



## Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 • 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wichita Workforce Center – 2021 N Amidon, #1100

Zoom Option: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81882905527>

### 1. Welcome and Introductions: Scott Stiles (11:30)

### 2. 2026 – 2028 Strategic Planning: Keith Lawing (11:35) (p. 2)

*The strategic planning process is in the final stages and the draft strategic framework and next steps will be discussed.*

**Recommended Action:** *Take appropriate action.*

### 3. Leased Space Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Wichita Workforce Center: Chad Pettera (11:45) (p. 3)

*An update on the RFP for the Wichita Workforce Center leased space will be provided.*

**Recommended Action:** *Authorize the President/CEO to execute a lease with New Leaf Plaza pending Legal Review.*

### 4. Administrative Office Lease- Garvey Center: Chad Pettera (11:55) (p. 4)

*The Workforce Alliance (WA) plans to combine the administrative function currently located at the Garvey Center with the Wichita Workforce Center.*

**Recommended Action:** *Authorize the President/CEO to notify the Garvey Center of WA's Termination of Leased Space at 300 W Douglas in 2026 pending construction timelines.*

### 5. Youth Employment Project (YEP) 2026 Operations: Amanda Duncan (12:00)

*Staff will provide an update on YEP programming progress to date for 2026.*

**Recommended Action:** *Receive and file.*

### 6. 2025 Community Impact Projects: Keith Lawing (12:15)

- *One Workforce Grant (p. 5)*
- *Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant (pp. 6-8)*
- *Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP),*
- *EPA Brownfields Grant*
- *Community Talent Talks*

**Recommended Action:** *Take appropriate action.*

### 7. Consent Agenda: Keith Lawing (12:30)

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2025 (pp. 9-11)
- B. Workforce Center Operations Update / Operations & One-Stop Operator Report (pp. 12-19)
- C. Program Year 2025 Budget Update (p. 20)
- D. Communications, Fair Chance and Registered Apprenticeship Reports (pp. 21-29)

**Recommended Action:** *Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.*

### 8. Adjourn: Scott Stiles (12:45)

*The next WA Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.*

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*The Workforce Alliance is the Local Workforce Development Board for Local Area IV*

# WORKFORCE ALLIANCE OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS

## 2026 - 2028 *Strategic Plan*

Connecting people, purpose, and prosperity across South Central Kansas.

### CORE VALUES

COLLABORATION

ACCESS

### VISION

### MISSION

Growing the regional economy through a skilled workforce by connecting people, employers, and community partners.

A thriving regional economy where every employer has the talent they need, and every Kansan has access to meaningful, living-wage work.

## STRATEGIC PILLARS

### PERFORMANCE AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE



Exceed federal and state performance benchmarks by delivering high-quality, data-driven programs that improve employment outcomes.

- WIOA Title I and SCSEP performance
- Continuous improvement in one-stop operations
- Enhanced customer service and satisfaction

### YOUTH AND CAREER PATHWAYS



Equip young people with the skills, experiences, and networks to launch successful careers.

- Expand Youth Employment Project (YEP) / Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE)
- Increase Work-Based Learning (WBL) partnerships with employers
- Integrate career awareness for youth in education and community programs
- Prioritize engagement with foster care youth and disconnected young adults (16-24)

### SYSTEM ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT



Strengthen coordination among workforce, education, and community partners to avoid duplication of services and maximize local impact.

- Leverage One-Stop Operations into a multi-agency Community Economic Mobility Collaborative across workforce, economic development, and human service systems
- Strategic coordination on employment services for Veterans, Military Spouses, and Justice-Involved Individuals
- Develop shared data and accountability measures

### REVENUE GENERATION AND INNOVATION



Diversify and expand funding to sustain programs, pilot new approaches, and drive long-term organizational stability.

- Generate non-WIOA revenue streams through grants, contracts, and fee-for-service models to attract public, private and philanthropic investments
- Position priority populations, including Military Connected Individuals, At-Risk Youth and Justice-Involved Individuals, as catalysts for innovation and funding opportunities.
- Develop innovative, scalable workforce solutions for job seekers and employers
- Strengthen communications and brand visibility to attract new partners and investment

**Item**

Leased Space Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Wichita Workforce Center

**Background**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for leased space to house the Wichita Workforce Center. A taskforce of WA Board members and staff was appointed to review proposals and make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

**Analysis**

The RFP was issued on September 24, 2025, with a closing date of October 30, 2025. WA received five proposals. The RFP Review Taskforce convened multiple times and conducted tours of all proposed properties. Upon completion of the evaluation process, the proposals were ranked as follows:

<b>Address</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
2021 N Amidon	6030	1
238 N Mead	5480	2
4729 S Palisade	5370	3
260 N Rock Road	3240	4
1919 N Amidon	3430	5

The taskforce authorized staff to begin negotiations with the highest-ranked proposer to request updates and modifications to the facility.

All the proposers have been notified throughout the process, and were all given notice at the end of December that WA and the preferred vendor have reached an agreement.

Staff and the preferred vendor's representatives (New Leaf Plaza) have reached an agreement. New Leaf Plaza will complete all the requested changes to the space pending building code review by the City of Wichita/Sedgwick County. They proposed a rate increase of \$0.25 per square foot (psf) to the original proposal. The original cost proposal was \$14.98 psf, it would increase to \$15.23. The total square footage is 24,510. The lease would be for ten years and would cost \$373,287.30 annually, which would be shared by operating partners through the required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process. Operational expenses would be capped at \$6.00 psf annually, any operational costs over the \$6.00 cap would be WA and subleases responsibility. WA staff started the lease review with legal counsel and hope to have that completed soon.

**Recommended Action**

*Authorize the President/CEO to execute a lease with New Leaf Plaza pending Legal Review.*

**Item**

Administrative Office Lease- Garvey Center

**Background**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for leased space to house the Wichita Workforce Center with a goal of combining the administrative function with the Wichita Workforce Center.

**Analysis**

The Leased Space RFP for the Wichita Workforce Center is nearing completion. WA staff developed the RFP with the intent of consolidating the Administrative functions currently located at the Garvey Center (300 W. Douglas) into the Wichita Workforce Center. This consolidation is a cost-saving measure in response to projected reduced revenues in 2026–2027 and staffing reductions that have occurred over the past 12 months.

As part of the RFP process, the landlord for the Wichita Workforce Center has agreed to make modifications to the space, including the construction of additional offices and meeting areas, to accommodate Administrative staff relocating from the Garvey Center.

The Garvey Center lease includes provisions allowing for termination for convenience and funding reductions with sixty days notice. In fall 2025, WA staff notified Garvey Center representatives of our potential intent to vacate the space in 2026, contingent upon the outcome of the Leased Space RFP.

WA staff is requesting approval to formally provide notice to the Garvey Center of our intent to vacate the space once the new lease for the Wichita Workforce Center has been fully executed and construction at the Wichita Workforce Center has been completed.

**Recommended Action**

*Authorize the President/CEO to notify the Garvey Center of WA's Termination of Leased Space at 300 W Douglas in 2026 pending construction timelines.*

## One Workforce Grant: 2021 – 2025

### Quarterly Progress Report 11/15/25

The One Workforce Grant is a \$9.9 million project funded by the United States Department of Labor and led by the Workforce Alliance engaging local employers through sector partnerships to deploy innovative workforce solutions and equip workers with emerging technical skills to build a stronger pipeline for businesses in the IT and Advanced Manufacturing sectors.

One Workforce Grant: Performance Outcome Measures			
	Performance Outcomes	Targets	Actual Outcomes as of 9/30/2025
1	Total participants served (cumulative 4-year total)	900	1,225
2	Total participants enrolled in education/training activities (cumulative 4-year total)	900	1,108
3	Total participants who complete education/training activities (cumulative 4-year total)	675	976
4	Total participants who complete education/training activities and receive a degree, or other typed of credential	506	805
5	Total number of unemployed and underemployed participants who complete education/training activities and obtain employment	380	396
6	Total number of IWT participants who complete training activities and advance into a new position	168	242
WIOA Primary Indicators of Performance			
	Measure	Rate (Total 4-year period)	Actual Outcomes as of 6/30/2025
1	Employment Rate – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter After Exit	72%	92.6%
2	Employment Rate – 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter After Exit	70%	90.0%

# Kansas Restorative and Opportunity Network (KRON)

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## Executive Summary

The Returning Citizen Consortium presents the Kansas Restorative and Opportunity Network, a five-year, \$20 million initiative that transforms how our state supports justice-involved individuals returning to Kansas communities. This groundbreaking public-private partnership addresses two urgent challenges simultaneously: critical workforce shortages across multiple industries and the release of approximately 3,500 individuals from state correctional facilities each year without adequate support to succeed. Current recidivism rates of nearly 30% cost Kansas taxpayers over \$44 million annually in reincarceration expenses alone.

KRON brings together the Kansas Department of Corrections, business leaders, workforce development boards, community organizations, and educational institutions in a coordinated effort that leverages collective expertise and resources. Through three transformative innovations, KRON creates pathways to economic self-sufficiency and community belonging for returning citizens while providing Kansas employers with access to trained, motivated talent.

## Three Transformative Innovations

**Mind-Life-Work Ready Credential:** This comprehensive credentialing system establishes clear, measurable standards across three essential dimensions. Mind Ready focuses on emotional resilience and trauma recovery through the evidence-based Remarkably Resilient Together curriculum delivered across all Kansas Department of Corrections facilities. Life Ready ensures stability in housing, transportation, financial management, and family reconnection. Work Ready prepares individuals for employment success through skill development, technical training, and industry-recognized certifications. Participants begin working toward this credential up to 18 months before release and continue through 18 months after returning to the community. Individuals working through the credentialing process are supported by case managers, peer mentors with lived experience, and sophisticated technology platforms that track progress and provide personalized guidance.

**Employer Certification:** This innovation supports and recognizes Kansas businesses that have created workplaces where credentialed justice-involved individuals can thrive. Employers become RCC-Certified through demonstrating fair-chance hiring policies, structured onboarding and mentorship programs, flexible scheduling for reentry requirements, and clear advancement pathways, in addition to familiarity with the Kansas correctional system and challenges faced by returning citizens. Comprehensive employer training will be delivered at executive leadership, human resources, and front-line supervisor levels to equip companies with practical tools for implementation. Certified employers benefit from financial incentives, access to a qualified talent pipeline, and public recognition. The RCC partners with the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and regional chambers to position second-chance employment within mainstream business strategy rather than as a niche social responsibility initiative.

