



Workforce Alliance (WA) Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 • 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100

ZOOM Option: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84651552271>

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment:** Alana McNary (10:00)
 2. **Kansas Department of Commerce Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Study:** Keith Lawing (10:05)
 - *Workforce Alliance Response / Comments (pp. 2-3)*
 - *WIOA Skills Training Plan (pp. 4-5)*
 - *Blueprint - Skills Training Work Group (p. 6 & Attachment)*

Recommended Action: *Take appropriate action.*
 3. **Community Impact Project Updates:** Keith Lawing (10:30)
 - *Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) – Pathway to Work (pp. 7-9)*
 - *Youth Employment Project (YEP)*
 - *Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament (pp. 10-11)*
 - *Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)*
 - *EPA Brownfields Grant Kaufmann*
 - *Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Capacity Building Grant*

Recommended action: *Take appropriate action.*
 4. **Future Ready South Central Kansas: Applied Learning Project:** (11:00) Dr. Marcy Aycock (p. 12)

Future Ready South Central Kansas is an applied learning project exploring where stronger regional collaboration can produce practical economic value.

Recommended action: *Receive and file.*
 5. **Consent Agenda:** Keith Lawing (11:15)

The action items in the following reports have been reviewed, discussed and acted upon at the Committee level. Members may request discussion on any of the action items at the meeting or the reports may be accepted as presented in a single motion.

 - A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2026 (pp. 13-16)
 - B. LWDB Executive Committee Actions (p. 17)
 - C. Workforce Center Operations and One-Stop Operator Update for August 2026 (pp. 18-23)
 - D. Project Reports - Fair Chance, Registered Apprenticeship and Communications (pp. 24-31)

Recommended action: *Approve the recommendations as presented in the consent agenda.*
 6. **Adjourn** (11:30)
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The next WA Board of Directors meeting will be on January 27, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Item

Workforce Alliance (WA) Response and Comments on the Kansas WIOA Title I Service Delivery Study

Background

The Kansas Department of Commerce commissioned EDSI to review delivery of WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth services. The study is dated March 2026 but was released to local workforce boards and chief elected officials in September. Its most significant recommendation is to replace Kansas' three Local Workforce Development Areas with a single statewide area overseen by the KANSASWORKS State Board, effectively eliminating the existing local boards and transferring major governance and operational responsibilities to the state.

The study raises legitimate concerns about participation, cost per participant, referrals from Wagner-Peyser services, direct training expenditures, and statewide consistency. The Workforce Alliance supports stronger accountability, increased access to skills training, and more effective coordination. However, reviews by the Workforce Alliance and Workforce Partnership raise substantial questions about whether the study's data and analysis support its structural recommendation.

Analysis

Key Findings and Concerns

- Process, timing, and scope. Kansas reduced its workforce areas from five to three in October 2025, and the new structure had not completed a full year of operation when the study was released. Much of the data reflects the former five-area system. The study also does not evaluate labor sheds, commuting patterns, economic-development regions, or the practical results of the recent mergers.
- Data and methodology. The study acknowledges inconsistent reporting practices and conflicts between federal and state training-expenditure data but does not reconcile those differences. The statewide figures also appear to mix annual allocations, expenditures from multiple funding periods, and different participant definitions.
 - Adult expenditures exceed the annual allocations. Adult training expenditures were \$731,023 above the PY23 allocation (122% of the allocation) and \$818,457 above the PY24 allocation (128%). This may reflect carryover or expenditures from more than one funding period, but the report does not reconcile the difference.
 - Youth shows a similar mismatch. Youth training expenditures exceeded the PY23 allocation by \$679,781 (118% of the allocation) and equaled 87% of the PY24 allocation.
 - Dislocated Worker spending follows a very different pattern. Training expenditures represented approximately 43% of the PY23 allocation, 22% in PY24, and 6% in PY25.
 - PY25 is not comparable without more explanation. Adult training expenditures equaled about 63% of the annual allocation, while Youth equaled only 12%. The sharp changes across programs and years suggest different reporting periods, carryover treatment, or expenditure definitions.
 - The study also emphasizes Kansas' higher training cost per participant compared with peer states. The Workforce Alliance figures below are substantially lower than the statewide figures, indicating that the statewide conclusion does not describe WA's experience:
 - WA is below the statewide cost in every comparison shown. This is true for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth in PY23, PY24, and PY25.

- The largest differences occur in PY23 and PY24. *WA Adult cost per participant was approximately 99% lower than the state figure in PY23 and 97% lower in PY24. WA Youth cost was approximately 88% lower in PY23 and 90% lower in PY24!*
- Dislocated Worker costs also differ substantially. WA was approximately 57% below the statewide figure in PY23, 66% below it in PY24, and 89% below it in PY25.
- Participation and outcomes. Several conclusions appear inconsistent with the study's charts. Kansas Adult participation increased approximately 30% from PY21 through PY23, and Youth participation increased approximately 27%. Participation and training volume were generally consistent with Kansas' funding position among the peer states. The study emphasizes activity and spending measures but gives limited attention to federal performance outcomes such as employment, earnings, credentials, and measurable skill gains.
- Training investment. The study relies heavily on direct WIOA Title I expenditures and does not capture training supported through braided grants, education resources, employer investments, work-based learning, or registered apprenticeships. The state's 40% training-expenditure policy was not in effect during the years examined. During the same general period, WA's \$9.9 million One Workforce grant served 1,256 participants and produced 975 degrees or credentials while exceeding its targets and finishing under budget. A WIOA-only measure therefore does not present the full local training picture.
- Governance and fiscal impact. The study does not establish that the number of local boards caused the identified concerns or that a single statewide area would improve outcomes. It provides no complete analysis of projected savings, transition costs, additional state staffing, effects on local grants and contracts, or risks to employer and community partnerships. The study also recognizes that multi-board states can provide stronger employer engagement and services tailored to regional labor markets.

Suggested Next Steps

The appropriate response is not to defend the status quo. WA should support validated data, consistent statewide standards, better Wagner-Peyser referrals and co-enrollment, stronger accountability, expanded access to training, and shared administrative services where measurable savings can be demonstrated. These improvements should be implemented and evaluated within the current three-area structure before Kansas considers another major and difficult-to-reverse restructuring.

As an immediate next step, WA staff can work with the other local boards on a joint response to the Kansas Department of Commerce. The letter should document shared concerns about the study and affirm a clear division of responsibilities: the state provides policy, funding, oversight, data coordination, and technical assistance, while employer-led local boards manage regional operations and partnerships. The response should also establish common principles for a Kansas workforce-system blueprint to present to the incoming Governor and administration.

Recommended Action:

Approve the Workforce Alliance response and authorize staff to coordinate with the other local workforce boards on a joint written response to the Kansas Department of Commerce on the record and establish the foundation for development of a Kansas workforce-system blueprint for presentation to the incoming Governor and administration.

Item

WIOA Skills Training Plan for Program Year 2026

Background

The Kansas WIOA Title I Service Delivery Study identifies direct training expenditures as a major concern and calls for more funding to reach participants through skills training and supportive services. Although the Workforce Alliance has raised questions about the study's data and structural recommendation, increasing access to effective training is an appropriate and immediate priority.

Analysis

Staff has developed a targeted WIOA Skills Training Plan for Program Year 2026. The plan will be included in WA's preemptive corrective action response to the Kansas Department of Commerce and is intended to increase the amount and share of WIOA funds invested in training while maintaining a clear connection to employment outcomes.

Plan Focus:

- **Short-term credentials.** Prioritize training that can be completed relatively quickly, results in an industry-recognized credential, and prepares participants to move directly into employment.
- **Regional employment sectors.** Focus initial investments on aviation and advanced manufacturing, construction, data services and information technology, healthcare, and transportation and logistics, based on regional demand and employer needs.
- **Approved training options.** Use the attached occupation and provider list to guide investments in credential programs, On-the-Job Training, and Registered Apprenticeship. Programs will be reviewed for duration, cost, credential value, and connection to self-sufficient employment.
- **Coordinated funding.** Coordinate WIOA with Pell Grants, state assistance, employer resources, and other available funding so limited WIOA dollars address unmet training and supportive-service needs and serve as many eligible participants as possible.

The plan is designed to move beyond training enrollment and completion. Employer outreach will identify current openings, hiring requirements, and opportunities for employers to recruit program completers. Participants who complete training will receive job-search assistance, resume and interview preparation, job matching, referrals to employers, and follow-up support. On-the-Job Training and Registered Apprenticeship will be used when they provide a stronger pathway into employment.

Staff will monitor training enrollments, expenditures, completions, credentials, employment placements, wages, and employer engagement. Results will be reviewed regularly and used to adjust the approved training list and outreach strategy. This approach responds directly to the study's concern about training investment while keeping the focus on credentials, employment, earnings, and employer demand.

