



Workforce Alliance (WA) Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 • 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100

Mission—Supporting and advancing a competitive workforce in South Central Kansas

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment:** Jeff Longwell (11:30)
 2. **National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum 2025:** Alana McNary (11:35)
Board members and staff that attended the NAWB Forum on March 29-April 1 in Washington DC will share key takeaways from the event.
Recommended Action: *Take appropriate action.*
 3. **Partnership Agreement with Level Up Kansas:** Keith Lawing (11:45) (pp. 2-4)
The Workforce Alliance and Level Up Kansas developed a pilot collaboration agreement to connect more Kansans to skills training and job opportunities to help grow the Kansas economy.
Recommended Action: *Approve the agreement as presented and authorize staff to make modifications after consultation with Level Up Kansas.*
 4. **Kansas Local Workforce Boundaries:** Keith Lawing (11:55) (pp. 5-11)
The merger of Local Areas I and II was approved by Governor Kelly resulting in a change to the local area boundaries for the first time in over 40 years.
Recommended Action: *Authorize the WA Board Chair to request a comprehensive analysis of the local area service delivery boundaries for WIOA implementation.*
 5. **Community Impact Project Updates:** Keith Lawing and Amanda Duncan (12:10)
Updates will be provided on projects impacting the region by leveraging resources and aligning services.
Recommended Action: *Take appropriate action.*
 6. **2026-2028 WA Board of Directors Strategic Planning Proposal:** Keith Lawing (12:20) (p. 12)
The WA Board will update the Strategic Plan and identify goals for the organization in 2025.
Recommended action: *Approve the planning process for the 2026-2028 strategic plan.*
 7. **Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan:** Chad Pettera (12:35) (pp. 13-14)
The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires each Local Area to have an approved Local Plan. These plans must be reviewed and updated every four years.
Recommended Action: *Approve the draft Local Plan as presented pending public comments received.*
 8. **Consent Agenda:** Keith Lawing (12:40)
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 January 22, 2025 (pp. 15-17)
 - B. Workforce Alliance Budget Update for Program Year 2024 (p. 18)
 - C. Workforce Center Operations and One-Stop Operator Update (pp. 19-25)
 - D. Project Reports - Fair Chance and Communications (pp. 26-31)
 - E. LWDB Executive Committee Actions (p. 32)
 - F. OJT Training Contracts on Eligible Training Provider List: Anchor Fabrication and Keycentrix (pp. 33-34)**Recommended action:** *Approve the recommendations as presented in the consent agenda.*
 9. **Adjourn** (1:00)
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The next WA Board of Directors meeting will be on July 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

KANSASWORKS.com In Partnership with **AmericanJobCenter**

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

April 23, 2025

Submitted By: Keith Lawing

Item

Partnership Agreement with Level Up Kansas

Background

The Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce is leading the Level Up Kansas (LUK) project to get more Kansans connected to the Kansas Promise scholarship. The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act provides education and skills training scholarships for students to attend Kansas community colleges and technical colleges in specific fields of study. Here is a link to the Kansas Board of Regents website for more information. [Promise Act Scholarship \(kansasregents.org\)](https://www.kansasregents.org)

Analysis

LUK created a targeted outreach and marketing campaign that was funded by the Kansas Legislature in 2023. It is designed to help connect Kansans to skills training resources and to help support enrollment to community and technical colleges in Kansas. There are a number of inquiries to LUK that are more focused on immediate employment opportunities, or seeking a combination of job leads with information on scholarships for education and skills training.

Leadership from the Wichita Chamber and LUK have met with the Workforce Alliance and the other local workforce boards in Kansas about partnerships for developing strategies that will leverage and align LUK with the services and resources from the KansasWorks workforce centers. To help strengthen the relationship between LUK and the Local Workforce Boards a draft agreement is being piloted with the Workforce Alliance.

The draft agreement is attached and it establishes a defined referral and customer follow up process. There will also be opportunities for cross promotion. The Wichita Workforce Center will use its social media tools and other resources to help make job seekers aware of the Kansas Promise Scholarship, and LUK will help promote job fairs, workshops and related workforce center activities.

The LUK Board is also reviewing the draft agreement for approval.

Recommended Action

Approve the agreement as presented and authorize staff to make modifications after consultation with Level Up Kansas.