**Transition Support System:** This coordinated network ensures credentialed returning citizens have access to immediate resources needed for successful community reintegration including housing, healthcare, and transportation before work begins. Supports would also include interview clothing, work equipment, and urgent food assistance. Once employment begins, a dedicated employment transportation fund covers the critical first month of work before participants receive paychecks. This system coordinates pre-release housing planning, develops a network of fair-chance housing

providers, ensures healthcare continuity through pre-release Medicaid enrollment, and creates transportation solutions particularly vital in rural areas with limited public transit. The comprehensive approach addresses the reality that credential attainment and employer readiness are insufficient if participants lack basic resources to show up for work.

### **Implementation Timeline and Reach**

KRON follows a carefully designed phasing plan that prioritizes learning and quality over rapid expansion. Year 1 establishes governance structures, finalizes credential and certification standards, and builds technology infrastructure including a custom Data Portal. Years 1-2 include pilot implementation in Lansing, Topeka and El Dorado correctional facilities. In Years 2-3, RCC will conduct rigorous evaluation and system refinement based on evidence. By the end of Year 4, RCC will scale all innovations statewide, expanding ultimately from the 3 initial facilities to all 8 Kansas Department of Corrections adult facilities. Year 5 achieves full statewide implementation while planning for long-term sustainability and next-generation innovation.

By Year 5, KRON programming will serve approximately half of all individuals releasing from Kansas correctional facilities annually, with a goal of 80% of participants achieving a Mind-Life-Work Ready credential, thus creating a predictable pipeline of qualified candidates for Kansas employers. Employer certification will expand from ten early adopters in Year 2 to 150 certified employers statewide by Year 5, spanning diverse industries and geographic regions.

### **Measurable Impact**

For justice-involved individuals, KRON creates clear pathways to economic mobility through quality employment, stable housing, and supportive community connections. Participants develop demonstrable competencies that employers recognize and value, transitioning from uncertainty and fragmentation to confidence and comprehensive support. For employers, KRON addresses persistent talent shortages by providing access to a skilled, stable workforce supported through the challenges of reintegration. Certified employers benefit from reduced turnover, enhanced productivity, positive community reputation, and financial incentives including the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Kansas apprenticeship tax credits.

For Kansas communities, KRON generates cost savings through reduced recidivism and incarceration expenses, increased tax revenue from employed returning citizens, and enhanced public safety. The initiative documents return on investment through comprehensive data collection and analysis, building the evidence base for continued public and private investment in successful reentry.

### **A Model for the Nation**

KRON represents more than a collection of programs. It is a fundamental redesign of how our state supports successful transitions from incarceration to community, breaking cycles that have persisted for generations. Through networked governance that ensures diverse stakeholder representation, sophisticated data infrastructure that enables continuous improvement, and unwavering commitment to centering the voices of those with lived experience, KRON creates lasting systems change.

The vision is ambitious but achievable with dedicated partnership, adequate resources, and unwavering focus on the human potential waiting to be unlocked when we invest in second chances and create systems worthy of people's courage to change. Kansas has the opportunity to demonstrate national leadership in criminal justice reform while strengthening our economy and communities. KRON invites employers, community partners, and civic leaders to join this transformative effort.

### **RCC Members**

- Workforce Partnership (Administrative Lead)
- Kansas Department of Corrections
- Kansas City Kansas Community College
- Kansas Chamber of Commerce
- Reaching Out From Within
- Renaissance Community and Public Relations
- Structured Support
- P2P
- Starting Early
- Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
- Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Goodwill Industries of Kansas
- The Strategic Organization



**Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
December 10, 2025 – 11:30 AM

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met on December 10, 2025 at the Wichita Workforce Center and virtually via Zoom. Board Chair Alana McNary welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

**2. 2026 – 2028 Strategic Planning**

Keith Lawing reviewed a draft WA strategic framework, which includes proposed WA mission and vision statements. The existing strategic plan with the current mission and vision statements were available for comparison. The draft reflects the discussion from the planning sessions and identifies goals for the organization, recognizes resource constraints that need to be addressed, and working with partners to decrease duplication of services, leverage and align services where possible and improve awareness of what the WA and other organizations do.

Staff suggested scheduling a virtual meeting before the January 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting and invite all of the attendees from the five strategic planning sessions to review the draft framework and provide feedback. Committee members were in agreement about scheduling this meeting. The final draft of the framework will be presented to the board in January for adoption.

Luis Rodriguez suggested that for the board meeting that the framework be accompanied with a high-level organizational chart to show how the plan would be implemented and who is responsible for different aspects in order to provide perspective for board members.

*Report was received and filed.*

**3. Workforce Center Lease Request For Proposal (RFP) Update**

Chad Pettera provided an update on the RFP for the Wichita Workforce Center leased space. The task force has scored proposals and staff were directed to work with the current landlord on a revised proposal based on changes needed to the facility. Staff are waiting on the revised proposal, which include adding security upgrades and accommodating the move of staff from administrative offices downtown to the Workforce Center. Contractors have been consulted and staff are waiting to see if the proposed changes are doable and if they will affect lease costs. There is a second location under consideration and depending on what the current landlord proposes, that option may be looked at further. Staff hope to have a decision in the coming weeks.

*Report was received and filed.*

**4. LevelUp Kansas**

Denise Houston provided an update on the WA partnership with LevelUp Kansas (LUK) that began in 2024. LUK automated their referral process and received 392 referrals in 2025, though numbers have decreased since August. Staff then follow up with those customers about WA services. LUK has had leadership changes. At their annual meeting, the Chamber reported that LUK has served 15,000 people. Through the LUK partnership, customers who have immediate employment needs are referred to the Workforce Center. The Committee would like to have more data regarding LUK and the Kansas Promise Scholarship.

*Staff will reach out to education partners and the Kansas Board of Regents to obtain their perspective on LUK's impact on Kansas Promise Scholarship enrollments and contact the Chamber to obtain more detailed LUK data.*



## 5. Youth Employment Project (YEP) 2026 Planning

Amanda Duncan provide an update on YEP progress to date. 2026 goals and a comparison data to the last couple of years was presented. The goals were reviewed by the Youth Employment Committee at their meeting in October.

A joint regional career exploration and job fair is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at Century II. 40 area high schools are invited to bring seniors to the event to talk to employers about jobs and sophomores to meet with employers to explore career options. Employers will be from different industry sectors that align with the State of Kansas' 16 career pathway areas. Registration is open for this event as well as the summer internship interview day, which is scheduled for February 7, 2026. More employers are needed to participate in both events.

The WA in partnership with the City of Caldwell, have submitted a grant application for a three-week summer program for youth in Sumner County, funded with State Community Development Block Grant dollars. This is the first application for a youth employment program with these funds and there is a potential for similar projects in the future in other communities and for the WA to generate revenue by becoming a certified grant administrator.

It has been a challenge to get more employers to offer structured high school internships. Staff discussed expanding the current YEP model by pilot testing a new model in 2026, focusing on soft skills development along with some hands-on experience. Staff are working with Wichita Public Schools on the possibility of using Future Ready Centers to provide students with both technical training and real-world business scenarios, with input from industry professionals. The pilot program would begin with one employment sector. Staff have a goal to develop a plan by February 1st, while being careful not to disrupt the success of the current YEP model. Cheryl Childers and Luis Rodriguez spoke to the need to better engage today's youth with hands-on experiences and explored the idea of incorporating gamification, financial incentives and opportunities for entry to employment upon completion of the program. Staff plan to contact Mayor Wu to provide outreach to the community to increase employer participation in YEP.

## 6. 2025 Community Impact Projects

- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant – The grant proposal has been submitted and if awarded, result in \$20 million dollars over five years beginning in July 2026 to assist justice-involved individuals in the Wichita and Kansas City area gain employment and provide services to address barriers to employment such as transportation. The WA would receive \$2.6 million from the grant for staff and operational expenses. A curriculum will be created for an employer certification for businesses to be certified to hire from this population. There is an emphasis on pre-release work in order to decrease recidivism. A one-page summary of the RCC grant is being created and will be provided to the Committee when completed.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) – Referrals are being received for the program. has been accepting applicants since September 2nd and received two referrals so far and staff are increasing outreach to agencies that serve veterans to increase awareness of the program.
- EPA Brownfields Grant – This training program for careers in environmental related careers got a slow start due to the Federal Government shutdown, but staff are now working to contract training providers. Currently, 53 referrals have been received for the program and individuals are being prepared to enter into training. A Request for Proposals is out for outreach services to increase awareness of the program.
- One Workforce Grant – This grant to provide training in manufacturing and technology careers is nearing completion in January and has been highly successful; staff are working on a sustainability plan. Staff will host a luncheon on January 21<sup>st</sup> and invite grant partners and employers to share outcomes and gather feedback. A final report will be provided early next year.



- Community Talent Talks – These events are designed to improve communication and engagement between the WA, regional employers and community partners on employment and skills training priorities. Events have been held in Cowley and Sumner counties and one was held in Butler County on November 18th in partnership with Butler Community College and El Dorado, Inc. Staff will be meeting with Butler Community College staff in early January for follow-up on this event. There is potential collaboration with Butler for an AI-focused initiative.
- Child Care - In partnership with Child Start, the WA will host a childcare coalition meeting next week to discuss solutions to child care issues including a tri-share model, tax credit revisions, and promoting businesses that offer childcare benefits. Registration for the event and an employer survey that will be discussed at the event were sent to board members and stakeholders.

*Report was received and filed.*

## 7. Consent Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes for November 12, 2025, Workforce Center operations and One-Stop operator update, Program Year 2025 budget update, WA Communications and Registered Apprenticeship program updates and a new WA human resources policy for providing staff to sell back paid time-off under certain circumstances were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Staff are currently working with Goodwill to interview for the vacant one-stop operator position and have an individual they plan to make an offer to and possibly start after the first of the year.

