

2024

WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT



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MISSION

Growing the regional economy through a skilled workforce

VISION

Supporting and advancing a competitive workforce in South Central Kansas

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of the Workforce Alliance (WA) Board and staff, it is our pleasure to present the 2024 Annual Report. The WA continues to perform at a very high level and it is an honor for us to be part of the leadership team.

This report highlights how the WA and our partners at the KansasWorks Job Centers provided high quality employment and skills training opportunities to support the local economy. The ability to be creative and innovative is evident in this report and the outcomes generated by the WA and our partners.

In 2024, the WA welcomed a new partnership with Goodwill Industries of Kansas to be the One-Stop Operator in Local Area IV. Goodwill has been a longtime partner of the WA in Adult Education and youth employment, and we are excited about having them in this new role. The WA also celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the Wichita Workforce Center at New Leaf Plaza.

By collaborating with higher education, community-based organizations and employers, the WA continues to create significant impact by leveraging resources and aligning services from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) above and beyond the annual funding allocation. Examples include the Youth Employment Project, Home Base Wichita, Fair Chance, and SNAP E&T.

We look forward to the opportunities in 2025 and thank the outstanding staff, partners and WA board members.



Jeff Longwell
Workforce Alliance Board Chair
Golden Circle Charities

Keith Lawing
President and CEO
Workforce Alliance of South
Central Kansas



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Business & Industry

Rod Blackburn
Development Director
Partners in Education
Foundation

Ebony Clemons-Ajibolade
Community Relations Manager
Evergry

Cheryl Childers
Human Resources Manager
Cox Machine

Michele Gifford
Director, Workforce & Employee
Dev.
Textron Aviation

Robyn Heinz
Director of Human Resources
Vornado Air

Kevin Hunt
VP, 737 Manufacturing
Spirit Aerosystems

Jessica Ista
Director US Strategy & Community
Relations
Bombardier

Kathy Jewett
Human Resources Consultant /
National Assoc. of Workforce
Boards

Patrick Jonas
President & CEO
Cerebral Palsy Research

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Director & Board Chair
Golden Circle Charities

Alana McNary (Vice Chair)
Chief People Officer
Professional Engineering
Consultants

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Human Resources Manager
Creekstone Farms

Luis Rodriguez
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TEC Systems Group

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Wichita Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Gabe Schlickau
Sr. Relationship Manager,
Regional
Agribusiness Banking Group
CoBank

Scott Stiles
Director of Business Development
Schaefer Architecture

Bruce Witt
Kansas Chief Advocacy Officer
Ascension Via Christi Health

Adult Basic Education

Kami Moore
Adult Education Programs
Cowley College

Community Services Block Grant

Sally Stang
Director, Housing & Community
Svc.
City of Wichita

Higher Education

Dr. Kimberly Krull
President
Butler Community College

Labor

Andrew Chance
Apprenticeship Coordinator
Iron Workers - LU #24

John Clark
Training Director
Plumbers & Pipefitters #441

Marcus Curran
Organizer / Executive Board
Sheet Metal Workers #29

B.J. Moore
Midwest Director
SPEEA, IPFTE Local 2001

Tony Naylor
Training Director
Wichita Elec. Training-IBEW #271

Lisa Whitley
Directing Business Representative
Machinists Union Lodge #70

Vacant
Business Manager
IBEW, #271

Vocational Rehabilitation

Eric Hunt
Director of Employment Services
KS Dept. of Children & Families

Wagner-Peyser

Erica Ramos
Regional Operations Manager
Kansas Dept. of Commerce

PROGRAMS

The goal of the Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) is to leverage resources and align services to increase the community impact of the annual Federal allocation from WIOA.

At the direction of the LWDB, staff and Workforce Center partners seek opportunities to secure grants and collaborate on training projects to bring more funding to the region. The result allows job seekers and employers in Local Area IV access to a number of different employment and training programs beyond WIOA.



- WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth
- Digital Opportunities for Connecting Kansans (DOCK)
- Evergy Connect Initiative
- Home Base Wichita
- Jobs for the Future, Workforce Development Board Digital Skills Pilot Initiative
- Lead for America, American Connections Corps
- Meadowlark Registered Apprenticeship Program
- National Dislocated Worker Grant
- National Fund for Workforce Solutions, Centering Workers in Job Redesign: Improving Career Navigation Grant
- One Workforce Grant
- Pathway Home
- Project Hope
- Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP)
- Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN)
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- SNAP E&T
- State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity, and Innovation Grant
- Work-Based Learning
- Youth Employment Project



PARTNERS

The WIOA Act of 2014 requires LWDBs to create One Stop Centers providing services to employers and job seekers. In 2024, the WA competitively procured the services of Goodwill of Kansas, Inc. to be the One-Stop Operator in Local Area IV.