Recommended Action:

Approve the Program Year 2026 WIOA Skills Training Plan and authorize staff to include the plan in the Workforce Alliance's preemptive corrective action response to the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Occupations Approved for Training in Workforce Alliance Local Area PY26

Aviation/Advanced Manufacturing			
Program	School	Hours	Cost
CNC Operator Machining & Manufacturing Technology Certificate	WSU Tech	19 Credit Hours	\$4,959
Electromechanical Maintenance Tech Certificate A	Cowley College	16 Credit Hours	\$2,640
Non-Destructive Testing Certificate A	Cowley College	19 Credit Hours	\$3,135
Process Mechanic Painter Certificate	WSU Tech	16 Credit Hours	\$5,337
Welding Certificate A	Cowley College	16 Credit Hours	\$2,640
Welding Technology Certificate A	Butler Community College	19 Credit Hours	\$2,901
Welding Technology Level 1 Certificate	WSU Tech	17 Credit Hours	\$6,400

Construction			
Program	School	Hours	Cost
Construction Technology Certificate A	Cowley College	16 Credit Hours	\$2,640
Construction Technology Level 1 Certificate	WSU Tech	16 Credit Hours	\$4,407

Data Services/Information Technology			
Program	School	Hours	Cost
Data Analytics Certificate	Butler Community College	15 Credit Hours	\$2,695

Healthcare (Limit= Up to 2 Credentials Per Participant) (Refresher Courses are Allowed)			
Program	School	Hours	Cost
Certified Nurse Aide	Allied Health Career Training	90 Contact Hours	\$889
Certified Nurse Aide	WSU Tech	5 Credit Hours	\$947
Certified Nurse Aide	Bethel House Training	5 weeks	\$800
Certified Nurse Aide	Butler Community College	5 Credit Hours	\$869
Certified Nurse Aide	Cowley College	6 Credit Hours	\$990
Certified Medication Aide	Allied Health Career Training	75 Contact Hours	\$849
Certified Medication Aide	WSU Tech	5 Credit Hours	\$947
Certified Medication Aide	Bethel House Training	4 weeks	\$800
Certified Medication Aide	Butler Community College	5 Credit Hours	\$871
Certified Medication Aide	Cowley College	4 Credit Hours	\$660
EKG Tech	Allied Health Career Training	70 Contact Hours	\$831
Emergency Medical Technician	WSU Tech	12 Credit Hours	\$3,738
Emergency Medical Technician	Butler Community College	12 Credit Hours	\$2,260
Emergency Medical Technician	Cowley College	12 Credit Hours	\$1,980
Phlebotomy	Allied Health Career Training	70 Contact Hours	\$1,153
Phlebotomy	Cowley College	3 Credit Hours	\$495
Phlebotomy	Bethel House Training	7 weeks	\$825

Transportation and Logistics (Youth Program Limit= 2 Participants Per Year)			
Program	School	Hours	Cost
CDL A (Only if co-enrolled in a non WIOA Program)	Elite CDL School	160 Contact Hours	\$4,500

On-the-Job Training (Limit= Up to \$2,000 per participant)			
All occupations with demonstrated self-sufficient wages will be approved for OJT if employer has an active contract with the Workforce Alliance			

Registered Apprenticeship (Limit= Up to \$2,000 per participant)			
All Occupations and Related Technical Instruction for Apprenticeship programs that have been registered with the Kansas State Office of Apprenticeship for the South Central Region are included on the Kansas Workforce Alliance Local Area WIOA Approved Training List. RAs must also meet the Local Area's self-sufficient wage requirements.			

Item

Kansas Workforce System Blueprint and Skills Training Workgroup

Background

The Kansas WIOA Title I Service Delivery Study recommends replacing the state's three Local Workforce Development Areas with a single statewide area. It also identifies training expenditures, referrals, service volume, and coordination as issues requiring attention. A new Kansas policy separately requires local areas to invest at least 40% of WIOA Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker funds in training and supportive services beginning October 1, 2026.

Analysis

The three local workforce boards can move beyond responding to the study and jointly define a stronger system. The preferred model would retain employer-led regional boards as operational leaders, with the state responsible for policy, oversight, accountability, data coordination, and technical assistance.

Proposed Process:

- Joint written response. Prepare a concise letter documenting shared concerns about the study and common principles for improving the system.
- Skills Training and System Blueprint Workgroup. Convene representatives of the three local boards, employers, chief elected officials, education and training partners, and other stakeholders to develop recommendations for the incoming Governor.
- Board review and adoption. Provide updates and return a draft blueprint to each local board for refinement and formal consideration.

Blueprint Priorities:

- Increase access to skills training. Implement the 40% policy to expand short-term credentials, supportive services, work-based learning, Registered Apprenticeship, and employment outcomes—not spending for its own sake.
- Preserve local operational leadership. Maintain a multi-board structure that tailors services to regional labor markets while meeting clear statewide performance standards.
- Clarify state and local roles. Position the state as administrator and oversight entity rather than service operator. Contract Wagner-Peyser delivery to local boards, where permitted by federal policy, to improve referrals, co-enrollment, employer engagement, and service integration.
- Coordinate the full workforce investment. Build on the 2019 Governor's Education Council inventory by aligning WIOA Titles I-IV, TANF, SNAP employment services, education resources, grants, and employer investments.

Recommended Action:

Approve development of a Kansas workforce-system blueprint and authorize staff to coordinate a joint study response, convene a Skills Training and System Blueprint Workgroup with the other local boards and key stakeholders, and return recommendations for Board review and adoption.

Foundations collaborate to fund upward mobility efforts statewide



WICHITA, Kan. – A collaboration between the Hall Family Foundation, Patterson Family Foundation and Kansas Health Foundation has awarded more than \$5 million to Kansas nonprofits through the 2026 Upward Mobility Transformation Fund.

“By partnering on these important efforts and pooling our resources, more nonprofit organizations will have the opportunity to pursue meaningful and impactful work to improve upward mobility in our state,” said Ed O’Malley, President and CEO of the Kansas Health Foundation. “Through this collection of demonstration projects, we’ll begin to see what could be possible in Kansas on this issue.”

For the purpose of this grant program, upward mobility was defined as the opportunity to stabilize, thrive and build a better future over time. It means that hard work leads to real opportunity, and people have the freedom to make choices about their lives without constantly falling behind. Economic mobility is another common way to describe this work.

“Thriving communities depend on people being able to build a future without having to leave home,” said Jessica Hunt, Chief Impact Officer of Patterson Family Foundation. “That’s why upward mobility matters; it’s about keeping every part of Kansas full of the people who make it strong.”

More than 100 Kansas nonprofits applied, totaling requests for more than \$34 million. The recipients were chosen based on innovation, collaboration and a desire to work within regions of the state facing the greatest health and financial disparities. The application process was geared toward a connection to the Blueprint for Upward Mobility, a set of 11 strategies co-created through the ideas and efforts of thousands of Kansans.

“The Hall Family Foundation believes that economic mobility is fundamental to strong families and thriving communities. The Upward Mobility Transformation Fund reflects what is possible when partners come together to address systemic barriers and create new opportunities for economic success,” said Halley French, Program Officer at Hall Family Foundation. “We are eager to learn from these efforts and are proud to support innovative, community-led initiatives that can create lasting pathways to economic mobility for Kansans across the state.”

Research shows nearly 40 percent of Kansas households fall below the ALICE Survival Budget threshold. Further, nearly 1 in 5 Kansans has debt in collections.

Grant recipients will spend the next year showing how their ideas can make a long-term impact on improving these types of statistics.

Organizations receiving funding are listed below. To learn more about the grant-funded initiatives for each organization, please view the full list of [project descriptions](#).

- Black Entrepreneurs of the Flint Hills
- Build WyCo
- Community Foundation of Dickinson County
- Credit and Homeownership Empowerment Services (CHES, Inc.)
- El Centro
- Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Flint Hills
- Kansas Action for Children
- Kansas Children's Service League
- Kansas Department of Commerce
- Kansas State University
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
- Omni Circle
- Opportunity Wichita (Greater Wichita Partnership)
- SENT, Inc.
- The Building Community
- Thrive Allen County
- University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research
- Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas

Additionally, the Wichita State University Public Policy and Management Center (PPMC) has been selected as the upward mobility statewide coordinator. In this role, PPMC will partner with the funders to track and manage the grant projects, establish shared metrics, and utilize the Kansas Data Trust to consider system-level impact.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Hall Family Foundation: Debbie Whiles, debbie.whiles@hallfamilyfoundation.org

Patterson Family Foundation: Felicia Tyler, felicia.tyler@pffkc.org

Kansas Health Foundation: Chase Willhite, cwillhite@khf.org

ABOUT HALL FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Hall Family Foundation is a private philanthropic organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of human life in the Greater Kansas City area. Initiatives that enrich the entire community, help people, and promote excellence are considered to be of prime importance. The Foundation acts as both a catalyst and collaborative

community partner. It seeks to invest in programs that are innovative and strive to create systemic solutions to community needs.

ABOUT THE PATTERSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Patterson Family Foundation, based in Kansas City, Missouri, is a family-led foundation that extends the legacy of Neal and Jeanne Patterson. The Foundation's mission, "Working together to help rural communities thrive," is carried forward through strategic grantmaking and other collaborative initiatives that serve rural counties across Kansas and western Missouri.

ABOUT THE KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) is a nonprofit organization based in Wichita but statewide in its focus. At KHF, all our work centers on our mission: to improve the health of all Kansans. As part of the KHF strategic framework, developed by our staff and board of directors, KHF also strives to accomplish three primary purposes: empower Kansas to lead the nation in health; eliminate the inequities that create health disparities; and, for KHF to become THE model for philanthropic impact.

Item

2026 Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament

Background

Since 2013, the Workforce Alliance has coordinated a golf tournament every year to raise funds for youth employment services and programs.

Analysis

The 14th annual Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament presented by Meritrust Credit Union was held on Monday, September 14th at Willowbend Golf Club. The event was very successful with 36 teams participating and over \$26,000 in funds raised. Photos from the tournament can be viewed at: [2026 Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament Photos](#).

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and participants, proceeds from the tournament will support youth internships and work experiences that help young people develop workplace skills, explore career opportunities and prepare to become part of South Central Kansas' future workforce.