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Between the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas and Level Up Kansas

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT SUMMARY

The Workforce Alliance of South-Central Kansas (WA) and Level Up Kansas (LUK) share the goal of growing the Kansas economy through a skilled workforce, and work to connect Kansans to education, skills training and employment resources. This Partnership Agreement is designed to align services and leverage resources to strategically coordinate operations to prevent any wasteful duplication and to create a “no wrong door” approach for persons seeking information about skills training and employment options in Kansas.

The WA manages and oversees resources from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties, and operates the KANSASWORKS Workforce Center in Wichita.

LUK promotes the Kansas Promise Scholarship program and connects individuals to community and technical colleges in the state.

This Partnership Agreement defines the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the WA and LUK for follow up with customers interested in receiving employment services independent of skills training / education opportunities, or to gain employment while enrolled in a skills training program.

The agreement will be in effect from May 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, and can be modified and or extended by mutual agreement.

PARTNERSHIP ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

The WA agrees to the following.

- To contact individuals referred within two business days of receiving referral from Level Up Kansas
- Use the agreed upon common email subject line in communication with referred individuals
 - Current language is: Follow Up from Level Up Kansas Referral to Workforce Center
- Provide information on services available and how to access services to referred individuals
- Track data points on individuals referred from Level Up including:
 - Engagement in services after receipt of referral
 - Outcome of services provided
- Provide necessary information to Level Up Kansas as requested and released by the individual

LUK agrees to the following:

- Screen individuals and provide appropriate employment referrals to the WA
- Provide information to individuals referred to WA including:
 - Agreed upon common email subject line: Follow Up from Level Up Kansas Referral to Workforce Center
 - Time frame in which contact by WA will be made
 - Information on location and scheduling service platform provided by the WA
 - WA operates programs with varying eligibility criteria and training funding opportunities. WA staff can assist individuals in determining which programs they are eligible for
- To obtain a Release of Information from each individual being referred for services through the KANSASWORKS Workforce Centers.
- To provide necessary information to the WA as requested and released by the individual to support employment outcomes.

The WA and LUK jointly agree to the following:

- To meet on a monthly basis and review operations and outcomes
- To develop outreach strategies to increase awareness about job and career opportunities in Kansas, and how to connect to skills training resources through the Kansas Promise Scholarship initiative and the KANSASWORKS Workforce Centers.

_____	_____
For Level Up Kansas	Date
_____	_____
For the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas	Date

Item

Kansas Local Workforce Boundaries

Background

The State of Kansas had been divided into five local workforce board areas to oversee federal job training and funding for over 40 years. The boundaries are used to allocate annual federal funding and the geographic framework for implementing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The merger of workforce boards is allowable under WIOA and the merger of Local Area I (Workforce One) and II (Heartland Works) was approved by Governor Laura Kelly, and the new map of local areas is attached.

Analysis

The reduction of local areas in Kansas makes strategic sense in recognition of declining federal revenue from WIOA, population trends over the past 50 years and the current labor market in Kansas. The Workforce Alliance provided comment in support of the ability for the Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to merge, but requested a comprehensive, collaborative and inclusive analysis be conducted to determine the most effective service areas for the LWDBs to implement WIOA. It was also noted the local area boundaries are not consistent with the labor markets in Kansas.

A response to the request was received on February 5, 2025 from the Kansas Department of Commerce stating “Commerce will engage in a process to review Local Area boundaries and may recommend changes to Governor Kelly.”

To expedite the timeline of a State led review of the local areas, and to check the status of any plans being developed, it is suggested the WA Board chair reach out to the Secretary of Commerce and Chairman of the State Workforce Board.

Recommended Action

Authorize the WA Board Chair to request a comprehensive analysis of the local area service delivery boundaries for WIOA implementation.



Local Workforce Development Board in Kansas Area IV

April 23, 2025

Governor Laura Kelly
State of Kansas, Governor's Office
300 S.W. 10th Ave.,
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Kelly,

Your recent approval for the merger of the Local Area I and Local Area II Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBS), results in four LWDBs in the state to implement the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This is the first change of the service delivery areas for the federally funded public workforce system in over 40 years. The merger creates a significant imbalance in the geography and the population of the local areas, and the boundaries do not reflect the true labor market regions in any way. On behalf of the Workforce Alliance of South-Central Kansas LWDB, I am requesting a comprehensive, collaborative and inclusive analysis be conducted to determine the most effective service areas for the LWDBs to implement WIOA.