It is the role of the WA to implement policies, design programs, and monitor the quality of services to ensure they meet the unique needs of the local labor market from the KansasWorks Workforce Centers in South Central Kansas. Through the One-Stop System, multiple partners and agencies provide a full range of services pertaining to employment, training and education, employer assistance, and guidance for obtaining available employment services.

Collocated Partners & Programs

- Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
 - Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth
 - Special Grants
 - Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
 - Youth Employment Project
- American Indian Council, Native American Program
- Butler Community College, including Wichita Indochinese Center, Adult Education
- Cowley College
- Evergy Connect
- Flint Hills Job Corps
- Goodwill Industries of Kansas
- Home Base Wichita

- Kansas Department of Commerce
 - International Trade
 - My Re-Employment Plan
 - Office of Apprenticeship
 - Older Kansans Employment Program
 - Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)
 - RetainWORKS
 - Veteran's Services
 - Wagner Peyser
 - Kansas Tourism
 - PROWD
 - Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Services
- Lead for America, American Connection Corps
- Orion Education and Training
- Sumner County Economic Development Coalition
- U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Services (International Trade)
 - U.S. Commercial Services (International Trade)

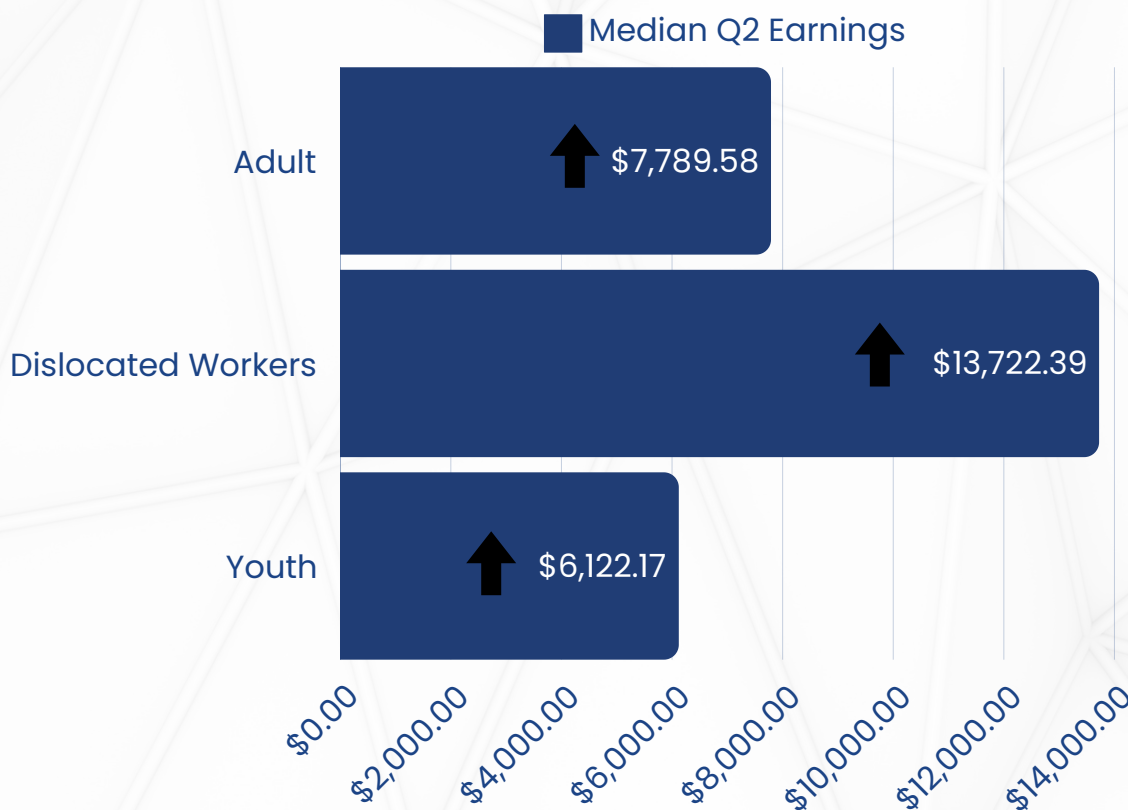
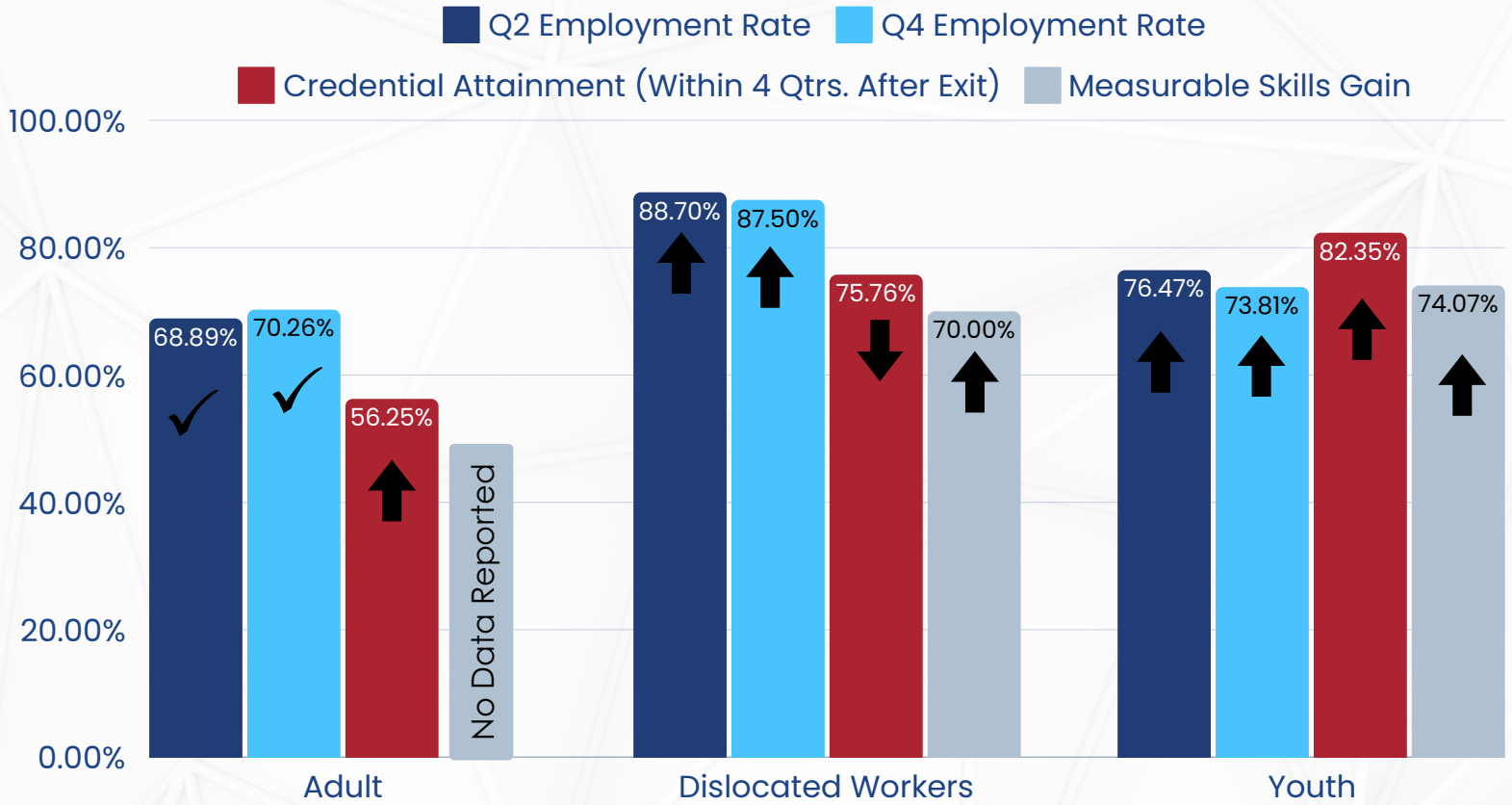
- Catholic Charities
- Child Start
- City of Wichita
 - Wichita Public Library
 - Evergreen Neighborhood Center
- Kansas Department for Children & Families, Vocational Rehabilitation, SNAP E&T, TANF
- Kansas Department of Corrections
- Kansas Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance, OSHA, Wage & Hour