The following is a list of sponsors and team registrations:

2026 Jobs FORE Youth Tournament Sponsors & Teams	
Presenting Sponsor	Sponsorship Level
Meritrust	\$3,000.00
<i>Total</i>	\$3,000.00
Registration Sponsor	Sponsorship Level
Envision	\$2,000.00
<i>Total</i>	\$2,000.00
Event Sponsors	Sponsorship Level
AGH	\$1,750.00
Boeing Wichita	\$1,750.00
CPRF	\$1,750.00
Elite CDL	\$1,750.00
KWCH (In-Kind)	-
NECA	\$1,750.00
NextEra Energy	\$1,750.00
Plumbers & Pipefitters	\$1,750.00
Rusty Eck (In-Kind)	-
<i>Total</i>	\$12,250.00
Prize Donations	
Milwaukee Tool	
NextEra Energy	
YaYa's	
Beverage Cart Sponsors	Sponsorship Level
Forvis Mazars	\$1,000.00
<i>Total</i>	\$1,000.00

Hole Sponsors	Sponsorship Level
Adams Jones Law Firm	\$250.00
Ascension Via Christi	\$250.00
Bombardier	\$200.00
Credit Union of America	\$250.00
IMA *	\$200.00
KLC	\$250.00
PEC *	\$200.00
Manpower *	\$200.00
NIAR *	\$200.00
Sheet Metal Workers *	\$200.00
South Central Building Trades Council *	\$200.00
Textron Aviation *	\$200.00
WMA	\$250.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2,850.00</i>
<i>Total Sponsorships</i>	<i>\$21,100.00</i>

Team Registrations	
Airxcel (2 Teams)	\$1,700.00
Bombardier (4 teams) *	\$3,350.00
Center Industries	\$850.00
Dondlinger Construction	\$850.00
Goodwill	\$850.00
IBEW (5 Teams)	\$4,250.00
IMA *	\$800.00
Manpower *	\$800.00
NIAR (2 Teams) *	\$1,650.00
PEC *	\$800.00
Pyxis	\$850.00
Remediation Contractors	\$850.00
Sheet Metal Workers *	\$800.00
TEC Systems	\$850.00
Textron Aviation *	\$800.00
South Central Building Trades Council *	\$800.00
Vermillion	\$850.00
<i>Total Team Registrations</i>	<i>\$21,700.00</i>
GRAND TOTAL	\$42,800.00

* Hole Sponsor/Team Registration Combo

Recommended Action
Receive and file.

Item

Future Ready South Central Kansas: Applied Learning Project

Background

Communities and economies are connected in ways that go well beyond city and county boundaries. Employers rely on workers, suppliers, infrastructure, and services from across South Central Kansas. When we work together on shared priorities, we are better positioned to attract jobs and investment, support our workforce, and strengthen our communities while keeping local decision-making in place.

Future Ready South Central Kansas is an applied learning project designed to take a practical look at how we can strengthen regional collaboration and build on the good work already underway. The project will gather input from local governments and regional partners to identify opportunities that make sense for our communities. Emma King, a Master of Public Service student at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, will lead the research as part of her graduate studies. Emma grew up in El Dorado and earned degrees from Barton Community College and Kansas State University. The project is supported by a Kansas Health Foundation grant and coordinated by the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP).

Analysis

There are already strong organizations doing important work across the South Central Kansas region, including the Workforce Alliance, REAP, WAMPO, the Greater Wichita Partnership, local economic development organizations, educational institutions, business groups, and other public and private partners. This effort is not about creating another organization or adding another layer of bureaucracy. It is about understanding where we can better connect existing efforts, reduce duplication, and accomplish more together.

Between October 2026 and May 2027, Emma will connect with local government and community leaders, look at approaches that have worked in other regions, and explore emerging issues that will shape our future. These include artificial intelligence, automation, changes in the workforce, demographic shifts, and other trends affecting jobs and economic competitiveness. The project will result in recommendations for better coordination and a sustainable approach to regional collaboration. We are not starting with a predetermined structure or organizational home.

The most important part of this process will be hearing directly from the people and organizations doing the work. Their perspectives will help us identify shared priorities, opportunities to fill gaps, ways to work more efficiently, and what success should look like. Emma will be interviewing regional leaders and may contact Workforce Alliance Board members for input. Today's discussion is an opportunity to share early thoughts about where stronger regional partnerships could make the greatest difference for employers, job seekers, and the communities we serve.

Recommended Action

Receive and file.



Workforce Alliance (WA) Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2026

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Board met in person at the Wichita Workforce Center and virtually via Zoom. Chair Alana McNary called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions.

2. Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received.

3. Wichita Workforce Center Remodel Update

- The WA completed moving administrative offices from the downtown Garvey Center to the Wichita Workforce Center in March to consolidate offices and operations.
- New facility improvements include enhanced security systems, controlled access doors and badge readers, ADA-friendly entrance doors, new conference rooms and office space, updated customer service and reception area and improved branding and interior graphics.
- The center maintained uninterrupted customer service throughout construction and relocation activities.
- El Dorado operations were successfully consolidated into a shared location with the local Chamber of Commerce.

4. Revenue Generation Task Force Update

A task force was formed to help coordinate the annual Jobs FORE Youth golf tournament and develop other ways to generate additional funding outside of the WA's federal program allocations. An update on golf tournament planning and task force discussions was provided.

Jobs for Youth Golf Tournament:

- Planning continues for the 2026 Jobs for Youth Golf Tournament at Willowbend Golf Club on Monday, September 14th.
- Tournament proceeds directly support youth employment initiatives, including career camps and work-based learning experiences.
- Meritrust Credit Union is Presenting Sponsor and Envision is Registration Sponsor.
- KWCH and Rusty Eck are providing promotional and in-kind support.
- Board members were encouraged to assist staff in promoting the event and requesting donations through their personal and professional networks.

Additional Revenue Generation Events:

- Revenue Generation Task Force is exploring a second annual fundraising event for 2027.
- Ideas Discussed:
 - Workforce-focused breakfast or luncheon.
 - Community gala and recognition event.
 - State of the Workforce event.
 - Food truck and community festival.
 - Baseball-themed event involving local sports partners.
 - Concert series featuring local musicians.
 - Vehicle destruction or "rage room" style fundraising experience.
 - Workforce and employer recognition awards.
 - Downtown adventure race and scavenger hunt concepts.
 - Craft beverage and food tasting event modeled after successful fundraisers in other communities.

- Goal is to avoid duplicating existing community fundraisers, focus on unique experiences, highlight employer and industry recognition and align fundraising with WA's workforce development mission. *Report was received and filed - Task Force to evaluate suggested concepts, develop formal recommendations and present recommendations to the Board in October for consideration.*

5. Community Impact Project Updates

- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning - The WA is working Workforce Partnership on a plan submitted to the Kauffman Foundation to provide support for justice-involved individuals (JII) in the Wichita and Kansas City area gain employment and provide services to address barriers to employment. The foundation has awarded the RCC approximately \$490,000 in capacity-building funds to support continued coalition development and implementation.
- Youth Employment Project (YEP) – Camp HYPE career camps are being held this summer. Youth participants are receiving work readiness exposure, career exploration, employer tours, and paid learning experiences. There is a continued need to expand employer engagement opportunities for youth participants.
- EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant – The grant funds training for environmental related careers continues to receive referrals and applications. Forty participants are enrolled. There is a strong interest in CDL training. Participants are obtaining environmental and safety certifications. Placement wages average approximately \$22 per hour upon completion. Active employer demand exists in environmental remediation, construction, transportation and municipal environmental services.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) helps unhoused veterans find meaningful employment. The program is below desired referral levels, while program outcomes for enrolled participants is strong. Additional outreach activity is planned.
- Child Care Employer Solutions Summit – In partnership with a local coalition, events have been held to bring employers, policy leaders, and community partners together to develop actionable solutions that address childcare challenges in the community. The next event is scheduled for Fri., August 28th at the WSU Metroplex. The event will be an interactive summit focused on practical, employer-led solutions (Tri-share childcare models, employer-supported childcare programs, available tax credits and incentives, etc.) and help shape recommendations for the 2027 Kansas Legislative Session.

Report was received and filed.

6. Increasing Access to Skills Training

Federal and State policymakers have expressed interest in getting more job seekers into funded skills training programs and strategies were discussed with partners from the Kansas Dept. of Commerce, Kansas Dept. of Child & Families and Wichita Public Schools. Considerations include:

- Evolving federal and state workforce priorities.
- Growing emphasis on training expenditures within workforce programs.
- National discussions surrounding WIOA reauthorization.
- Perspectives
 - Kansas Department of Commerce
 - Workforce development systems are increasingly expected to demonstrate direct investment in occupational training.
 - National performance reporting now closely tracks training expenditures and results.
 - Kansas trails some states in WIOA-funded training participation rates.
 - State officials emphasized balancing career services, supportive services and occupational training.
 - Workforce Alliance
 - WA has historically emphasized leveraging multiple funding streams and partnerships.

- Over 3,600 individuals have received training through braided funding models from October 2021 through March 2026 including 200 by WIOA funding.
 - Concern exists that strict training expenditure requirements may reduce resources available for career services and customer support activities.
 - Wichita Public Schools
 - Future Ready Centers continue to connect students with workforce credentials and career pathways.
 - Emphasis placed on partnerships that multiply community impact.
 - Interest expressed in expanding adult workforce training opportunities through existing facilities.
 - Kansas Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Administered by the Department of Children and Families)
 - Focus remains on expanding employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
 - Increasing emphasis on workforce preparation at younger ages.
 - Interest in strengthening integration and coordination among education, rehabilitation, and workforce systems.
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education and Training (E&T)
 - DCF emphasized its role as a workforce development partner in addition to benefit administration.
 - Workforce development and employment advancement remain priorities.
 - Interest expressed in strengthening collaboration and service alignment.
 - Staff propose the establishment of a multi-agency work group to examine statewide workforce training access, align workforce development resources, improve coordination among state agencies and partners and explore solutions to address evolving federal and state training priorities.
 - Board members expressed support for broader collaboration and agreed that workforce challenges span multiple agencies and funding streams.
 - The work group is viewed as an opportunity to coordinate strategy while maintaining service quality.
 - Staff were directed to initiate discussions with Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Department of Children and Families, education partners and other workforce stakeholders and develop structure, membership, and objectives for the work group.
- Tony Naylor (Michele Gifford) moved to request the creation of a multi-agency work group to develop recommendations to state and local partners to increase access to skills training programs through the KansasWorks Workforce Centers.*

7. **Workforce Alliance LWDB Board and Committees**

WA Board and Committee assignments are being reviewed and updated for appointment in 2026 by WA Board Chair Alana McNary

- Luis Rodriguez has agreed to the serve as Board Vice Chair due to the passing of Scott Stiles through the end of that term.
- Chair McNary recommended additional committee appointments to align Board member expertise with committee responsibilities:
 - Executive Committee - Luis Rodriguez, TEC Systems, Vice Chair; Chip Schellhorn, CMJ Manufacturing and Alex Munoz, Creekstone Farms
 - Finance Committee - Luis Rodriguez, Chair; Dr. Tamara Daniel, Butler Community College; and Jill Kuehny, Kanokla
 - Youth Employment Committee: Cheryl Childers, Cox Machine, Chair and Levi Stanyer, WSU Tech
 - Program Operations & Performance Committee - Appointments pending

Tony Naylor (Cheryl Childers) moved to approve Workforce Alliance Committee appointments as presented with the addition of Dr. Tamara Daniel as Finance Committee member. Motion adopted.