A study of the local WIOA service areas needs to engage all of the LWDBs, and include post-secondary institutions, economic development agencies, employers and other WIOA partners and stakeholders. Data on labor markets and employment commuting patterns should be part of this analysis. Specific attention should be given to state agencies that deliver public services based on defined regions to better align federally funded employment and skills training programs like Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Carl Perkins Vocational Education and others.

An added issue for consideration is language in legislation to reauthorize WIOA, (A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA)), that requires Governors to initiate a review of LWDB service areas. The merger of Local Area I and II gives Kansas an opportunity to be proactive on an anticipated federal mandate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the merger and please keep the Workforce Alliance and other stakeholders aware of developments on this topic.

Sincerely,

Jeff Longwell
Chair, Local Workforce Development Board, Local Area IV

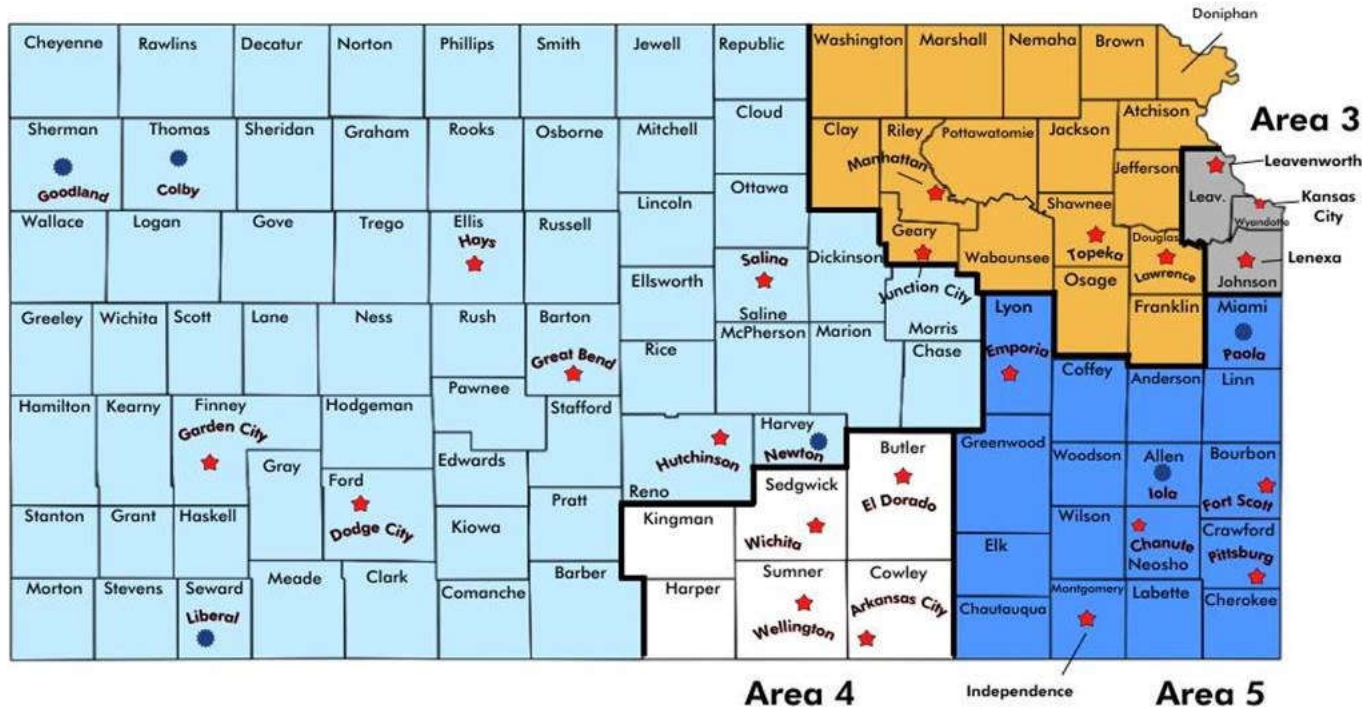
cc: Lt. Governor David Toland, State of Kansas
David Hardwood, KansasWorks State Board Chair
Mike Beene, Kansas Department of Commerce
Commissioner Jim Howell, Sedgwick County/Chair, Chief Elected Officials Board, Local Area IV