Affiliated Partners

- NexStep Alliance
- Sedgwick County Corrections
- SER Corporation – National Farm Workers Program
- Wichita State University
- WSU Tech

OVERVIEW

WIOA Outcomes for Program Year 2023 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)



- ↑ Exceeded Goal
- ✓ Met Goal
- ↓ Did Not Meet Goal

WIOA YOUTH

The WIOA Youth Program assists young adults in overcoming barriers that stand between them and their educational and career goals.

Summary of Services	
Adult Mentoring	4
Alternative Secondary School Offerings	1
Career Guidance/Labor Market Information	46
Case Management	94
Financial Literacy Education	52
Follow-Up Services	19
Guidance & Counseling	9
Leadership Development	48
Occupational Skills Training	38
Supportive Services	4
Work Experience	44

Program Performance

Education & Employment Rate (2nd Qtr. after Exit)	77.8%
Education & Employment Rate (4th Qtr. after Exit)	73.8%
Credential Attainment (within 4 Qtrs. after Exit)	82.4%
Measurable Skills Gain	69.0%

\$5,341

Median Earnings (2nd Qtr.)

Supportive Services	
Bus Passes	13
Childcare Services	1
Employment-Related Expenses	18
Fuel	5
Housing	18
Medical	1
Uber Transportation Services	3
Utilities	11

94

Youth Served

38

Received Training

18

Earned Credentials

Teraya is a young parent who was referred to our WIOA Youth Program by our partner Allied Health Career Training. With our support, she has overcome significant barriers to achieving her educational and future career goals. Initially, Teraya obtained her CNA certification through Allied Health Career Training, and she quickly secured a position at Meridian Rehabilitation, earning a respectable \$19.50 per hour for 32 hours per week. However, her ambition extended beyond CNA, and she aspired to become an LPN. Facing financial constraints and ineligibility for financial aid her first semester, Teraya's dream of becoming an LPN seemed unattainable. The WIOA Youth Program was able to provide comprehensive support, including crucial housing assistance. With these critical support systems in place, Teraya is now confidently pursuing her LPN education. This achievement will not only enhance her earning potential and career prospects, but also create a more stable and secure environment for her child.

"This program has been a tremendous help to me. It provided me with the financial support I needed to return to school. Thanks to this program, I can now afford the tuition and associated costs of the LPN program through WSU Tech, bringing me one step closer to my goal of becoming a nurse and providing a better life for my child. I am incredibly grateful for the assistance I have received." - Teraya B.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

The Youth Employment Project (YEP) assists young adults in finding a first job or work experience opportunity. YEP activities include resume creation, job search, interview preparation, and job fairs. Educational opportunities for participants include soft skills, customer service, and financial literacy. The goals of YEP focus on leveraging resources and aligning services to create significant community impact.



Badges Awarded	1,542
Essential Skills Certificates Earned	514
Total Employment Placements	2,893
Workshop Participation	740
Young Adults Served	5,765

Job Fairs	18
Job Fair Attendance by Young Adults	2,403
Job Fair Attendance by Employers	320
Outreach Sessions	23
Counties Engaged	7
Employers Engaged	430
Schools Engaged	31

430
Employers Hired
through YEP

2,893
Youth Hired

\$4,165,920
Total Estimated
Wages Earned

Ava, a Derby high school student, was hired as a summer intern by the Wichita Business Journal after a rigorous interview process through the Workforce Alliance Youth Employment Project. Throughout the summer, she assisted with various projects from research to administrative tasks, as well as shadowing reporters, photographers, editors and the publisher.

Ava's internship experience was more than just a job. It was an opportunity to learn from seasoned professionals and gain firsthand experience in the field of journalism. She developed valuable skills, such as writing, editing, and fact-checking. The internship also helped her build a professional network that would prove invaluable in her future career.

At the end of the summer, Wichita Business Journal was so impressed they already pledged to hire another high school intern through YEP in 2025 and offered Ava a return slot as well!

CAMP HYPE

Camp HYPE is a week of career exploration combining Essential Skills Certificate (ESC) workshops with tours to local employers by industry. Structured as an “employment opportunity,” students who successfully completed a week of camp earn a \$200 stipend.

- Nine camps were held weekly between June 6 – August 10.
- Wichita Public Schools provided eight staff to assist with operating the camps and delivering the workshop curriculum.
- Students ranged between the ages of 14-18. Participants must have completed their freshman year of high school and yet to graduate to attend.
- Students had access to laptops and every student was able to create a resume.

Camp	Attendees
Sumner County	5
Public Safety sponsored by Wichita Metro Crime Commission	23
Healthcare sponsored by Ascension Via Christi	13
Trade Skills sponsored by Wichita Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center, Plumbers & Pipefitters Apprenticeship Training of KS, and Local Union #29 Sheet Metal Workers	15
Tech sponsored by FlagshipKansas.Tech	14
Financial Services sponsored by Bank of America and Meritrust Credit Union	19
Spirit AeroSystems	20
Bombardier	16
Textron Aviation	21

9

Camps held in Summer 2024



146

Total Attendees

SPECIAL PROJECTS

REGIONAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP (REAP)



REAP is the home of regional collaboration as a voluntary Council of Local Governments. REAP partners with communities across South Central Kansas to create a unified vision of a stronger future by investing in physical and human infrastructure. REAP leads/facilitates coordinated activities to bring local governments, education partners and economic development agencies together to support and enhance regional collaboration to grow the economy in South Central Kansas.

Through collaborative planning and strategic advocacy, REAP helps secure resources to enhance transportation, utilities, and public spaces while supporting workforce development, education, and quality-of-life initiatives. Together, REAP members ensure the region remains a vibrant, connected, and inclusive place to live, work, and grow.

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

The Senior Community Service Employment program (SCSEP) serves individuals 55 and older needing assistance with updating work skills to become more qualified for employment in the current job market.

SCSEP partners with local non-profit and government agencies across 6-county region to provide participants part time work training opportunities.

Program Year 2024

Individuals Served	92
Employer Partners	50
Community Service Hours	28,525

K-254 CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



The K-254 Corridor Development Association meets quarterly. The meetings are hosted by member communities. An average of 35 members, composed of elected and appointed officials from the communities along the corridor as well as elected and appointed officials from Butler and Sedgwick counties, attend the meeting as well as business, industry, landowners, and other interested stakeholders.