8. Consent Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes from April 22, 2026, budget update for program year 2025, LWDB Executive Committee actions since the board meeting, Workforce Center operations and one-stop operator update for May 2025 and WA program reports (Fair Chance, Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and Communications) were provided to the Board for review and approval.

Cheryl Childers (Kathy Jewett) moved to approve the action items recommended in the Consent agenda. Motion adopted.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28.

Attendees

Present LWDB Members

- Cheryl Childers
- Marcus Curran
- Dr. Tamara Daniel
- Michele Gifford
- Robyn Heinz
- Eric Hunt
- Kathy Jewett
- Pat Jonas via Zoom
- Jill Kuehny via Zoom
- Alana McNary
- Brian Miles via Zoom
- Alex Munoz
- Susanne Murphy
- Tony Naylor
- Erica Ramos
- Luis Rodriguez
- Chip Schellhorn
- Gabe Schlickau
- Sally Stang via Zoom
- Lisa Whitley via Zoom

Guests & Staff

- Amanda Duncan
- Keith Lawing
- Shirley Lindhorst
- Chad Pettera
- Janet Sutton
- Mike Beene, Kansas Dept. of Commerce
- Kelly Bielefeld, Wichita Public Schools
- Dan Decker, Kansas Dept. of Children & Families
- Angela Slattery, Goodwill

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

Item:

Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee Actions

Background:

The WA Executive Committee provides leadership to the Board of Directors and other standing committees and task forces. The Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the entire Board when action by the Board is not possible due to timing of full Board meetings and action is required, or as delegated by an approved motion from the Board. In addition, the Executive Committee is responsible for tasking the committees of the Board of Directors, and setting the agenda for meetings. The WA Executive Committee is appointed by the WA Board Chair.

Analysis:

Since the last WA Board of Directors meeting on July 22, the Executive Committee has taken the following actions:

August 12, 2026

- Discussed a proposed multi-agency work group to improve access to skills training. An update was provided on the WA Board's request to the State for the creation of multi-agency work group to develop recommendations for improving coordination among workforce, education, and financial aid programs and increasing access to skills training opportunities across Kansas. The other two Kansas workforce boards were invited to partner and collaborate in the planning process. State agencies, education providers, workforce system partners, and State Workforce Board members will be also be invited to be partners in this process.
- Discussed strategies to interact and increase awareness with local, state and federal policy makers on employment and skills education programming and Workforce Alliance outcomes and community impact. Strategies will continue to be researched and discussed.
- Appointed Toni Porter, Jobs for America's Graduates - Kansas (JAG-K), to the WA Youth Employment Committee.

September 9, 2026

- Appointed a Workforce Alliance Board member, to be named later, to co-chair a Multi-Agency Work Group focused on improving access to skills training. In partnership with the other Kansas Local Workforce Development Areas, the work group will develop recommendations to improve coordination among workforce, education and financial-aid programs and increase access to skills training opportunities across Kansas.
- Recessed into executive session to consult with legal counsel regarding potential legal matters deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship.
- Approved revisions to the WA Cost Allocation Policy, including updates reflecting personnel changes and clarifying how direct and indirect costs are allocated based on the type of expense.
- Discussed the Kansas Department of Commerce Enhanced Monitoring. All Kansas Local Workforce Development Boards are participating in an enhanced state monitoring review of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) operations. The auditors, Witt O'Brien, conducted the WA's monitoring occurred September 15th and 16th.

October 14, 2026

Authorized staff to work with the other two local workforce boards to organize a select cross-system leadership group and develop a Kansas workforce-system blueprint, with expanding access to skills training as a central priority.

Recommended Action:

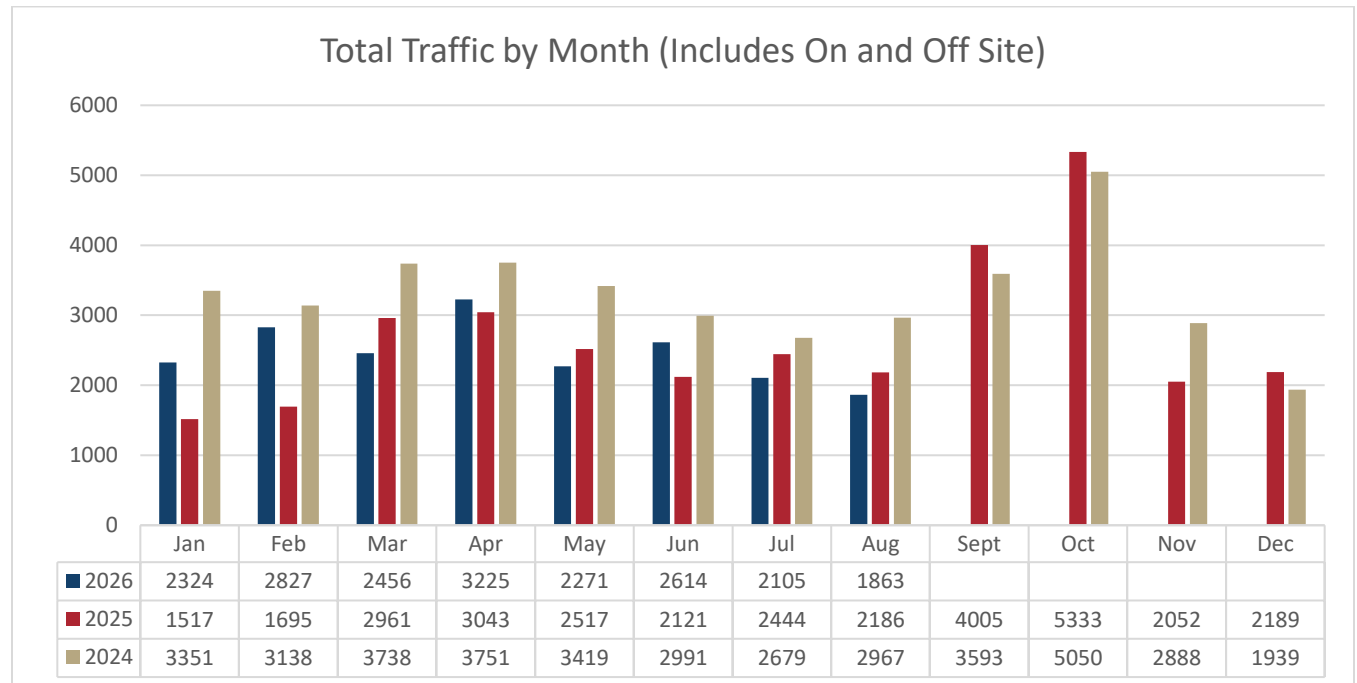
Adopt the actions of the LWDB Executive Committee as presented.

Item

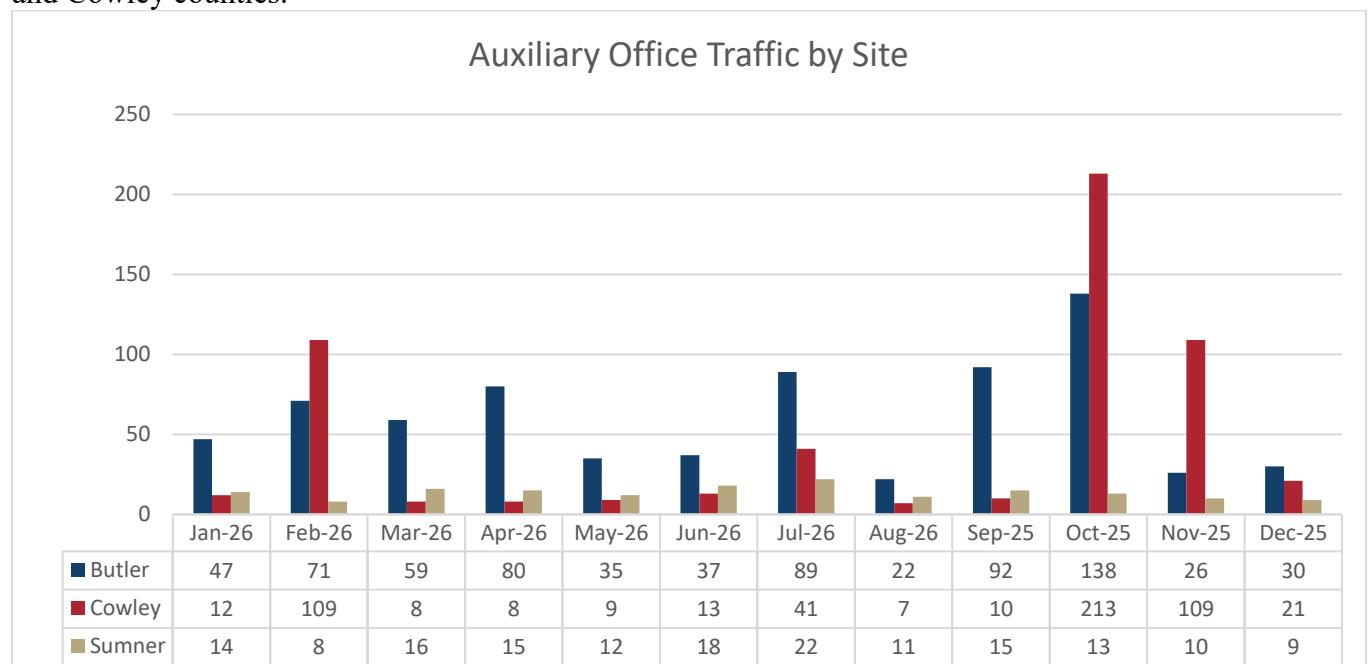
Workforce Centers Operations August 2026 Update