KANSASWORKS

Area 1

Area 2



Area 1
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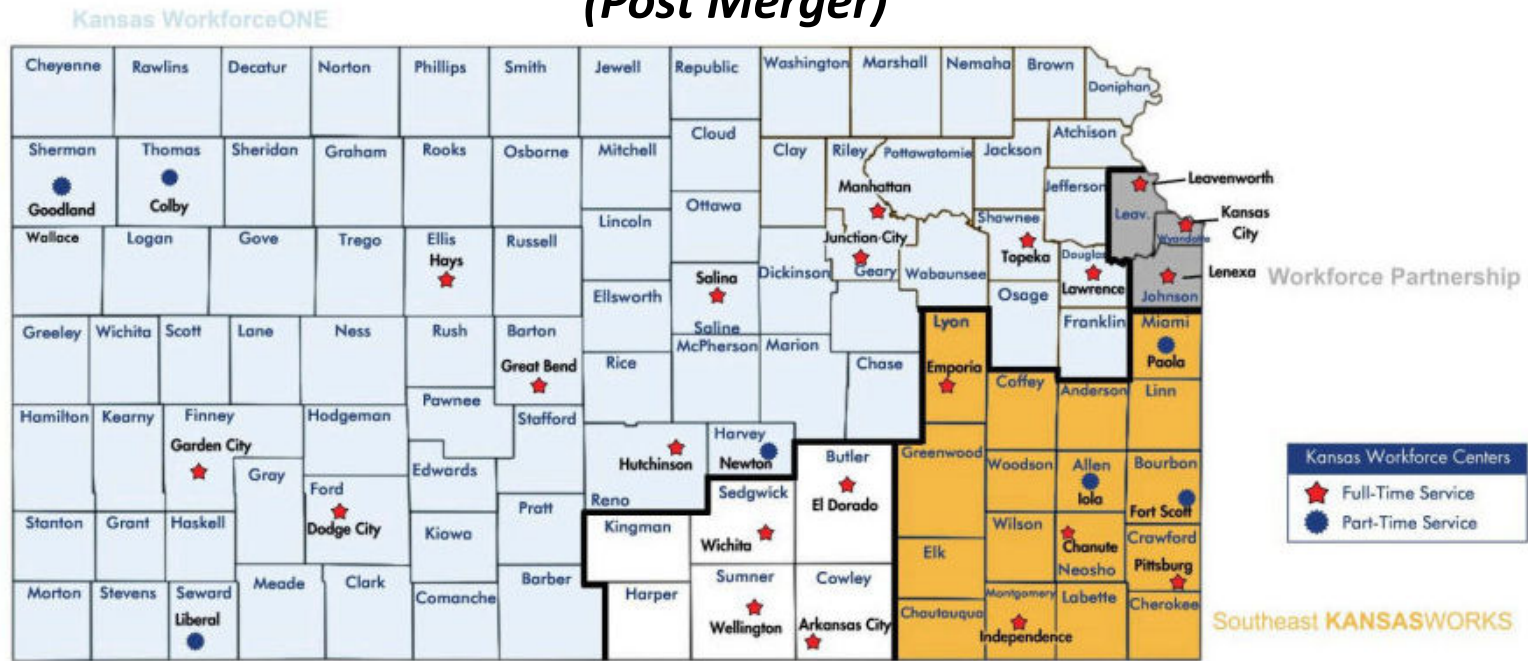
Area 3
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 Executive Director
 215 W. 6th, Suite 104
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 (620) 342-3355
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Kansas Local Workforce Development Board — Local Areas

(Post Merger)



Kansas WorkforceONE



www.ksworkforceone.org
 Deb Scheibler, Executive Director
 631 E. Crawford, Suite 206S Salina, KS 67401
 785-493-8018
 deb@kansasworkforceone.org
 Meeting Schedule: (<http://www.kansasworkforceone.org/>)

Workforce Partnership



www.workforcepartnership.com
 Keely Schneider, Executive Director
 8535 Bluejacket St Lenexa, KS 66214
 913-577-5959
 keelys@workforcepartnership.com
 Meeting Schedule: (<https://www.workforcepartnership.com/about/>)

Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas



www.workforce-ks.com
 Keith Lawing, President & CEO
 300 W. Douglas, Suite 850 Wichita, KS6 7202
 316-771-6600
 klawing@workforce-ks.com
 Meeting Schedule: (<http://workforce-ks.com/index.aspx?page=119>)

