the age of 55. Since all worksites that agree to hire these individuals must be community service organizations, the program benefits both the employee and the community by providing income for the worker and filling a short-term need in the community. During the course of this employment, older workers receive training that can benefit them by making them job ready for unsubsidized employment at the end of their placement with the host agency.

Enrollees in this older adult employment program must be 55 years of age or older, meet established low-income guidelines, and be currently unemployed.