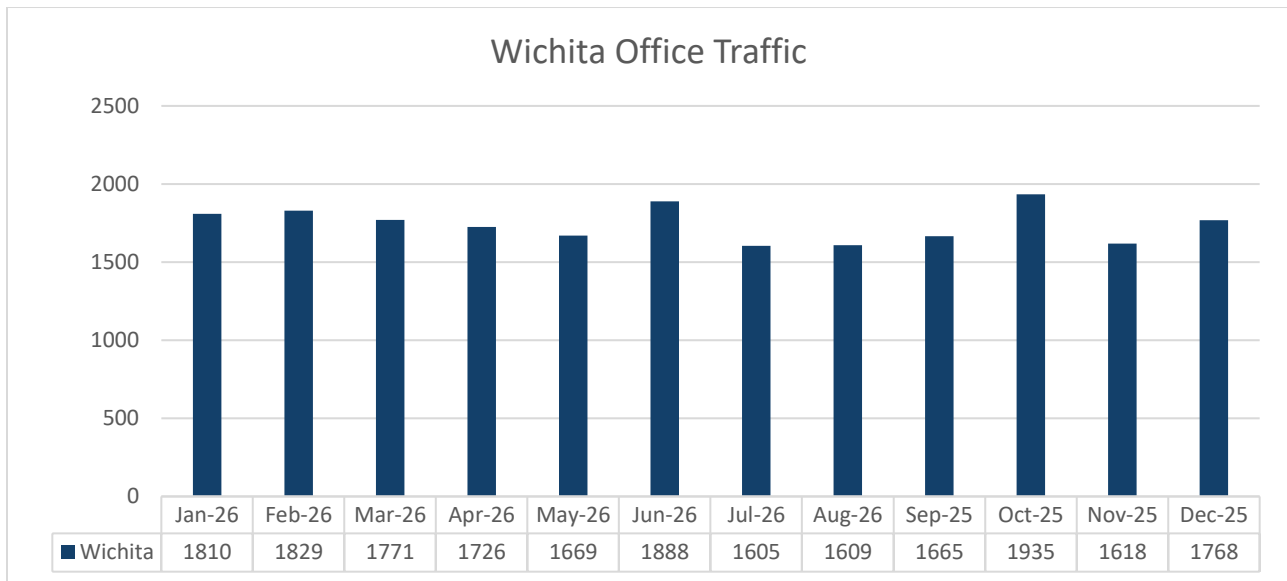
Job Seeker Traffic

The bar graph below provides a visual representation of job seeker traffic through August of 2026. Some traffic numbers for August 2026 were not available at the time of this report. August traffic will be updated when the additional traffic information becomes available.



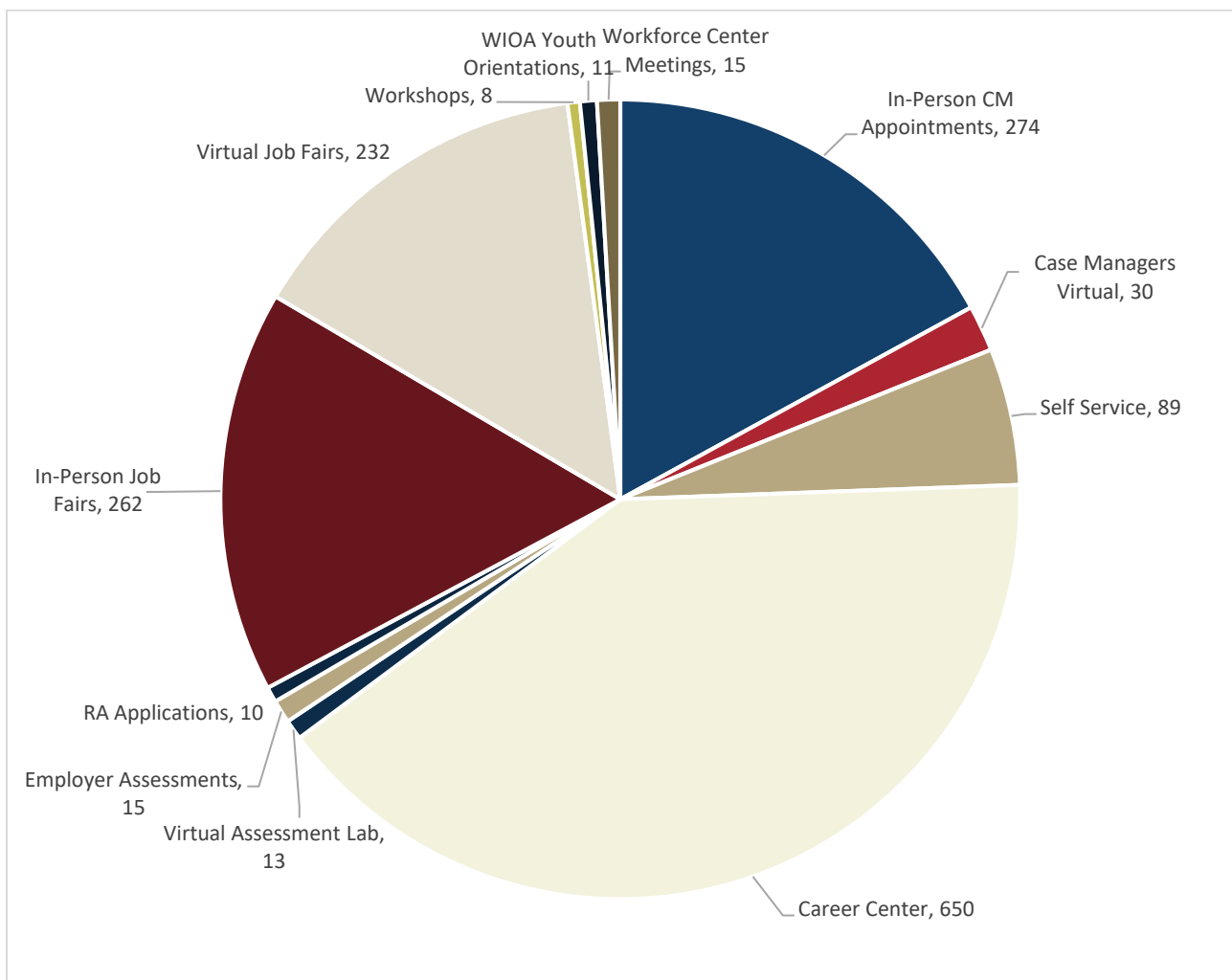
This bar graph offers a breakdown of the job seeker traffic by Auxiliary Offices in Butler, Sumner, and Cowley counties.