*Kathy Jewett (Cheryl Childers) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.*

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

### Attendees:

#### LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn  
Cheryl Childers  
Kathy Jewett  
Pat Jonas via Zoom  
Alana McNary, Chair  
Tony Naylor  
Luis Rodriguez

#### Staff/Guests

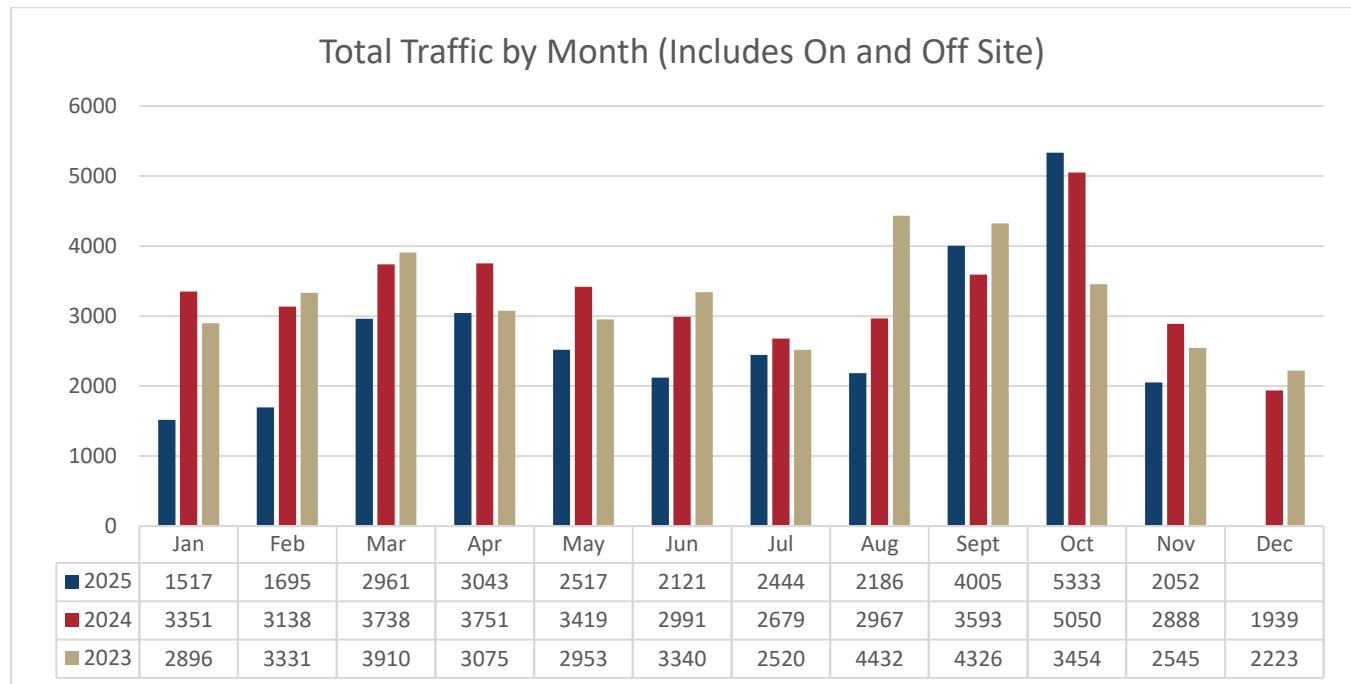
Marcy Aycock  
Amanda Duncan  
Denise Houston  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
Mary Mann  
Chad Pettera  
Erica Ramos, KS Dept. of Commerce

**Item**

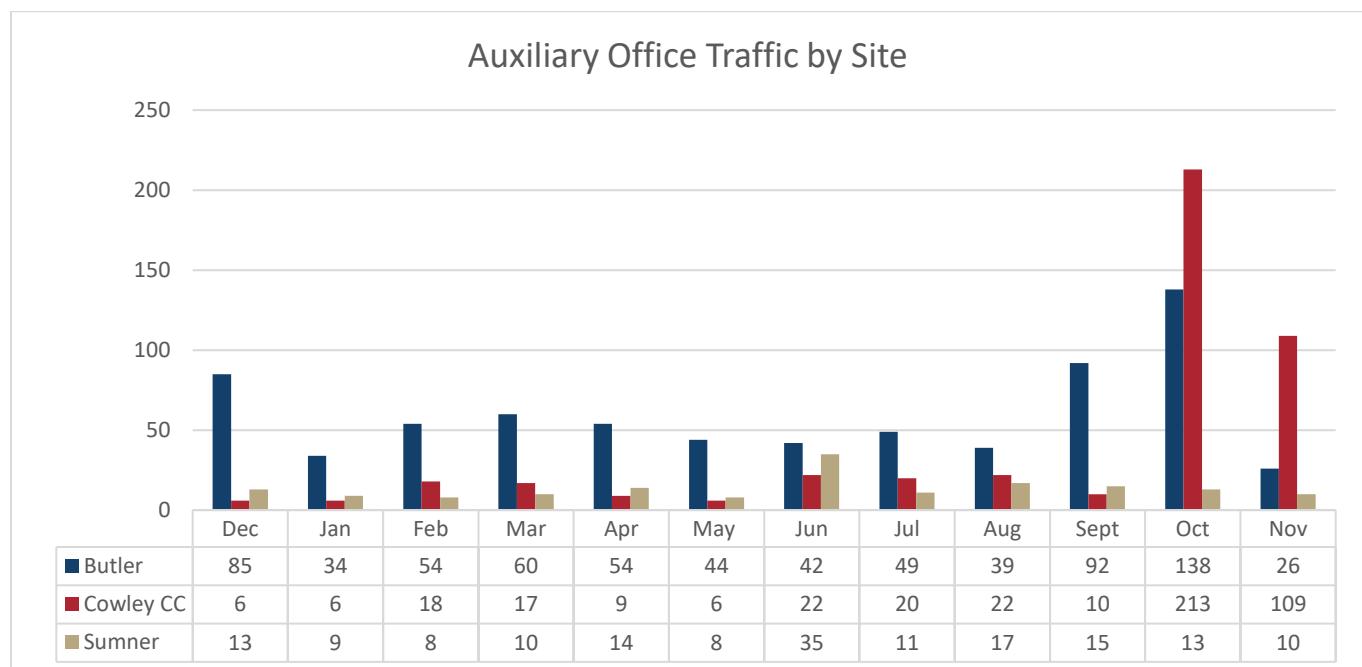
## Workforce Centers Operations November Update

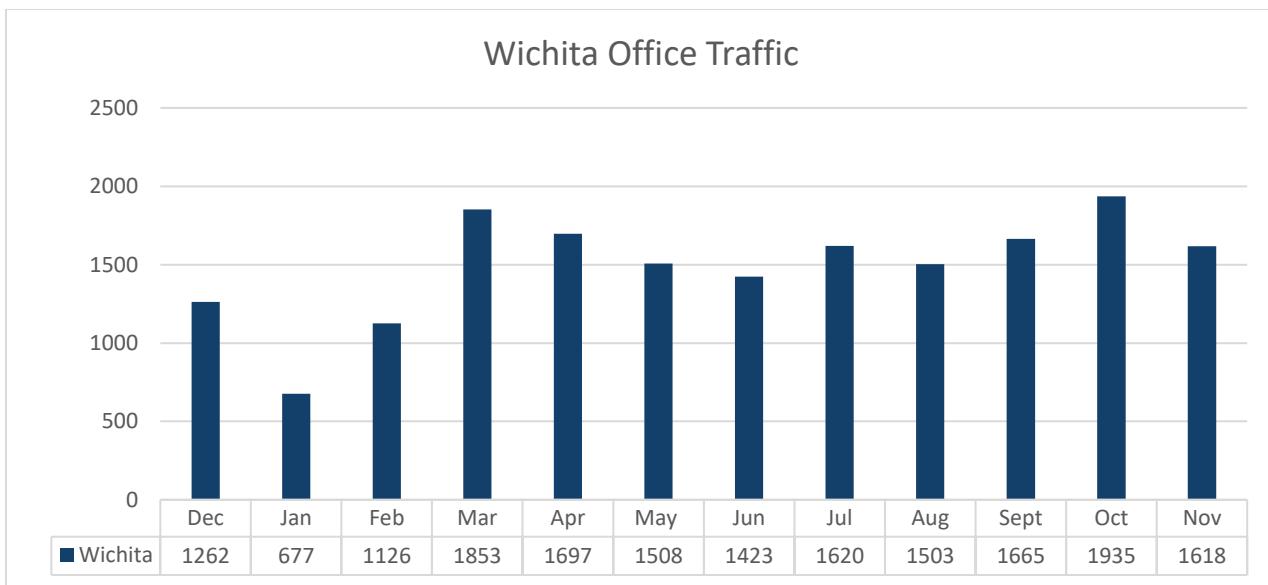
**Job Seeker Traffic**

The bar graph below provides a visual representation of job seeker traffic through November of 2025. Overall, job seeker engagement at all four centers is steady.