SoutheastKANSASWORKS



<https://sekworks.org>
 Leanne Kehres, Executive Director
 215 West 6th Ave, Suite 104 Emporia, KS 66801
 620-366-0046
 leanne@sekworks.org
 Meeting Schedule:
 ([http://sekworks.org/index.php?option=com_content
 &task=view&id=9&Itemid=10](http://sekworks.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9&Itemid=10))



Local Workforce Development Board in Kansas Area IV

December 17, 2024

KansasWorks State Board
1000 S.W. Jackson St., Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Public Comments for Merger of Local Areas I and II

Workforce Alliance supports the merger of Local Area I and Local Area II, and believes that four Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) is the best model for Kansas to implement the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), or the A Stronger Workforce for America (ASWA) legislation now being considered in Congress.

Since the merger will result in the change of local area boundaries for the first time in over 40 years, it is strongly recommended that a comprehensive, collaborative and inclusive analysis be conducted to determine the most effective service areas for the LWDBs to implement WIOA. The attached tables show population, geographic, and employment data differences moving from five to four local areas as proposed. Having more balance in the population and geography among four LWDBs needs to be considered for efficiencies for WIOA implementation.

A study of the local WIOA service areas should include how other state agencies deliver public services based on defined regions, engage post-secondary institutions, economic development agencies, employers and other WIOA partners and stakeholders. Data on labor markets and employment commuting patterns should be included in this analysis. Specific attention should be given to better align federally funded employment and skills training programs operated by state agencies like Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Carl Perkins Vocational Education and others.

It is acknowledged a detailed review of local area boundaries and the need to engage a large number of partners and stakeholders will take time, and the transition from five to four local areas should proceed. The process of reviewing WIOA local service areas should be completed by December 31, 2025, and any change in local area boundaries could be in place by WIOA Program Year 2026 (July 1, 2026).

An added issue for consideration is language in the ASWA legislation to reauthorize WIOA requires Governors to initiate a review of LWDB service areas. The merger of Local Area I and II gives Kansas an opportunity to be proactive on an anticipated federal mandate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the merger and please keep the Workforce Alliance and other stakeholders aware of developments on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Lawing".

Keith Lawing
President & CEO



Current Population and Employment Breakdown with Five Local Areas

Current Area	Number of Counties	2023 Population	Percentage of Kansas Population	2023 Employment	Percentage of Kansas Employment
LAI	62	558,293	18.99%	300,086	18.49%
LAII	17	578,148	19.66%	305,612	18.83%
LAIII	3	871,039	29.62%	538,467	33.17%
LAIIV	6	666,093	22.65%	344,434	21.22%
LAV	17	266,976	9.08%	119,225	7.34%
Kansas	105	2,940,546	100%	1,623,246	100%

Population and Employment Breakdown with Four Local Areas

Proposed Area	Number of Counties	2023 Population	Percentage of Kansas Population	2023 Employment	Percentage of Kansas Employment
LAI/LAII Merged	79	1,136,4413	38.64%	605,698	37.31%
LAIII	3	871,039	29.62%	538,467	33.17%
LAIIV	6	666,093	22.65%	344,434	21.22%
LAV	17	266,976	9.08%	119,225	7.34%
Kansas	105	2,940,546	100%	1,623,246	100%

Department of Commerce
1000 S.W. Jackson St., Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66612-1354



Phone: (785) 296-3481
Fax: (785) 296-5055
KansasCommerce.gov

David C. Toland, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

February 5, 2025

Keith Lawing, President and CEO
Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
300 W. Douglas, Suite 850
Wichita, KS 67202

Dear Keith:

Thank you for your recent letter in response to the plan for the merger of Local Workforce Development Areas I and II. While you support the merger, you suggest an analysis of multiple factors regarding the Local Area boundaries occur by December 31, 2025, to determine if further changes to boundaries would benefit workforce services delivery in the state.

While a timeline has yet to be established, Commerce will engage in a process to review Local Area boundaries and may recommend changes to Governor Kelly. Your willingness to participate in this process is appreciated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Mike Beene". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mike Beene

April 23, 2025

Submitted By: Keith Lawing

Item

2026-2028 Workforce Alliance Board of Directors Strategic Planning Proposal

Background

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Board of Directors adopts a strategic plan every two years and will engage in the strategic planning process in 2025. The strategic plan is used to guide the operations and set goals for the organization.