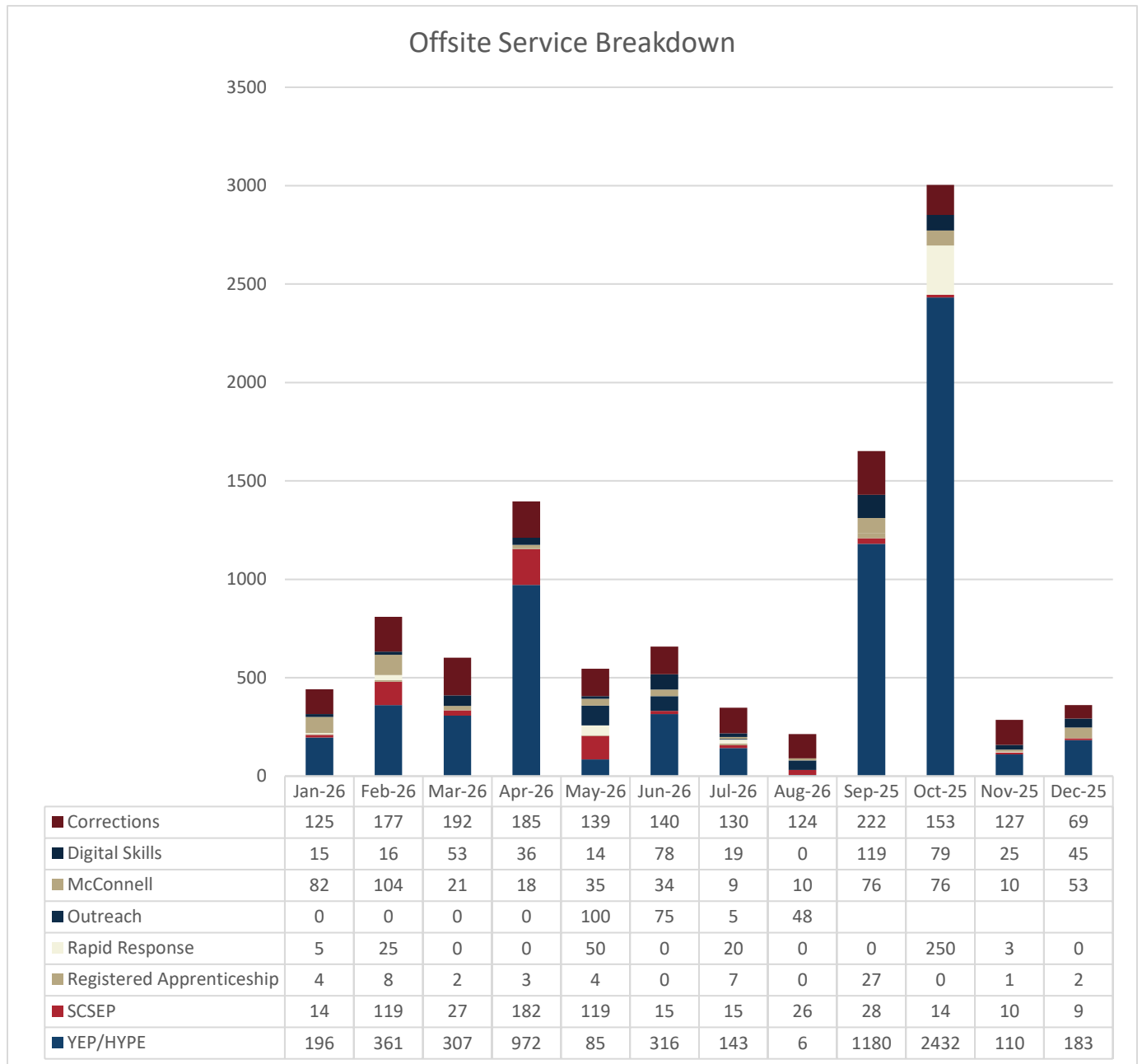


Job Seeker Services

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

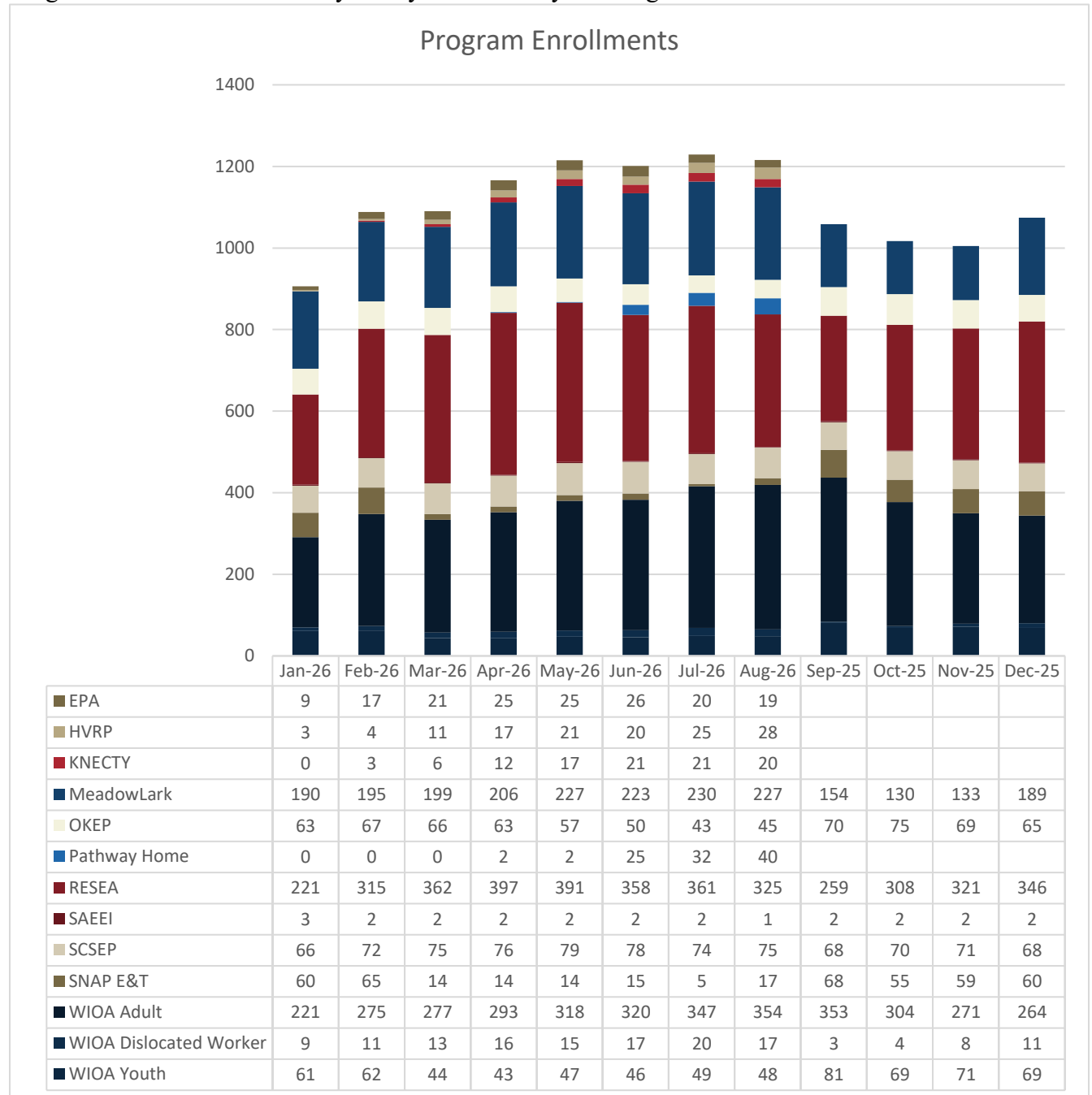


This graph offers a breakdown of the comprehensive offsite services provided.



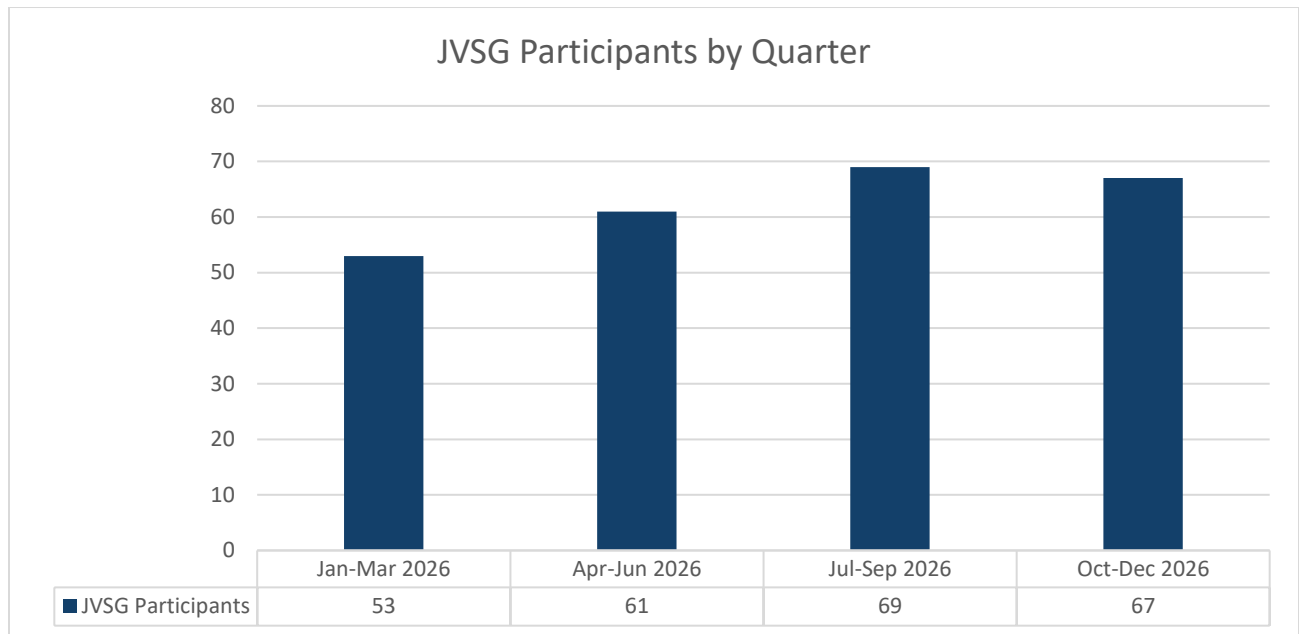
Program Enrollments

Program enrollments were fairly steady between July and August.