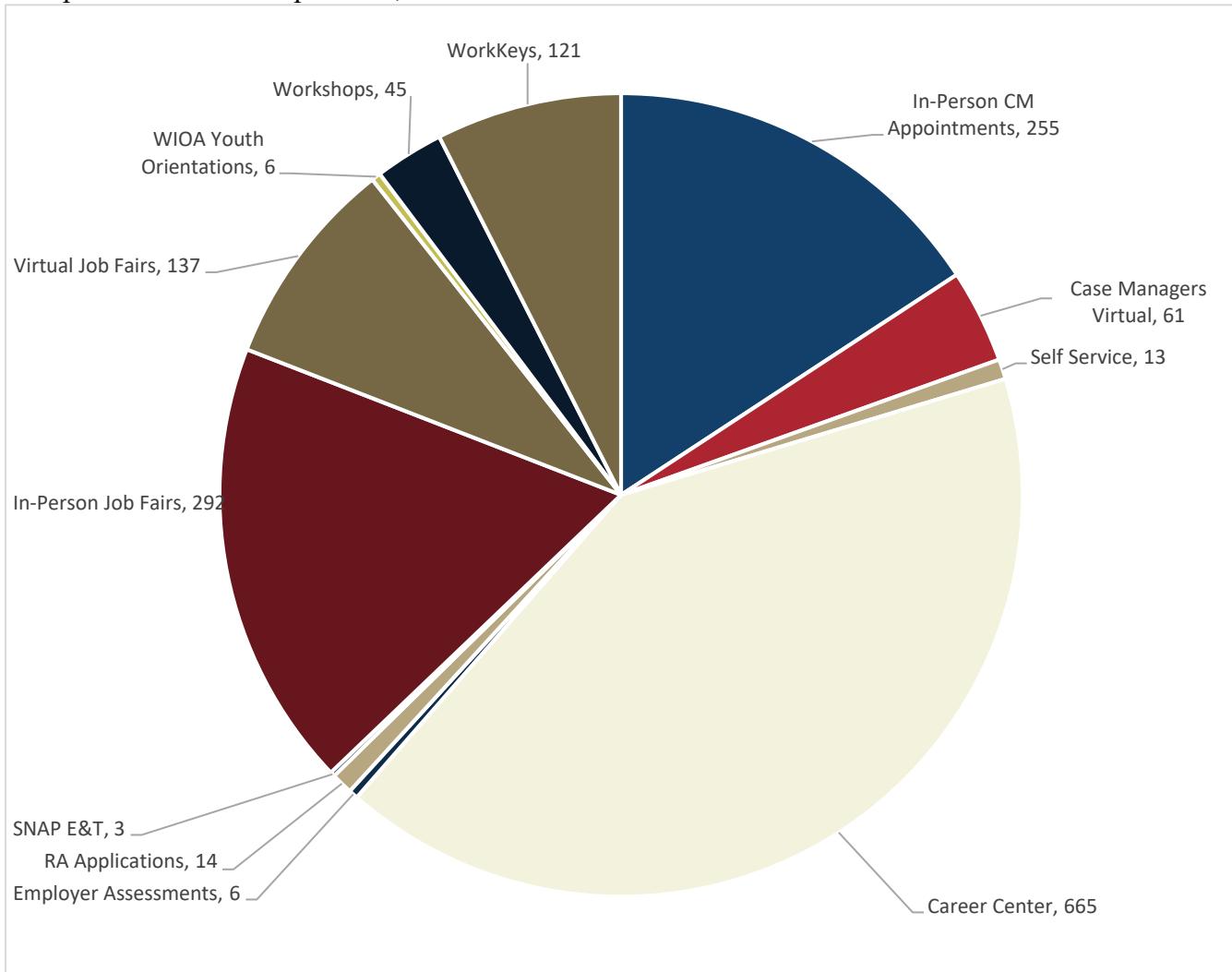
This bar graph offers a breakdown of the job seeker traffic by Auxiliary Offices in Butler, Sumner, and Cowley counties.



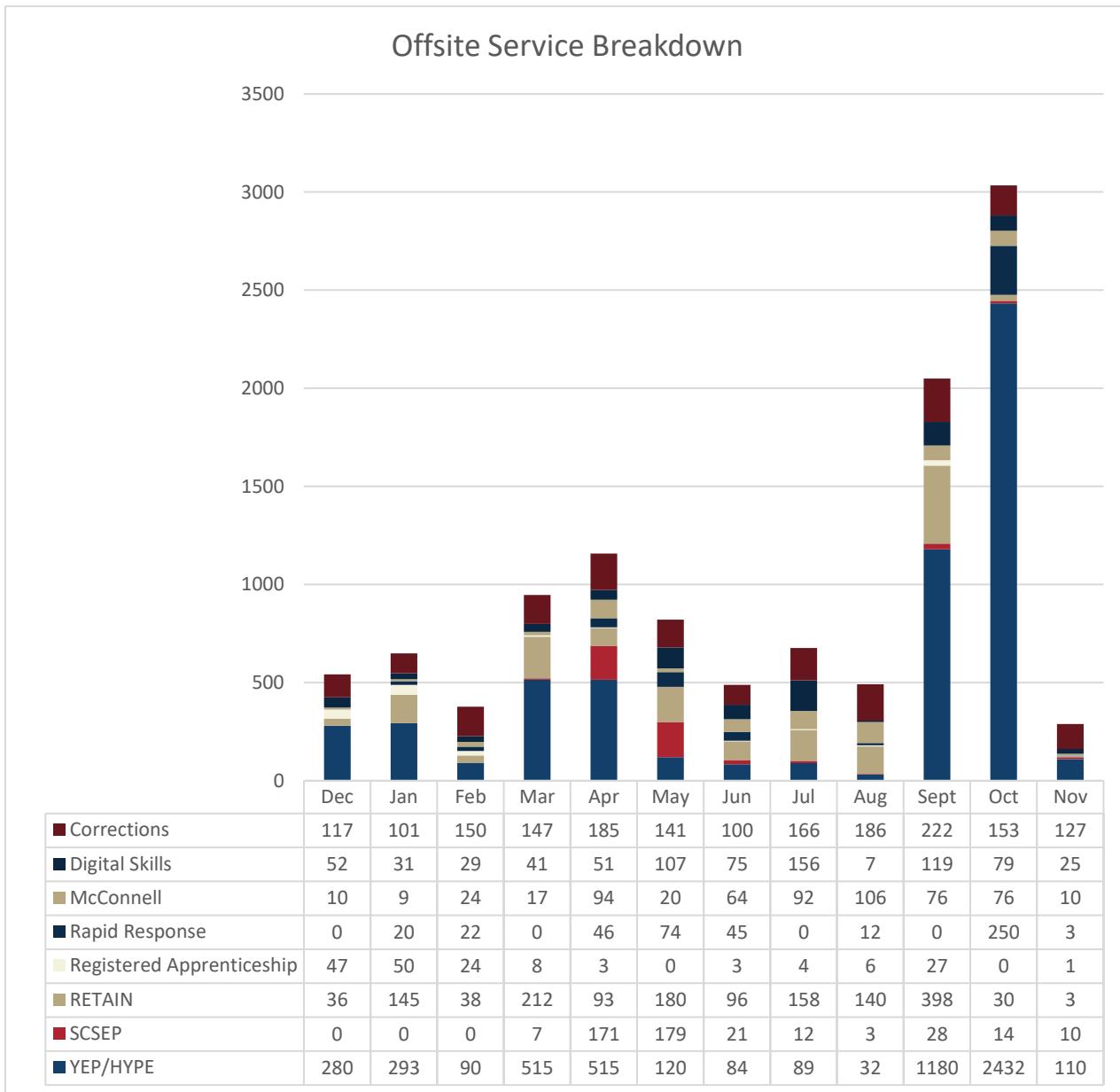


### Job Seeker Services

This pie chart offers a breakdown of the comprehensive job seeker services provided by the Comprehensive One Stop Center, the Wichita Workforce Center.



This graph offers a breakdown of the comprehensive offsite services provided.

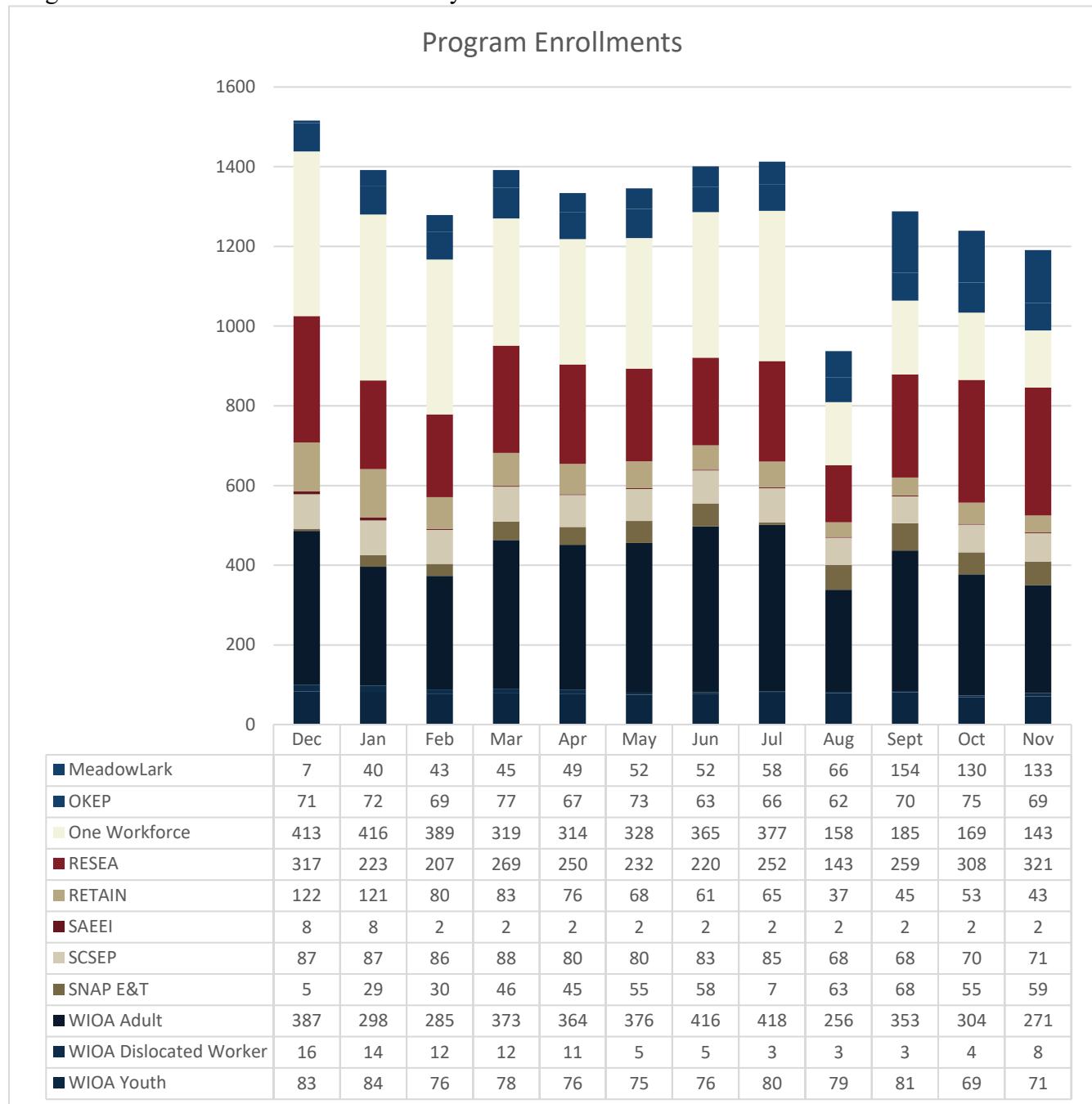


Throughout the last year, the Career Services staff has maintained a vital role in delivering comprehensive support to job seekers. Their unwavering commitment extends to helping job seekers craft effective resumes, conduct mock interviews, navigate job searches, address barriers to employment, and promptly respond to inquiries related to unemployment insurance.