In 2024, the K254 Strategic Planning Committee developed a plan for the future of the Association. A Steering Committee was formed and more attention will be focused on the website and utilization of social media. In the future, the K-254 Corridor Development Association will focus on:

- Safety
- Advocacy
- Education

Because of the K254 Corridor Development Association's efforts, KDOT is leaning into safety improvements. These collaborative efforts are on track to significantly improve safety and increase development in the corridor.

KWCH BUILDING YOU



In September 2020, KWCH launched "Building You," an ongoing series that highlights an open position each day on the 4 p.m. newscast. The job postings are also featured the on the KWCH website, along with other available jobs through the Workforce Center and KANSASWORKS.com. Additionally, KWCH runs a weekly feature story on Wednesdays about job openings and the economy. The Workforce Center assists in providing ideas and content for these features.

In 2024, KWCH reported 261 Featured Jobs as part of the Building You Series.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners and the City of Wichita joined to proclaim November 17-23 National Registered Apprenticeship Week.

Additionally, the Workforce Alliance accepted the award for Outstanding New Program of the Year at the Registered Apprenticeship Summit held in Salina.



On October 29, the Wichita Workforce Center hosted an Open House to celebrate 10 years at its New Leaf Plaza location and welcome a new partnership with Goodwill Industries of Kansas as the new Local Area IV One Stop Operator.

The event featured remarks from Workforce Alliance President & CEO Keith Lawing, Mayor Lily Wu, Shelly Thompson, State Operations Director; Sedgwick County Commissioner Jim Howell; and Laura Ritterbush, President & CEO of Goodwill Industries of Kansas.

Home Base Wichita hosted a celebration for Military Appreciation Month on May 23 at Riverfront Stadium.

The event featured Veteran/Spouse and Employer panels, remarks from Textron Aviation Military Recruiter John Buckley, a Keynote speech from 22nd ARW Commander Col. Cory Damon, and a reading of the City's Military Appreciation Month Proclamation by Mayor Lily Wu.



HIGHLIGHTS

The Workforce Alliance hosted the annual Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament on September 19 at Hidden Lakes Golf Course.

This year's event raised over \$31,000 for the Youth Employment Project, a program that helps area youth gain career skills, experience, and internships.



The Workforce Alliance and Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas hosted the annual Get Hired Job Fair on November 7 at the Advanced Learning Library in Downtown Wichita.

The event drew 290 job seekers to meet with 18 employers hiring across various industries.

On December 12, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded nearly \$500,000 to the Workforce Alliance as part of the Brownfields Job Training Grant.

These funds will allow the Workforce Alliance to provide training in key areas of environmental cleanup such as asbestos abatement, transportation of hazardous waste, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Management, and OSHA 30-hour Occupational Health and Safety for General Industry.



BUSINESS SERVICES

The Workforce Center Business Services department provides no-cost solutions to employers for workforce development needs, including services for recruitment and hiring, training, credits and bonding, and rapid response services for business closings and layoffs.

Business Services	
Employers Served	393
In-Person Visits	259
Job Postings	8,448
Services to Employers	1,981

Prescreen Applications Assessments	
Applicants	167
Applications	177
Assessment Participants	1,130
Assessments Administered	2,962

Job Fairs	
Job Fairs	45
Employers Attended	344
Job Seekers Attended	3,325

Rapid Response	
Employers Served	9
Job Fairs	3
Employers Hosted Meetings	4
Packets Provided	639
Virtual Packets Provided	730
Individuals Served	1,500

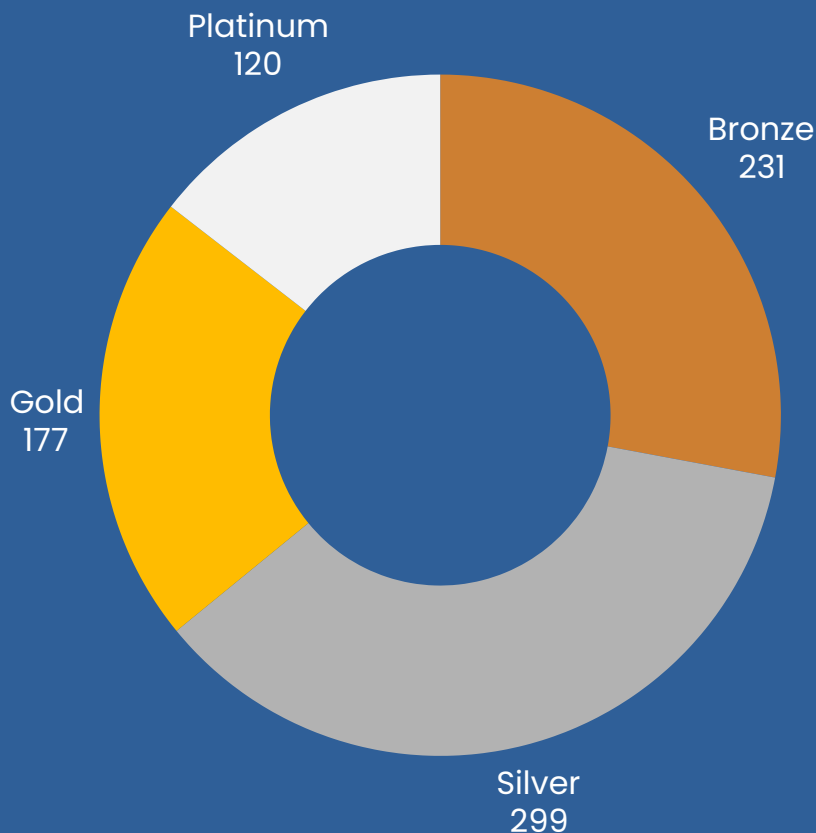


PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING - WORKREADY CERTIFICATE