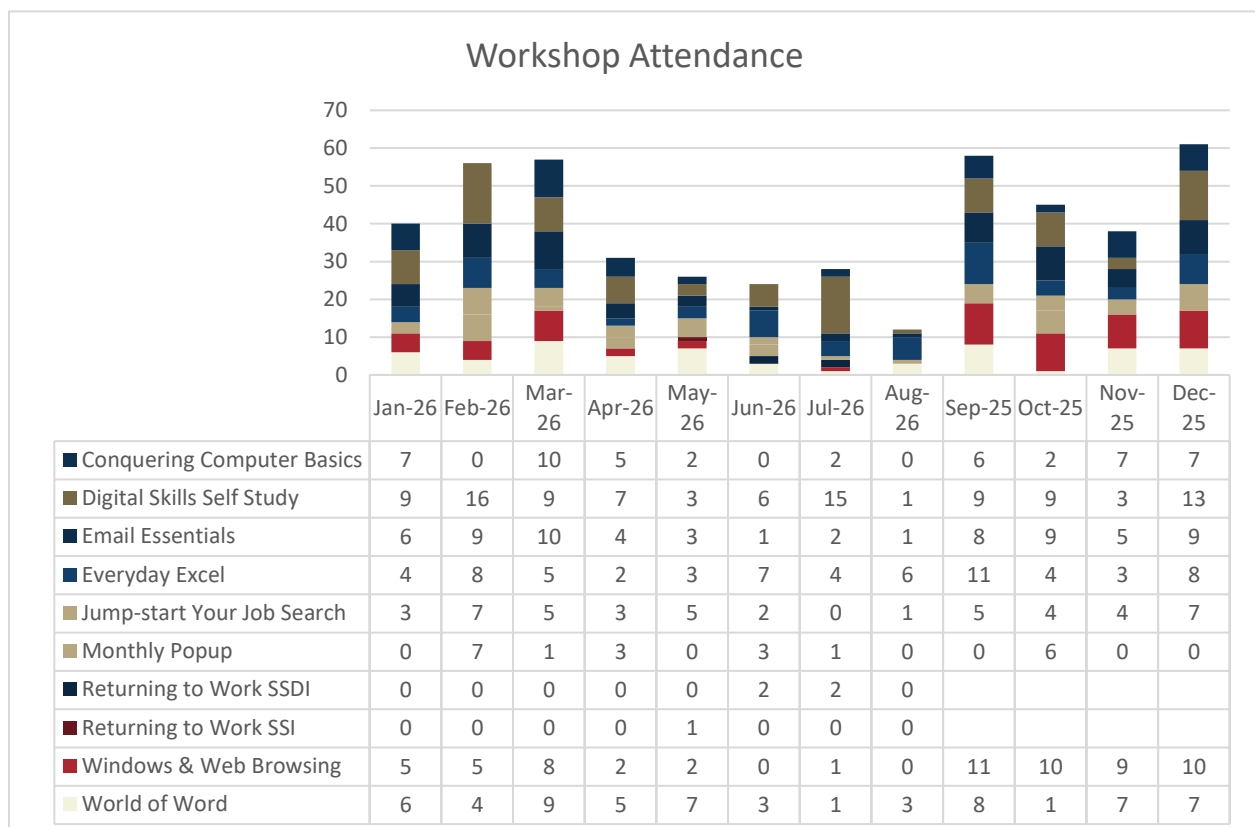
Program Enrollment Glossary

- EPA=EPA Brownfields Job Training Program
- HVRP=Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
- KNECTY=Kansas Network for Employment and Career Transition for Youth
- MeadowLARK= Leading Apprenticeship Results in Kansas
- OKEP=Older Kansans Employment Program
- RESEA= Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment
- SAEI= 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 August, WA staff delivered five digital skills workshops and training sessions, with 12 individuals participating in hands-on instruction. Staff also participated in five outreach events, connecting an additional 58 individuals with information about available digital skills services and resources. Across training and outreach activities, 70 individuals were reached in August.

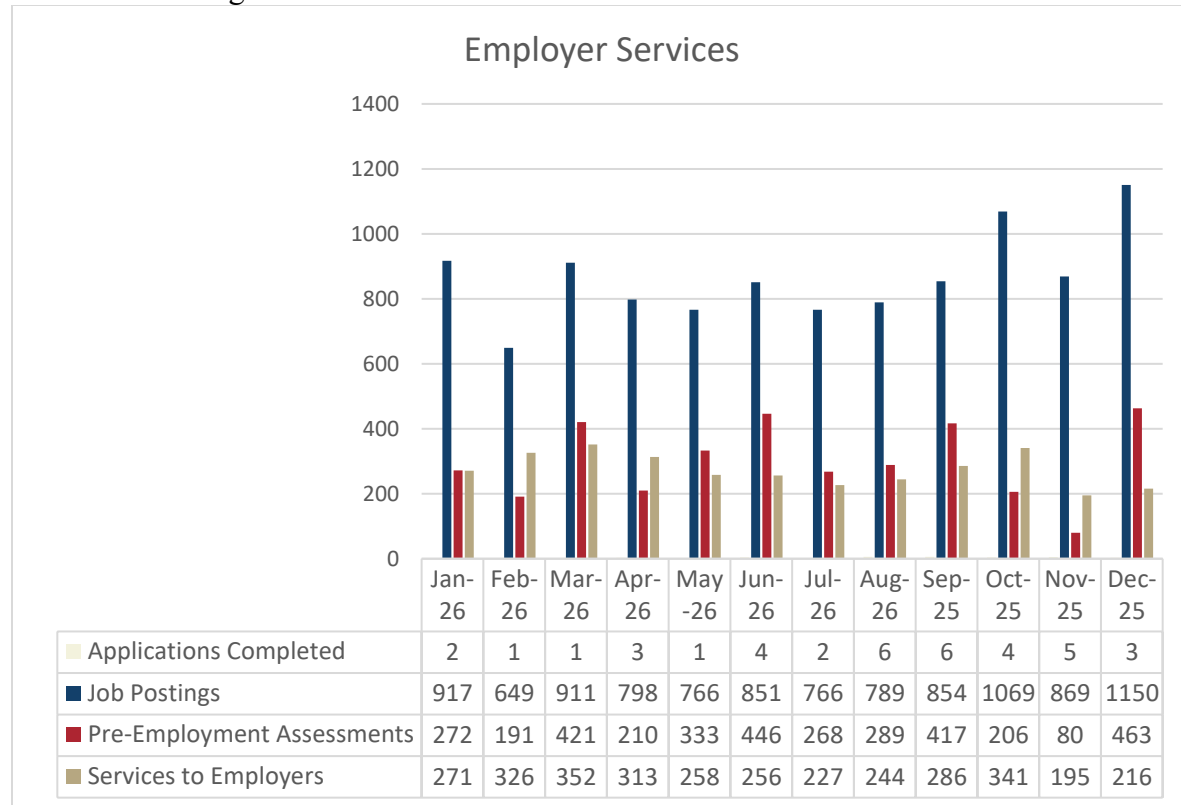


October 28, 2026

Submitted By: Denise Houston

Employer Services Overview

August saw an increase of 3% in job postings compared to July. There were 789 total job postings across the 6-county radius. On a statewide level, there were 35,287 active positions available for job seekers to browse. Additionally, the system recorded a pool of 10,192 resumes for employers to consider during their recruitment efforts.



Job Fairs

In August, the Workforce Center hosted two in person job fairs in partnership with 30 employers, bringing in 232 job seekers across both events. Additionally, seven employers from our local area participated in the statewide virtual job fair, where 225 unique job seekers visited the local area employer booths.

One Stop Operator Report

August activity by One Stop Operations staff, Angela Slattery included:

- One Workforce 101 session with nine individuals attending
- Outreached to several community-based organizations and provided information on accessing services at the Workforce Centers
- Provided nine Goodwill vouchers to customers with multiple barriers to employment
- Provided resources and information about the Workforce Centers to individuals referred from Level Up Kansas
- Reviewed Customer Satisfaction data and reached out to customers who indicated they did not have a good experience
- Provided support to the Front Desk by assisting at busy times and when gaps in staffing occurred

Recommended Action

Receive and File.



Corrections Workforce Partnership Report

October 1, 2026

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 3, 2026 Program Outcomes are below:

Quarter 3 2026	Sedgwick County Department of Corrections	Wichita Parole Office	Total
Employment Lab Attendees	56	0	56
Direct Referrals*	35	24	59
Individual Employment Services Provided	188	186	374
Appointments scheduled/NS or cancel	39/20	32/18	71/38
Individuals Entering Employment**	65	11	76
Entered Employment Rate	74%	53%	63.5%
Employment Retention: 6 Months	88%	75%	81.5%
Employment Retention: 12 Months	92.4%	66.6%	79.5%
Average Wage: 6 months	\$15.63	\$17.55	\$16.59
Average Wage: 12 months	\$15.99	\$16.58	\$16.26

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

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

During the third quarter of this year, there were several leadership changes within the parole office. The appointment of a new Southern Director has not yet been finalized, and this transition has affected referrals to the Workforce Representative. While we eagerly await the announcement of the new director, the Workforce Center remains fully available to provide services and support to all clients.

Referrals from probation have increased slightly during this period, and we are optimistic that this trend will continue. All our clients have demonstrated strong success in maintaining employment for six months to one year, with many also achieving modest wage increases. These positive outcomes reflect the continued value of workforce services and the dedication of the individuals

we serve.

Workforce Alliance also presented two workshops at Winfield Correctional Facility this quarter, reaching 50 individuals.

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

Annual cumulative numbers for 2026 are below based on data available.

Quarter 3 2026	Sedgwick County Department of Corrections	Wichita Parole Office	Total
Employment Lab Attendees	191	0	191
Direct Referrals*	113	86	199
Individual Employment Services Provided	657	563	1220
Appointments scheduled/NS or cancel	130/65	111/66	241/131
Individuals Entering Employment**	216	37	253
Entered Employment Rate	83.75%	59.5%	71.63%
Employment Retention: 6 Months	84.25%	78.75%	81.5%
Employment Retention: 12 Months	92.2%	71%	81.6%
Average Wage: 6 months	\$15.37	\$16.35	\$15.86
Average Wage: 12 months	\$15.86	\$17.01	\$16.44

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

***Includes referrals from 2025 who gained employment in 2026*



Registered Apprenticeship Report

As of 9/30/2026

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 26 approved programs and 20 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, Rainbows United, Miracle Home Care, Kiddy Kollege, Rusty Eck Ford, Goodwill Industries, Azara Home Health, Greater Wichita YMCA, and JDR Painting, Inc.