In addition to conducting one-on-one appointments, the dedicated workforce center staff actively engages with customers through various avenues. This proactive approach encompasses returning calls from individuals receiving unemployment benefits, orchestrating group activities both within and beyond the Workforce Center premises, and providing timely responses to inquiries via the KansasWorks chat platform. This diversified approach underlines the center's dedication to delivering comprehensive and easily accessible support to job seekers.

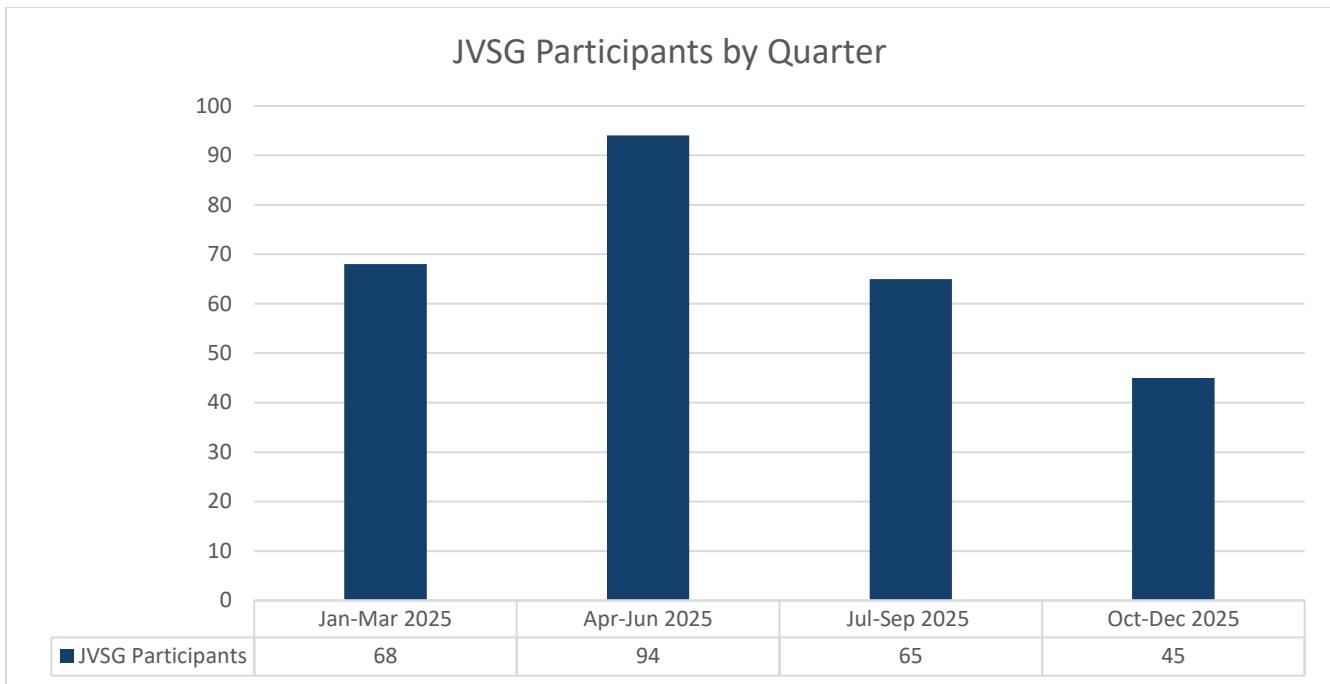
## Program Enrollments

Program enrollments have remained steady.



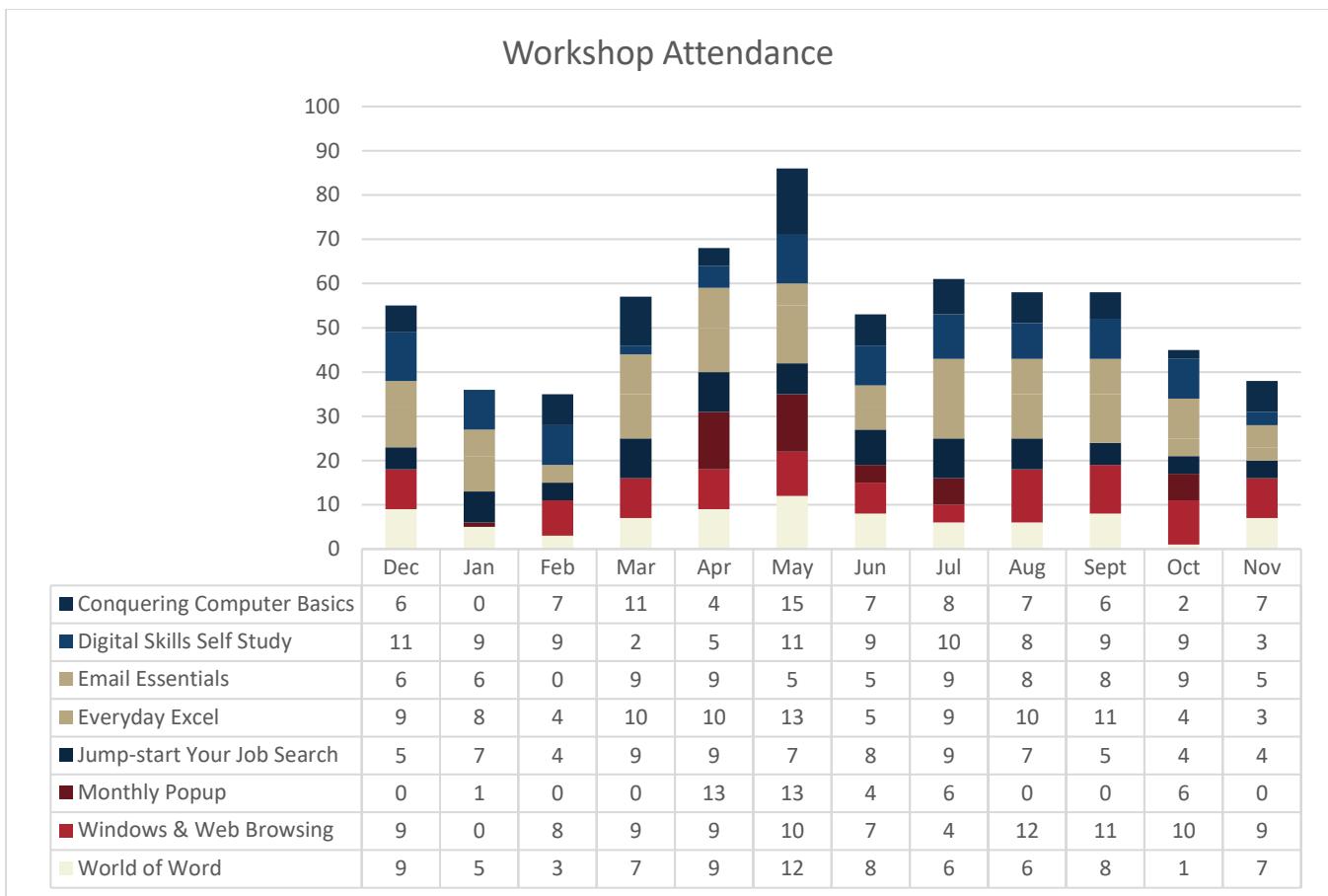
### Program Enrollment Glossary

- MeadowLARK= Leading Apprenticeship Results in Kansas
- OKEP=Older Kansans Employment Program
- RESEA= Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment
- RETAIN=Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network
- SAEII= State Apprenticeship Equity, Expansion, and Innovation
- SCSEP= Senior Community Service Employment Program
- SNAP E&T= Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training
- WIOA= Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act