The Kansas WORKREADY! Certificate utilizes ACT's WorkKeys Assessments to validate critically important workplace skills in math, locating information, and reading. The Kansas WORKReady! Certificate has gained wide acceptance in the business and economic development communities statewide. The Kansas WORKReady! Certificate allows companies to understand and predict job candidates' potential, ensuring the right person for the right job.

In addition to boosting customers' resumes, the Workforce Alliance facilitated testing for the following companies and organizations: HollyFrontier Sinclair, IEC, Sheet Metal, WSU Tech, Plumbers and Pipefitters, GE, Spirit, Textron Aviation, Cessna, NexStep Alliance, KDC, Workforce Alliance, One Workforce, Project Search, USD 259, and RESEA.

2024 WorkReady Data	
Test Sessions Offered	127
Customers Scheduled	1,575
Total Customers Tested	1,009



827
Certificates Awarded

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

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 10 approved programs and seven employers: CDH, Inc., Don Hattan Dealerships, UV&S, Cox Machine, ISG Tech, F&H Insulation, Child Start.

Employer	Occupation	Status	Active Apprentices
CDH	Construction Craft Laborer	Approved	2
	Welder	Approved	Pending
Child Start	Early Childhood Educator	Approved	Pending
Cox Machine	Router Operator	Approved	1
	Machine Operator	Approved	1
Don Hattan	Automotive Technician	Approved	3
ISG Tech	Service Technician 1	Approved	Pending
F&H Insulation	Coatings	Approved	1
	Insulation Worker	Approved	Pending
UV&S	Computer Support Specialist	Approved	1

Additionally the WA is has 28 pending Meadowlark enrollments for apprentices served by other intermediaries. Below is the status on new program activity through the WA intermediary.

Employer	Occupation	Status
AAR Component Services	Mechanic 1	In Development
Yingling Aviation	A & P Mechanic	In Development
YMCA	Early Childhood Educator	In Development

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

Currently there are 20 RA sponsors/Intermediaries active in LAIV, totaling 49 approved RA programs. The WA accepts onsite applications for six RA programs.

47%
Referral Completion

802
Active Apprentices
in LAIV

Month	Applications & Prescreens	Completed Referrals	Completion %
January	16	6	38%
February	15	7	47%
March	15	4	27%
April	17	10	58%
May	20	10	50%
June	11	5	45%
July	12	3	25%
August	17	15	88%
September	17	5	29%
October	16	8	50%
November	4	3	75%
December	7	4	57%
TOTAL	167	79	47%

Sponsor	# of Active Apprentices
Bombardier	15
Butler Community College**	9
Butler Rural Electric	1
City of Augusta	3
City of Winfield	3
Independent Electrical Contractors	80
InterHab*	13
Ironworkers JAC	10
Kansas Department of Education***	17

Metal Finishing	2
Plumbers & Pipefitters of Kansas	343
Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative	3
Sheet Metal Workers JAC	39
Spirit AeroSystems	54
Textron Aviation	45
The Ironworkers Joint Apprenticeship & Training Trust Fund	10
Wichita Electrical JAC	146
Workforce Alliance of South-Central Kansas**	9

*Intermediary for direct care occupations, active employers include Goodwill of Kansas and Flint Hills