Employer	Occupation	Status	Active Apprentices
Bailey's Learning Academy	Early Childhood Educator	Approved	5
CDH	Construction Craft Laborer	Approved	5
	Welder	Approved	0
Child Start	Early Childhood Educator	Approved	0
CMJ Manufacturing, Inc.	Machine Operator	Approved	0
	CNC Operator	Approved	5
Cox Machine	Router Operator	Approved	0
	Machine Operator	Approved	0
Design One	Upholsterer Technician	Approved	3
Don Hattan	Automotive Mechanic	Approved	0
	Tune Up Mechanic	Approved	6
F&H Insulation Sales and Services, Inc.	Coatings	Approved	1
	Insulation Worker	Approved	1
Goodwill Industries	Employment Training Specialist	Approved	0
Greater Wichita YMCA	Preschool Teacher (CDA)	Approved	0
	Preschool Teacher (CCC)	Approved	1
ISG Tech	Service Technician 1	Approved	0
JDR Painting, Inc.	Painter	Approved	0
Kiddy Kollege	Lead Child Care Teacher	Approved	10
Little Kings and Queens Daycare	Early Childhood Worker	Approved	0
Miracle Home Care	Certified Nursing Assistant	Approved	3
Azara Home Health			5
Rainbows United	Childcare Development Specialist	Approved	1
Rusty Eck Ford	Automotive Technician	Approved	1
UV&S	Computer Support Specialist	Approved	1
Yingling Aviation	Avionics Technician	Approved	24



Registered Apprenticeship Report
As of 9/30/2026
LAIV Registered Apprenticeship Information

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

Employer	Occupation	Status
Prime Craftsman Homes	HVAC	In Development
Sumner-Cowley Electrical Co-Op	Power Lineman	In Development
Vermillion, Inc.	Term Tech Assembly	On Hold
Thrive Therapy of KS	Support Staff	In Development
Breakthrough Club	Program Director	In Development
Harper Industries	Painter	In Development
Curbs-Plus	Welder	In Development
Wildcat Power Gen	Technician	In Development

The WA assists with online and in person applications for five RA programs. In September, four individuals engaged prescreen testing, resulting in zero completed application(s), details are below:

RA Application and Prescreen Activity			
2026	Applications and Prescreens	Completed Referrals	Completion Percentage
January	3	2	66%
February	4	1	25%
March	3	1	33%
April	4	3	75%
May	2	1	50%
June	9	4	44%
July	3	2	66%
August	9	6	66%
September	4	0	0
Totals	40	22	55%

The WA works in partnership with





Communications Report
As of 10/5/26

September 2026 Feature Stories

September 2026 Job of the Day		
Date	Job Title	Employer
9/1/2026	Branch Maintenance Director I	Greater Wichita YMCA
9/2/2026	Equipment Operator - Public Works	Sedgwick County
9/3/2026	Aftermarket Repair	Butler America Aerospace, LLC
9/7/2026	Park Worker 3	City of Haysville
9/8/2026	Technology Specialist	Maize USD 266
9/9/2026	Appliance Service Technician	Charley's Appliance, Inc.
9/10/2026	Highway Maintenance Worker Trainee	Kansas Department of Transportation
9/11/2026	Wastewater Treatment Operator I or II	City of Winfield
9/14/2026	Trial Court Clerk II	18th Judicial District Court
9/15/2026	Trooper Trainee	Kansas Highway Patrol
9/16/2026	Assistant City Attorney I (Prosecutor)	City of Wichita
9/17/2026	Litigation Counsel	Kansas Corporation Commission
9/18/2026	HVAC	Maize USD 266
9/21/2026	Residential Manager	Arrowhead West, Inc.
9/22/2026	Licensed Master Social Worker (Multiple Positions)	Ascension Living
9/23/2026	CDL Truck Driver	Aero Metals Alliance (Sunshine Metals)
9/24/2026	IT Senior Internal Auditor	Equity Bank
9/25/2026	Automation Sales Engineer	BG Products, Inc.
9/28/2026	Process Technician	Arcane Industries
9/29/2026	Faculty - Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT)	WSU Tech
9/30/2026	Geographic Information System (GIS) Technician	Sedgwick County

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

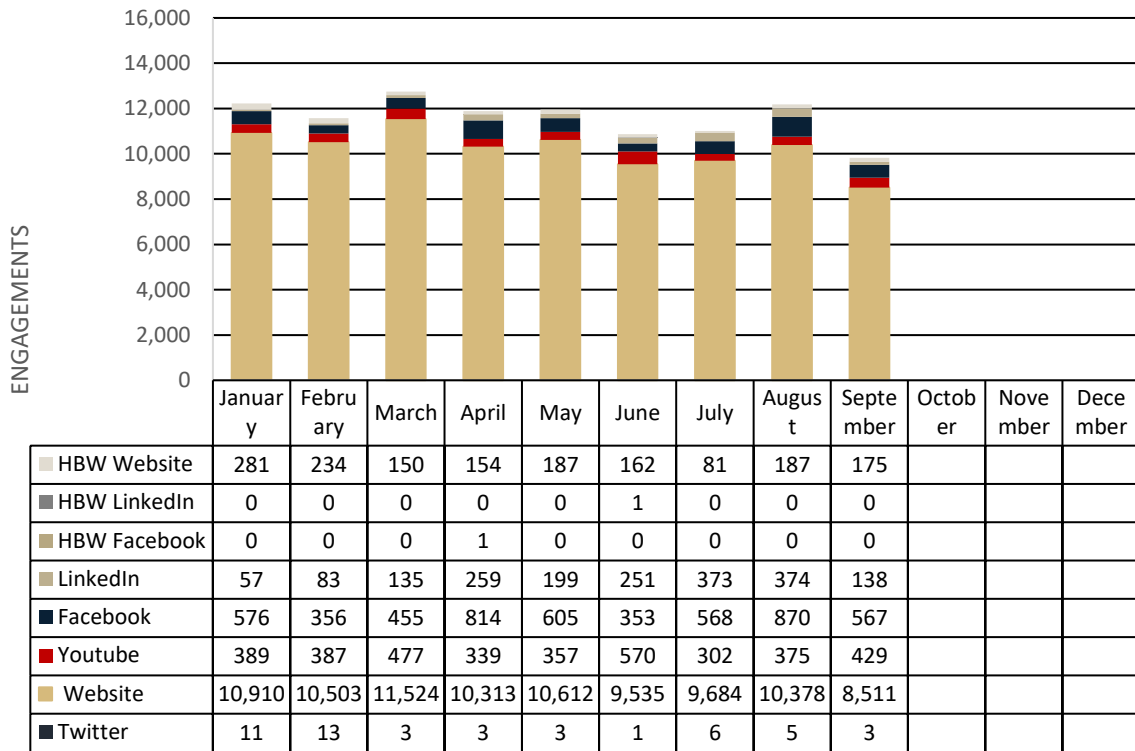
The data collected is from the platforms with the highest utilization:

- 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
- Home Base Wichita Website at <https://homebasewichita.com/>

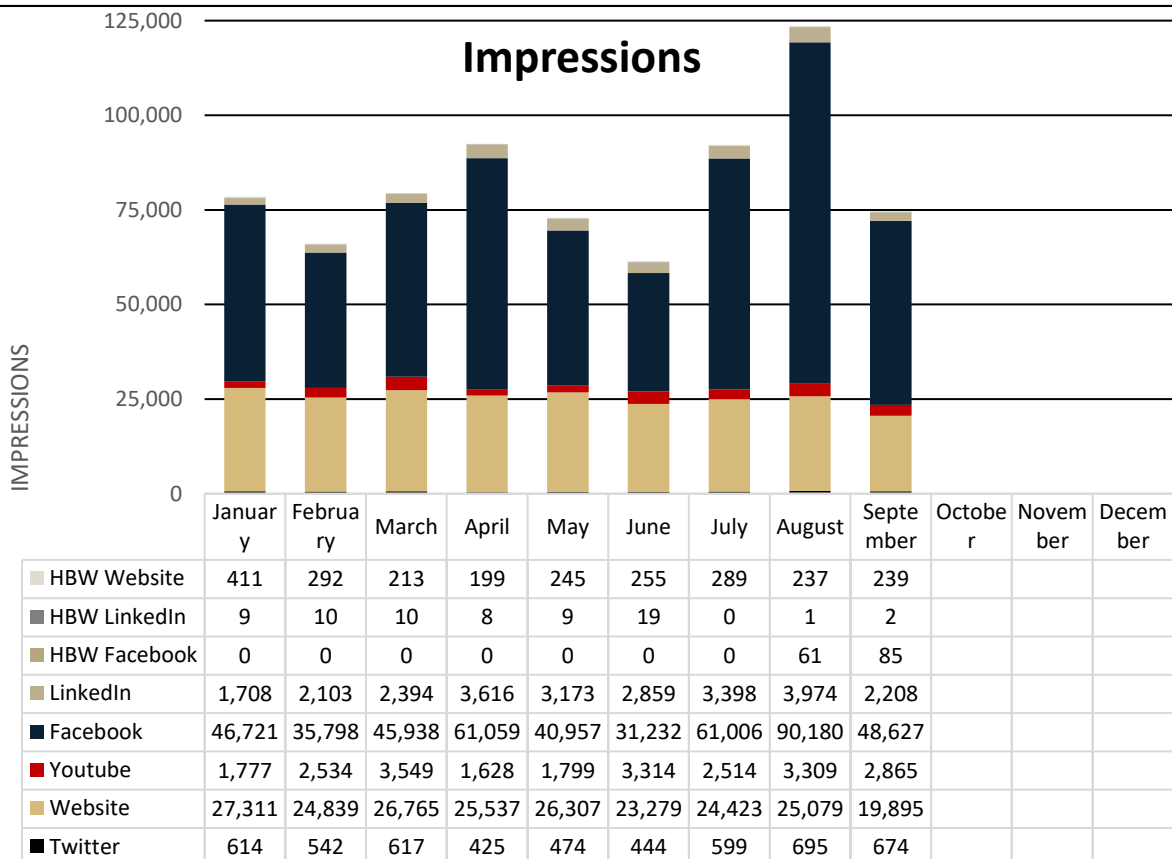
The month of September saw decreased engagement on all platforms except YouTube.

Impressions decreased across all platforms except HBW platforms. Followers decreased on all platforms except Facebook and LinkedIn.

Engagements



Impressions



Followers/Subscribers