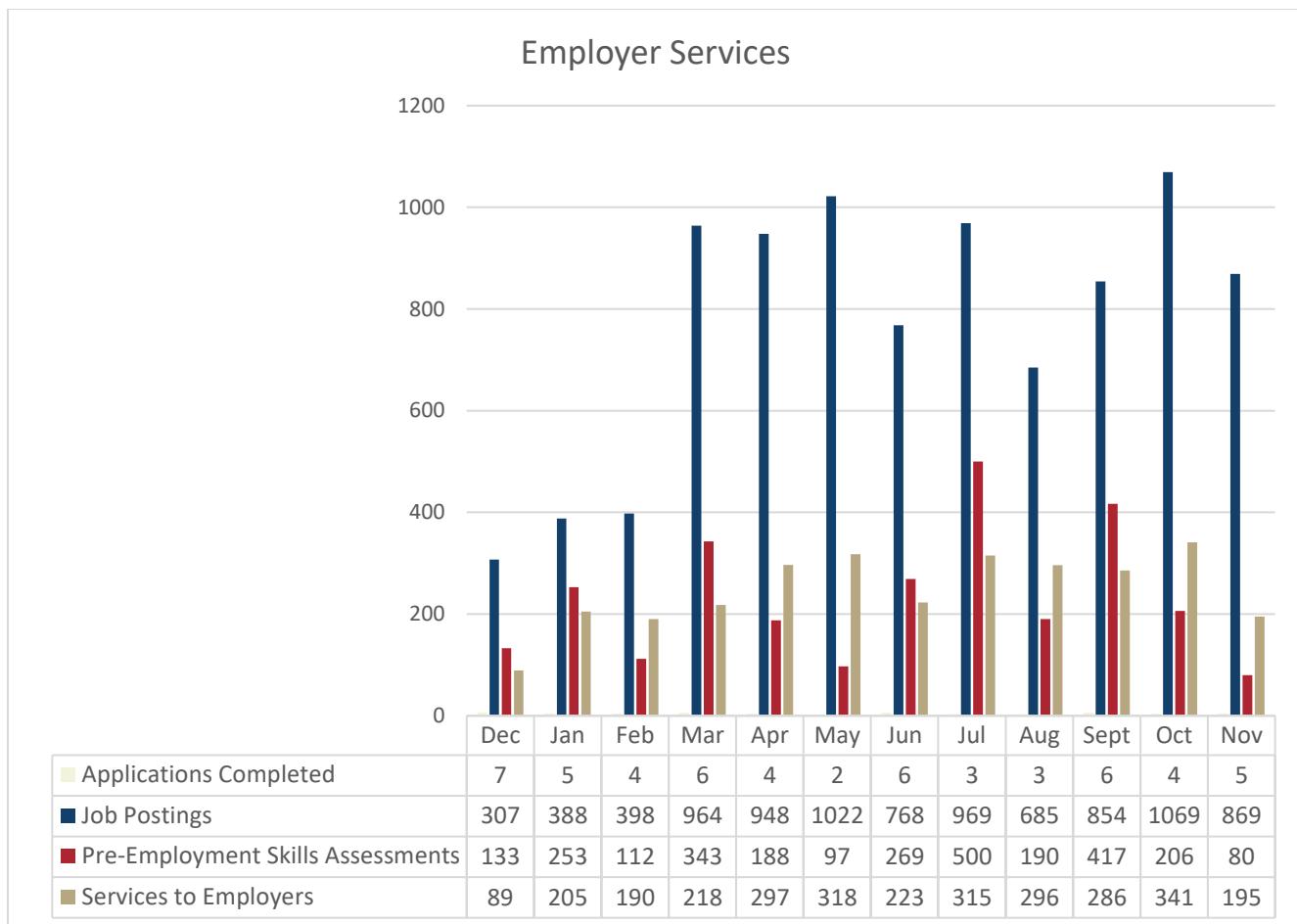
### **Community Outreach & Workshops**

In November, WA staff continued strengthening digital readiness across the region through 11 in-person workshops and training sessions serving 56 participants. An additional 25 individuals advanced their skills through online training, and 117 assessments were completed to help job seekers identify their digital competency needs. Staff served a total of 90 individuals through training and outreach, including 11 referrals from partner organizations that helped extend digital skill reach in the community. These efforts continue to build digital confidence and expand access to employment pathways.



### Employer Services Overview

November saw a decrease of 18.7% in job postings compared to October. There were 869 total job postings across the 6-county radius for November. On a statewide level, there were 33,896 active positions available for job seekers to browse. Additionally, the system recorded a pool of 11,840 resumes for employers to consider during their recruitment efforts.

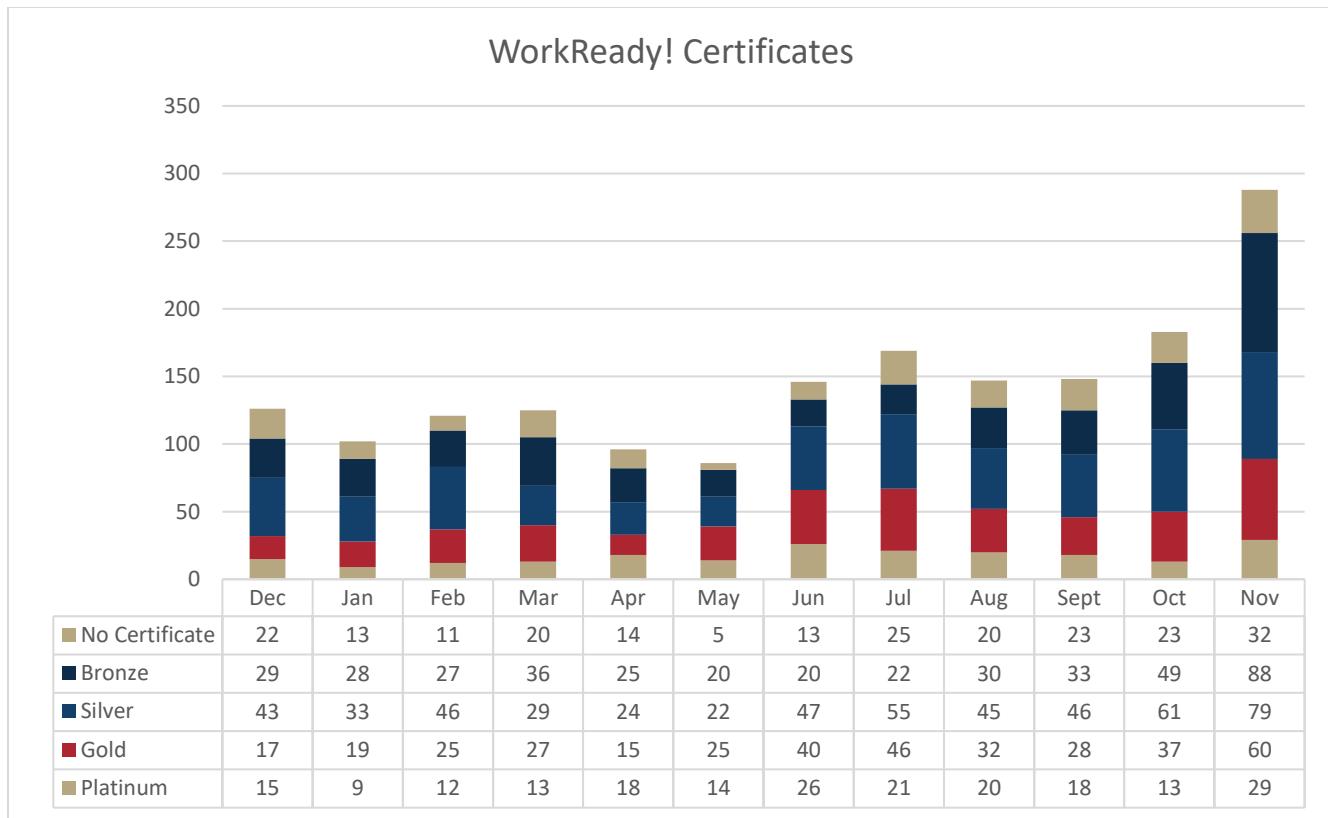


### Job Fairs

In November, the Workforce Centers hosted the annual Get Hired Job Fair on November 20, 2025 at the Advanced Learning Library. This event engaged a total of 271 candidates with representatives from 22 diverse companies. Employer partners included AAR Component Services, BG Products Inc, City of Wichita, Cox Machine, Etezazi Industries Inc, Fagron Sterile Services, First Student, Heartspring, HM Dunn Aerosystems Inc, Home Instead, Impact Home Health, KETCH, MOSAIC, Prairie View Inc, Sedgwick County Community Corrections, Sedgwick County Human Resources, Spirit Aerosystems, Starkey Inc, Vermillion Incorporated, Western Industries Plastic Products, WSU Tech, and XLT Ovens.

### Kansas WorkReady! Assessment - ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

The Workforce Center has maintained a steady pool of applicants ready to take the WorkKeys Assessment. A total of 20 sessions were offered during the month of November, with 379 job seekers scheduled to complete. The area saw an increase in attendance rate, sitting at 76%, with it being at 73.8% in the previous month. A total of 288 participants completed the assessment, and an 88.9% award rate was documented.



### **Recommended Action**

*Receive and File.*

## Workforce Alliance Consolidated Budget PY25

July 2025 - June 2026

WIOA						Community Impact Funds				Consolidated				
Category	Budget	Expenditures	YTD	% Budget	Remaining	Budget	Expenditures	YTD	% Budget	Remaining	Budget	Expenditures	YTD	% Budget
	Nov	Expenditures	Expenditures	Remaining		Nov	Expenditures	Expenditures	Remaining		Nov	Expenditures	Expenditures	Remaining
Wages	\$ 1,675,282	\$ 91,351	\$ 516,015	69%		\$ 1,149,341	\$ 121,771	\$ 554,081	52%		\$ 2,824,623	\$ 213,122	\$ 1,070,096	62%
Fringe	\$ 412,880	\$ 23,923	\$ 130,173	68%		\$ 282,472	\$ 24,632	\$ 121,180	57%		\$ 695,352	\$ 48,555	\$ 251,353	64%
Facilities	\$ 262,996	\$ 32,529	\$ 214,450	18%		\$ 141,360	\$ 10,398	\$ 48,850	65%		\$ 404,356	\$ 42,927	\$ 263,300	35%
Contract/Pro Fees	\$ 58,685	\$ 3	\$ 27,593	53%		\$ 31,063	\$ 6,328	\$ 14,096	55%		\$ 89,748	\$ 6,331	\$ 41,689	54%
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 28,049	\$ 7,883	\$ 10,893	61%		\$ 22,325	\$ 5,573	\$ 7,873	65%		\$ 50,374	\$ 13,456	\$ 18,766	63%
IT	\$ 88,800	\$ 4,482	\$ 13,118	85%		\$ 67,290	\$ 5,851	\$ 25,140	63%		\$ 156,090	\$ 10,333	\$ 38,258	75%
Outreach/Cap Building	\$ 31,120	\$ 845	\$ 10,361	67%		\$ 78,010	\$ 4,836	\$ 51,264	34%		\$ 109,130	\$ 5,681	\$ 61,625	44%
Travel/Conferences	\$ 44,568	\$ 643	\$ 12,005	73%		\$ 35,860	\$ 3,392	\$ 20,804	42%		\$ 80,428	\$ 4,035	\$ 32,809	59%
Grants Awarded	\$ 185,000	\$ 225	\$ 20,170	89%		\$ 75,000	\$ 53,620	\$ 67,011	11%		\$ 260,000	\$ 53,845	\$ 87,181	66%
Staff Development	\$ 7,890	\$ 711	\$ 791	90%		\$ 12,050	\$ 531	\$ 571	95%		\$ 19,940	\$ 1,242	\$ 1,362	93%
Indirect	\$ 302,184	\$ 6,628	\$ 62,812	79%		\$ 172,997	\$ 1,325	\$ 8,517	95%		\$ 475,181	\$ 7,953	\$ 71,329	85%
Misc/Dep/Int	\$ -			0%		\$ 27,000	\$ -	\$ 5,330	80%		\$ 27,000	\$ -	\$ 5,330	80%
Work Experience	\$ 862,749	\$ 52,258	\$ 254,328	71%		\$ 325,000	\$ 35,297	\$ 64,851	80%		\$ 1,187,749	\$ 87,555	\$ 319,179	73%
On The Job Training	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 765,250	\$ 14,088	\$ 120,244	84%		\$ 765,250	\$ 14,088	\$ 120,244	84%
Incentives	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 100	95%		\$ 74,000	\$ 1,025	\$ 19,950	73%		\$ 76,000	\$ 1,025	\$ 20,050	74%
Occupational Training	\$ 186,201	\$ 600	\$ 10,962	94%		\$ 780,000	\$ 114,251	\$ 364,020	53%		\$ 966,201	\$ 114,851	\$ 374,982	61%
Supportive Services	\$ 139,704	\$ 14,841	\$ 33,189	76%		\$ 379,200	\$ 14,583	\$ 37,500	90%		\$ 518,904	\$ 29,424	\$ 70,689	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,288,108</b>	<b>\$ 236,922</b>	<b>\$ 1,316,960</b>	<b>69%</b>		<b>\$ 4,418,218</b>	<b>\$ 417,501</b>	<b>\$ 1,531,282</b>	<b>65%</b>		<b>\$ 8,706,326</b>	<b>\$ 654,423</b>	<b>\$ 2,848,242</b>	<b>67%</b>

### Analysis

Budget: The PY25 budget with expenditures from July through November 2025. The budget includes a breakdown between WIOA (LWDB budget) and non-WIOA Funding (Community Impact Funds) and combined totals. Direct client spending so far this fiscal year is 32% of expenditures or \$905,144.