**Multi-employer intermediary for advanced manufacturing/MRO, semiconductor, healthcare, and other in demand occupations

***State-wide Intermediary for Teacher Education

DIGITAL SKILLS

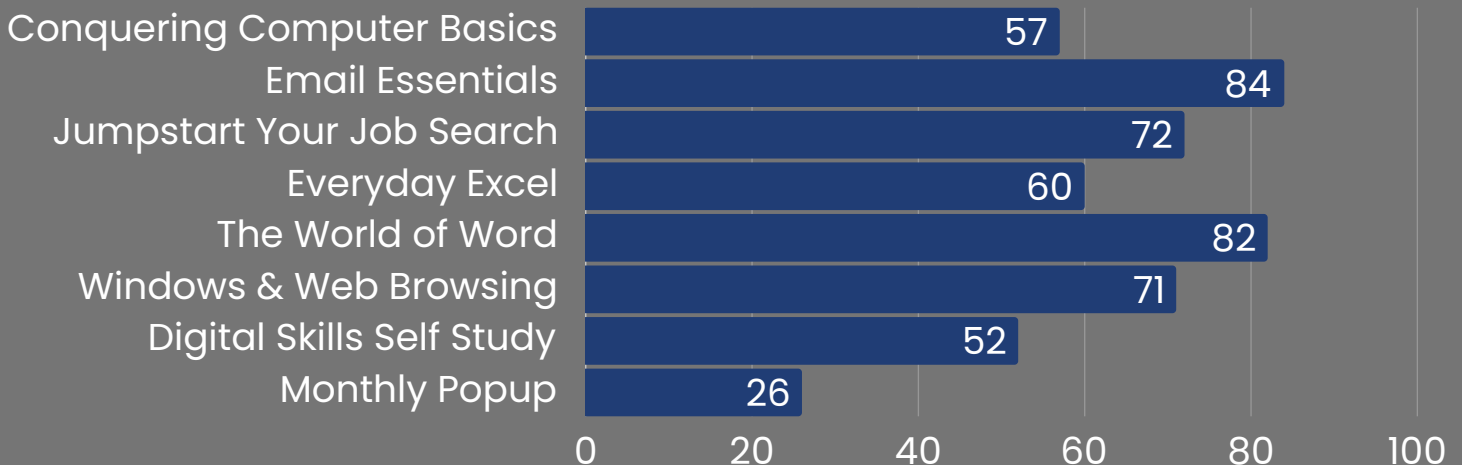
In May 2024, Gov. Laura Kelly announced the investment in Digital Opportunities to connect Kansans (DOCK) grants to improve the digital skills of Kansans who have not yet been able to fully capitalize on the power of the internet. These investments provide Kansans the digital literacy skills necessary to live, learn, work, and compete equitably in a technology-driven society.

The Workforce Alliance was awarded \$250,000 for DOCK, which will run through 2026.

Digital Skills Initiative	
Events	53
Customers Served	465
Participants Enrolled in Digital Skills Programs	332
Credentials Earned	127

The Workforce Alliance used its allotted funds for the Digital Skills Access Project, providing expanded free digital literacy and digital skills training and certifications for underserved and rural populations in South Central Kansas.

Through 2024, the program hosted 6 recurring monthly workshops, monthly pop-up workshops on various topics, and weekly self-study sessions.



CORRECTIONS WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

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.

2024 Summary	SCDOC	Wichita Parole Office	Total
Direct Referrals*	148	128	276
Employment Lab Attendees	226	0	226
Individual Employment Services Provided	1,266	511	1,777
Individuals Entering Employment**	241	42	283

283
Individuals
Entered
Employment

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

**Includes referrals from 2023 who gained employment in 2024

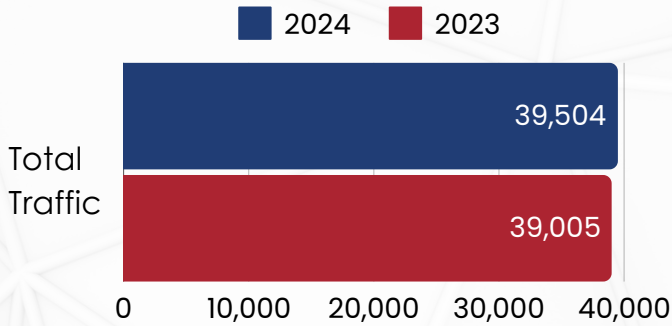
2024 Summary	SCDOC	Wichita Parole Office	Total
Entered Employment Rate	81.63%	83.5%	82.6%
Employment Retention After 6 months	69.8%	95%	82.4%
Employment Retention After 12 months	74.5%	69.9%	72.2%

82.6%
Employment Rate

2024 Summary	SCDOC	Wichita Parole Office	Total
Average Wage After 6 months	\$14.53	\$15.04	\$14.79
Average Wage After 12 months	\$14.77	\$14.67	\$14.72