As per past practice, the Board will conduct a series of strategic planning sessions that will focus on key topics to review progress and outcomes related to goals and community impact. The goal is to adopt the new strategic plan by the WA Board in January of 2026 for the 2026-2028 planning cycle.

Analysis

The WA Executive Committee shared feedback and suggestions for identifying strategic goals and recommend the following.

- Host no more than five planning sessions focused on specific themes or topics, in a working lunch format at the Wichita Workforce Center.
- Engage WA Board and Committee members, employer partners, community-based organizations, Workforce Center partners, elected officials and local education and skills training providers.
- Create opportunity to get input from Workforce Alliance and Workforce Center staff.
- Direct WA staff to provide an analysis of outcomes related to the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

The suggested planning sessions topics are below.

- Current and Anticipated Local Employment and Skills Training Priorities
 - Labor Market Data
 - Local Employer Panel
- How Economic Mobility Can Grow the **SKILLED** Workforce in the region
- Legislative Workforce Policy Roundtable
 - Co-host with Wichita Chamber and Greater Wichita Partnership
 - Invite local elected officials, the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation and Congressional Staff
- Technology Tools for Workforce Development, Education and Skills Training
 - Digital Literacy
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Classroom and Skills Training Tools
- Summary Session: Bringing it all Together.

Recommended Action

Approve the planning process for 2026-2028 strategic plan.

April 23, 2025

Submitted By: Chad Pettera

Item

Local Area IV - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan

Background

The WIOA requires each Local Area to have an approved Local Plan. The plan must be reviewed and updated every four years. The Local Plan must be submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce by June 2, 2025. Prior to submission to the Kansas Department of Commerce the Local Plan must be posted for public comment for 30 days and then approved by the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB) and Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB). The Executive Committee reviewed the plan at its meeting on April 9, 2025.

Analysis

Workforce Alliance staff have drafted the updated Local Plan based on WIOA guidelines. The template for the WIOA Local Plan for the next four years follows the exact same template as the current Local Plan. Staff updated the Local Plan to accurately reflect current operations and update for the current labor market. The WIOA Local Plan will be reviewed by the WIOA Mandated Partners at their meeting on April 24, 2025.

Local Plan

The draft Local Plan includes goals, strategies, service delivery plans, policies and management of the One Stop Workforce System in Local Area IV.

The local partners have developed cross program strategies customized to the local area. These strategies are developed for both employer services and job seeker services and include the following components:

- Enhanced customer referrals and release of information
- Effective communication among all partners
- Easy access to information for customers
- Collaborative case management and co-enrollment
- Outreach
- Cross training

Other key components of the Local Plan include the following:

Strategic Elements

This section includes an economic and workforce analysis from the Kansas Department of Labor. The analysis provides an overview of existing and emerging workforce demands, employment and unemployment rates, labor market trends, workforce education and skills level, and addresses the current skill gap in south central Kansas.

April 23, 2025

Submitted By: Chad Pettera

The mission, vision, and strategic goals of the Workforce Alliance are provided. A description of partnerships with economic development, Regional Growth Plan, Preparation for Advanced Career Systems (PACES), higher education, K-12 system, and WIOA Partners are discussed. An analysis of workforce development activities including strengths, weaknesses, and capacity is provided.

Operational Planning Elements

This section of the Local Plan includes employer and job seeker strategies that have been developed. It also includes the structure of the Local Workforce Development Board, the integration and co-enrollment plan for WIOA Title 1B programs and Wagner Peysner, and the functional management of the One Stop Centers. The integration and co-enrollment plan is written to encourage other Workforce Center partners to enter at any time.

Continuous improvement, oversight, performance, program data, priority of service for veterans, and accessibility are described in this section. It also addresses current policies and procedures of the LWDB including both Administrative and Program policies.

The Local Plan released for public comment on April 7, 2025. The following is the link to the make public comment:

www.workforce-ks.com/communityoutreach/localworkforcedevelopmentboard; it will be shared with staff, board members and stakeholders. Comments will be accepted through May 7, 2025. Staff will review comments as they are filed and then respond to the comments and make appropriate changes as necessary. The plan will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at its May 14, 2025 meeting and the CEOB will review at its meeting on May 8, 2025. All comments provided will be attachments to the Local Plan. The Local Plan is due to the Kansas Department of Commerce on June 2, 2025.