The PY25 budget allocates 40% on direct client spending including classroom training, work experience, on-the-job training and supportive services. There are accruals for participant training that are still being processed, showing a negative expenditure in July, those will clear as those accruals are processed. The budget has 67% remaining to date.

### Recommended Action

Receive and file.



### ***Communications Report***

As of 1/5/26

#### **December 2025 Feature Stories**

[Newstalk: Coalition of the Willing Employer Action Session](#)

<b>December 2025 Job of the Day</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Employer</b>
12/1/2025	Senior Staff Accountant - Closely Held Business	AdamsBrown, LLC
12/2/2025	Mortgage Lender	Quantum Credit Union
12/3/2025	Accounts Payable Supervisor - Finance	Sedgwick County
12/4/2025	Accounts Payable Coordinator - EDI	Envision, Inc.
12/5/2025	Principal Budget Analyst - Operating Budget Coordinator	City of Wichita
12/8/2025	3 Axis CNC Machine operator	Cox Machine, Inc.
12/9/2025	Fuel Inspector	Kansas Department of Agriculture
12/10/2025	FutureMaker - Events Demonstrator (Part Time)	WSU Tech
12/11/2025	Utility Operator I (Water)	City of Derby
12/12/2025	Children Attendant Care	South Central Mental Health Counseling Center
12/15/2025	Saw Operator	Aero Metals Alliance (Sunshine Metals)
12/16/2025	Faculty - Aerospace Coatings & Paint	WSU Tech
12/17/2025	Planner	Vermillion Incorporated
12/18/2025	CNC Machining Supervisor	Cox Machine, Inc.
12/19/2025	5-Axis CNC Machine Operator	Galaxy Technologies
12/22/2025	Pediatric Home Health RN or LPN	Pediatric Home Service
12/23/2025	Private Duty Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	Thrive Skilled Pediatric Care
12/24/2025	Adjunct Faculty - Short Term Health (CNA/CMA)	WSU Tech
12/25/2025	Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Counselor / Therapist	Valley Hope - Addictions Treatment & Recovery
12/26/2025	Elementary School Speech Pathologist	Derby Public Schools
12/29/2025	Faculty - IT Programs	WSU Tech
12/30/2025	Geology Specialist	Kansas Corporation Commission
12/31/2025	Application Analyst - SCADA / Operational Technology	City of Wichita

## Digital Media Report

The Workforce Alliance uses website and social media platforms to interact, inform, and educate the public on upcoming events and workforce development resources.

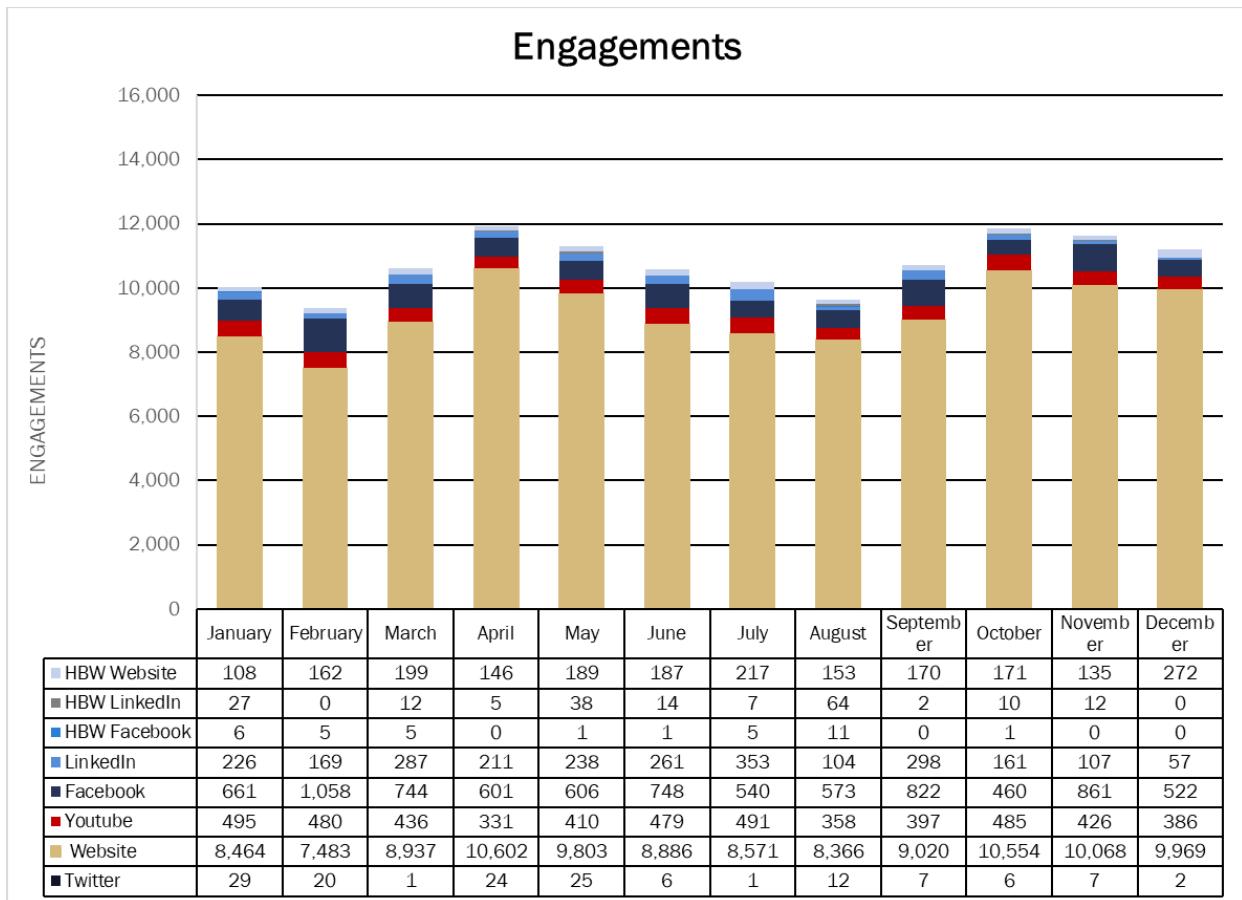
The digital traffic and impact numbers are broken down into the following key areas:

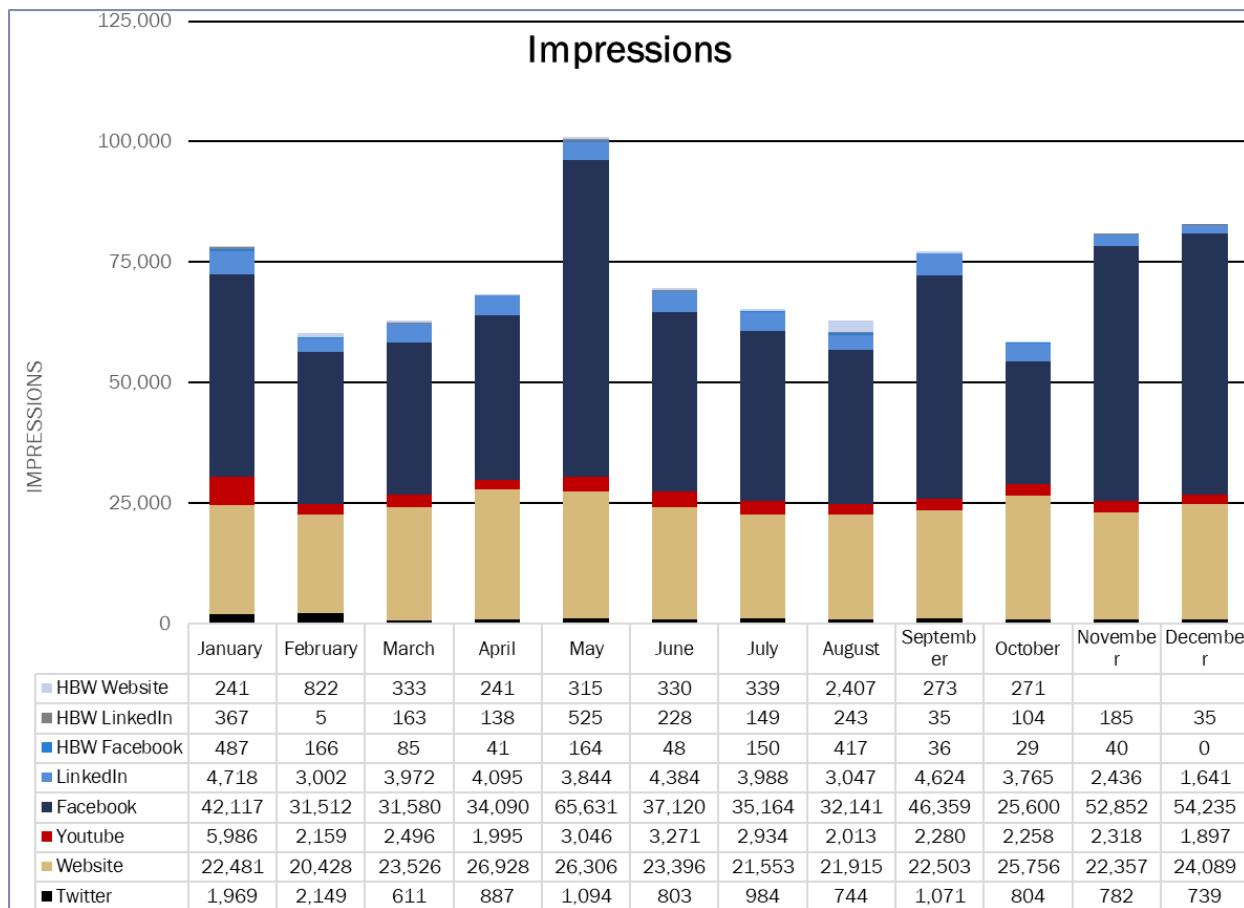
- Engagements - measures the total number of public interactions including shares, likes and comments
- Total Impressions - the number of times content is displayed to a user
- Followers – unique users who subscribe to receive updates