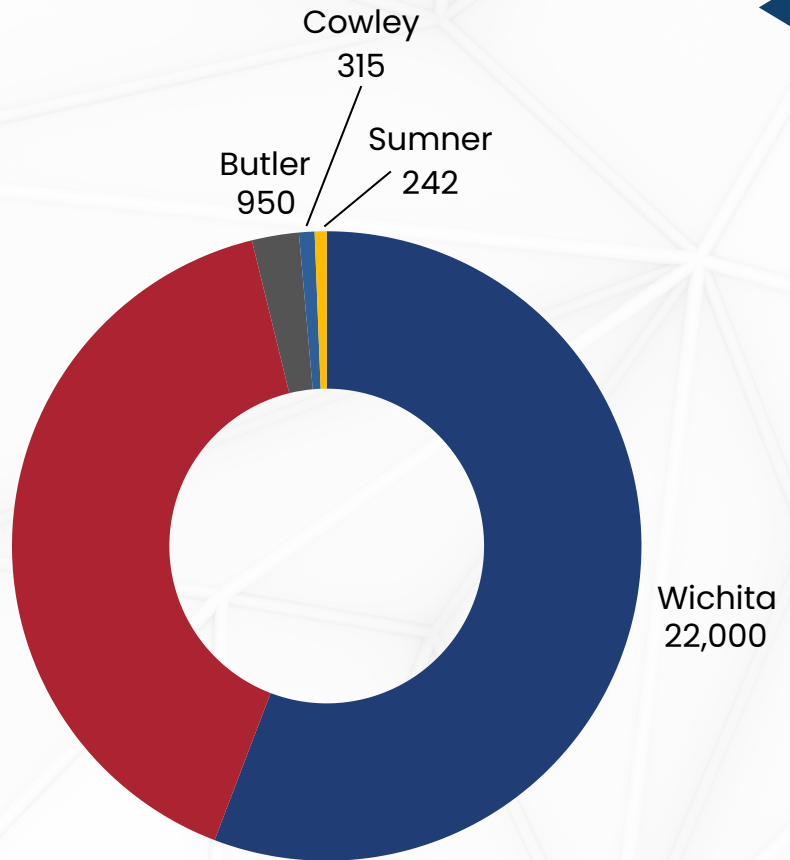
\$14.72
Average Wage
After 12 months

IN PERSON TRAFFIC

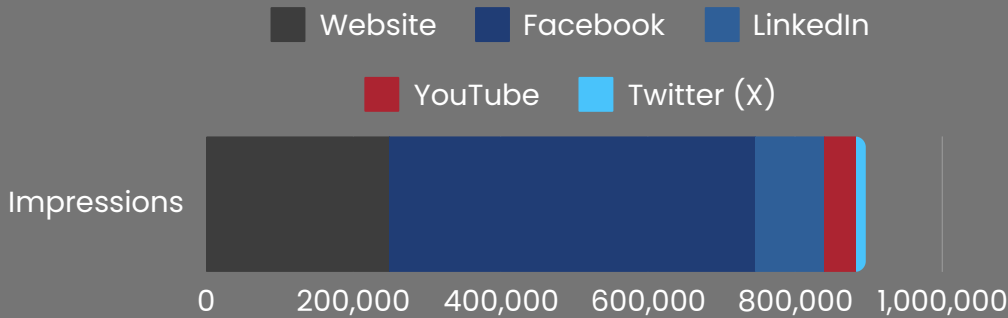


39,504
Total Customers Served

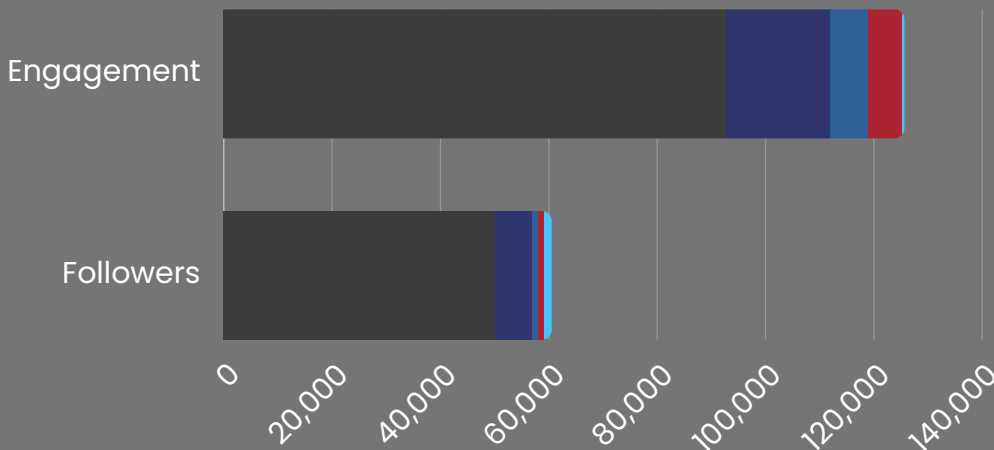
Special Events
15,922



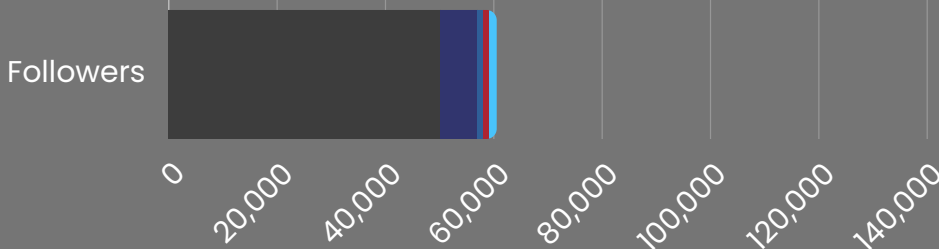
SOCIAL MEDIA TRAFFIC



896,046
Total Impressions



125,648
Total Engagement



60,534
Total Followers