Recommended Action

Approve the draft Local Plan as presented pending public comments received.



Workforce Alliance (WA) Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2025

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance Board met in person at the Wichita Workforce Center and via Zoom; Chair Jeff Longwell called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions.

2. Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received.

3. Wichita Public Schools (WPS) Bond Proposal

The WA is a long-time partner of Wichita Public Schools (USD 259). District staff were present to discuss the upcoming bond election, the focus on the district's aging infrastructure and the importance of community investment in the future of students. They emphasized the importance of community feedback and the use of hard facts in creating the district's master plan. The potential economic benefits of the bond, including the creation of jobs and the strengthening of local communities was noted. The ultimate goal is to provide the best possible learning environment for students. The school district is holding nine open houses between now and February 1st to showcase the conditions of buildings that are being considered for rebuilds, remodels, or closure. USD 259 is also seeking community input and encourages people to vote in the bond election.

Report was received and filed.

4. Youth Employment Project (YEP) 2025 Planning

This month staff are making a final push to identify all of the employers who will be hiring high school interns. Staff will be holding a webinar for municipal and public sector partners about hiring youth early next month. Interest from students is great and the activities being held in the schools are very popular including the use of the career exploration virtual reality Transfr headsets. There is a challenge of finding sufficient additional employer partners for work experience opportunities to meet student demand. It was noted that Spirit will not be hiring summer interns this year due to the planned acquisition by Boeing. Staff are being very intentional in the process of actively recruiting employers where students have a career interest; the importance of early recruitment is important to increase the number of job placements.

Report was received and filed.

5. 2025 Workforce Alliance Work Plan and Goals / Community Impact Projects Updates

Board members reviewed current operations and identified action items and goals to address in 2025. Lawing discussed the organization's focus on economic mobility and the need for alignment with other community-based organizations. He emphasized the importance of leveraging non-federal resources and building on the organization's existing structure.

The proposed 2025 Work Plan was discussed. The focus of the plan is to enhance economic opportunity for at-risk youth, justice involved individuals (Fair Chance, returning citizens), military veterans, transitioning workers (layoffs, sector growth, etc.) and grow employer partnerships. The plan also proposes strategies to increase WA Board member engagement. Examples include elected officials to visit the workforce center annually to meet with Board members, increasing industry partner engagement by conducting lunch-and-learn sessions at workforce centers for a fee with valuable content such as labor market information and youth employment that is targeted to hiring managers and human resource professionals. Board members are also encouraged to participate in strategic planning to develop goals for 2026 through 2028 and developing a plan for raising \$50,000 from the annual Jobs

FORE Youth golf tournament. Blackburn and Munoz suggested that proposed lunch and learn sessions not only be planned for the Wichita Workforce Center but for centers in other counties as well. Lawing pointed out that staff are in the process of meeting with Butler and Cowley counties regarding continuing the series of community impact meetings that was started last year.

Related to the importance of Board members using WA services and supporting the WA as an organization, the creation of two broad categories for board members was proposed: employer partner (job postings, job fairs, pre-screenings, on-the-job training, registered apprenticeship and youth employment) and strategic funders (Jobs FORE Youth golf tournament, Camp HYPE, matching funds for grants and special projects). Board members can be ambassadors about WA programs and services and use social media and other platforms to increase awareness and promote activities and events.

Rod Blackburn (Kathy Jewett) moved to adopt the 2025 Work Plan and Goals with a change to "Workforce Centers" rather than the "Wichita Workforce Center" in reference to establishing sessions with partners in the region to expand employer partnerships. Motion adopted.

6. **Workforce Alliance (WA) Board and Committee Membership**

The WA Committee assignments are being reviewed and updated for appointments in 2025 by the WA Board Chair. Board members should notify Lawing or Chair Longwell if interested in joining any committees by February 1st so that committee rosters can be finalized for the year. The transition of board members and committee assignments was discussed.

For the Board, Dr. Krull's retirement from Butler Community College was acknowledged. Dr. Jackie Vietti will be the interim president and will be asked to serve on the Board. Dr. Rachel Bates from Cowley College will replace Kami Moore, and Jeimeson Saudino from IBEW will replace Russ Kennedy.