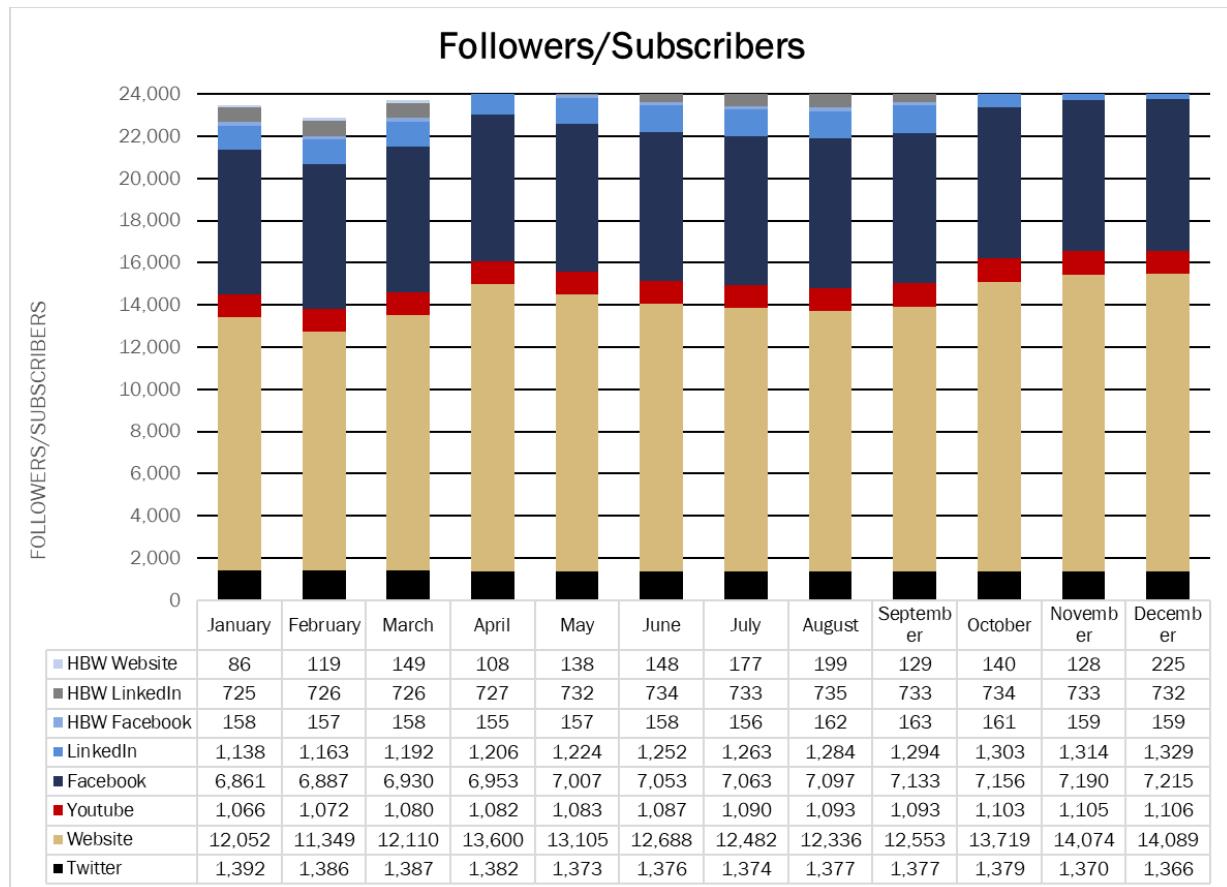
The data collected is from the platforms with the highest utilization:

- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WorkforceCenter/>
- Home Base Wichita Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HomeBaseWichita>
- YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/Workforce-ks>
- Twitter at <https://twitter.com/workforcecenter>
- LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/workforce-centers-of-south-central-kansas/>
- Home Base Wichita LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/home-base-wichita/>
- Workforce Alliance Website at [www.workforce-ks.com](http://www.workforce-ks.com)
- Home Base Wichita Website at <https://homebasewichita.com/>

The month of November saw decreased engagement on all platforms except the HBW website. Impressions decreased across all platforms except the WA website, Facebook, and HBW website. Followers increased on all platforms except Twitter, HBW Facebook, and HBW LinkedIn.









## Corrections Workforce Partnership Report

January 8, 2025

Since 2016, the Workforce Alliance of South-Central Kansas (WA), the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and Sedgwick County Department of Corrections (SCDOC) have formally partnered to in the Kansas Offender Risk Reduction and Reentry Plan (KOR3P), which includes various strategies to provide risk reduction and reentry programs, services and interventions.

The WA has been contracted to provide an Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) to assist with job readiness for individuals referred by KDOC and SCDOC and desires to continue and build on this partnership. Quarter 4 2025 Program Outcomes are below:

Quarter 4 2025	Sedgwick County Department of Corrections	Wichita Parole Office	Total
Employment Lab Attendees	44	0	44
Direct Referrals*	25	24	49
Individual Employment Services Provided	162	127	289
Appointments scheduled/NS or cancel	33/21	29/18	62/39
Individuals Entering Employment**	70	14	84
Entered Employment Rate	100%	78%	89%
Employment Retention: 6 Months	81.25%	70%	75.6%
Employment Retention: 12 Months	87%	90%	88.5%
Average Wage: 6 months	\$15.55	\$16.50	\$16.00
Average Wage: 12 months	\$14.94	\$14.75	\$14.85

\*Total number of appointments held, does not count no show/reschedules

\*\*Includes referrals from previous quarter who gained employment this quarter

The fourth quarter of 2025 had lower numbers of direct referrals and also in employment lab. During the last part of the year this trend is typical. However, the numbers were a bit lower than last year. The The number of clients entering employment can fall at this time of year due to the holidays but this year it remained pretty steady. Employment retention rates were very impressive. They average wage also increased.

Workforce Alliance staff maintains monthly contact with the staff at the Wichita Work Release Facility.

Annual cumulative numbers for 2025 are below based on data available.

<b>2025 Summary</b>	<b>Sedgwick County Department of Corrections</b>	<b>Wichita Parole Office</b>	<b>Total</b>
Employment Lab Attendees	252	0	252
Direct Referrals*	121	98	219
Individual Employment Services Provided	950	888	1838
Individuals Entering Employment**	295	76	371
Entered Employment Rate	86.25%	98%	92%
Employment Retention: 6 Months	75%	77%	76%
Employment Retention: 12 Months	76%	87.5%	81.75%
Average Wage: 6 months	\$15.16	\$15.66	\$15.41
Average Wage: 12 months	\$14.80	\$15.07	\$14.94

\*Total number of appointments held, does not count no show/reschedules

\*\*Includes referrals from 2024 who gained employment in 2025



**Registered Apprenticeship Report**  
**As of 12/31/2025**  
**LAIV Registered Apprenticeship Information**

A strategic priority for the Workforce Alliance (WA) is to expand the use of Registered Apprenticeship (RA), both in traditional fields and for new and emerging occupations. The 'earn and learn' model benefits both employers and job seekers.

The WA is an approved intermediary under the Meadowlark Grant, with 17 approved programs and thirteen employers: CDH, Inc., Don Hattan Dealerships, UV&S, Cox Machine, ISG Tech, F&H Insulation, Child Start, Bailey's Learning Academy, Design One, Yingling Aviation, CMJ Manufacturing, Inc., and Little Kings and Queens Daycare, and Rainbows United.

Employer	Occupation	Status	Active Apprentices
Bailey's Learning Academy	Early Childhood Educator	Approved	6
CDH	Construction Craft Laborer	Approved	5
	Welder	Approved	1
Child Start	Early Childhood Educator	Approved	0
CMJ Manufacturing, Inc.	Machine Operator	Approved	0
Cox Machine	Router Operator	Approved	0
	Machine Operator	Approved	0
Design One	Upholsterer Technician	Approved	1
Don Hattan	Automotive Mechanic	Approved	0
	Tune Up Mechanic	Approved	3
F&H Insulation Sales and Services, Inc.	Coatings	Approved	1
	Insulation Worker	Approved	2
ISG Tech	Service Technician 1	Approved	0
Little Kings and Queens Daycare	Early Childhood Worker	Approved	0
Rainbows United	Childcare Development Specialist	Approved	0
UV&S	Computer Support Specialist	Approved	1
Yingling Aviation	Avionics Technician	Approved	27

Below is the status on new program activity through the WA intermediary for the month:

Employer	Occupation	Status
Goodwill Industries	Counselor	In Development
Miracle Home Care	CNA	Submitted
Kiddy College	Early Childhood Educator	Submitted
Czarniecki Construction	Carpenter	In Development
AZM Solutions	Defense Analyst	In Development
Rusty Eck	Automotive Technician	In Development

The WA accepts onsite applications for six RA programs. In December, 8 individuals engaged in the RA application process, resulting in 3 completed applications, details are below:

<b>RA Application and Prescreen Activity</b>			
<b>2025</b>	<b>Applications and Prescreens</b>	<b>Completed Referrals</b>	<b>Completion Percentage</b>
January	5	3	60%
February	4	4	100%
March	7	6	85%
April	5	4	80%
May	2	2	100%
June	10	6	60%
July	10	3	30%
August	8	3	38%
September	10	6	60%
October	9	4	44%
November	8	5	62%
December	8	3	37%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>57%</b>

The WA works in partnership with