For Committees, Gabe Schlickau will transition off the Executive Committee in 2025 and will remain on the board. Cheryl Childers from Cox Machine was asked to join the Executive Committee. For the Program Operations and Performance (POP) Committee John Clark will be retiring soon and Board Members Marcus Curran and Luis Rodriguez have agreed to serve on that Committee. For the Finance Committee, Dr. Krull and Russ Kennedy will no longer be serving on that committee and Board Members Scott Stiles and Kathy Jewett will be new members. A co-chair is needed for the Youth Employment Committee. It is important for board members to serve on committees and staff will work with the board chair to reach out to board members.

Report was received and filed.

7. **Consent Agenda**

An update on the merger of Local Areas I and II was discussed. The WA submitted public comments that expressed concern about the geographical and population disbalance. No response from the state has been received. Lawing will be meeting with Kansas Department of Commerce to discuss the issue further regarding the boundary changes and lack of response to submitted public comments.

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

8. **Additional Topics/Announcements**

- Chair Longwell recognized WA Board member, Kathy Jewett, who has served on the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) for the past eight years. She has recently resigned from that board and attended her last meeting last week. Jewett will continue to serve on the WA Board and the Executive Committee. She provided an update on discussions regarding WIOA reauthorization to the board. As reported earlier, the proposed bill attached to a continuing resolution did not pass. The new administration is reviewing possible cuts of any programs that were not reauthorized. The uncertainty surrounding the reauthorization and funding of workforce programs includes possibilities such as funding being cut, distributed as block grants to governors, or continuing with normal appropriations. NAWB is emphasizing the need to educate new

congresspeople on workforce systems and programs particularly stories about strong, high performing workforce boards.

- The next board meeting on April 23rd is scheduled to be a working lunch meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Present LWDB Members

- Rod Blackburn
- Cheryl Childers
- Marcus Curran
- Michele Gifford via Zoom
- Robyn Heinz via Zoom
- Jessica Iastas
- Kathy Jewett
- Pat Jonas via Zoom
- Jeff Longwell
- Alana McNary
- Alex Munoz via Zoom
- Tony Naylor
- Luis Rodriguez via Zoom
- John Rolfe via Zoom
- Sally Stang via Zoom
- Scott Stiles
- Dr. Sheree Utash via Zoom
- Bruce Witt via Zoom

Guests & Staff

- Marcy Aycock via Zoom
- Amanda Duncan
- Keith Lawing
- Shirley Lindhorst
- Chad Pettera
- Peter Bodyk, KS Dept. of Children & Families
- Lindsay McWilliams, Goodwill / One-Stop Operator
- Gil Alvarez, Deputy Superintendent, Wichita Public Schools
- Luke Newman, Division Director, Plan Facilities, Wichita Public Schools
- Sean Hudspeth, Chief Human Resources Officer, Wichita Public Schools

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

Workforce Alliance Consolidated Budget PY24

July 2024 - June 2025

Expenditures Through 02/28/2025

Category	WIOA					Community Impact Funds				Consolidated			
	Budget	February Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	% Budget Remaining		Budget	February Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	% Budget Remaining	Budget	February Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	% Budget Remaining
Wages	\$ 1,831,334	\$ 100,635	\$ 1,079,122	41%		\$ 1,401,982	\$ 92,060	\$ 850,042	39%	\$ 3,233,316	\$ 192,695	\$ 1,929,164	40%
Fringe	\$ 423,200	\$ 26,121	\$ 240,965	43%		\$ 347,690	\$ 29,109	\$ 190,737	45%	\$ 770,890	\$ 55,230	\$ 431,702	44%
Facilities	\$ 260,835	\$ (85,797)	\$ 206,790	21%		\$ 127,910	\$ 10,864	\$ 75,256	41%	\$ 388,745	\$ (74,933)	\$ 282,046	27%
Contract/Pro Fees	\$ 83,008	\$ 11,622	\$ 46,010	45%		\$ 55,050	\$ 380	\$ 55,936	-2%	\$ 138,058	\$ 12,002	\$ 101,946	26%
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 21,595	\$ 532	\$ 16,320	24%		\$ 16,490	\$ 269	\$ 7,016	57%	\$ 38,085	\$ 801	\$ 23,336	39%
IT	\$ 137,500	\$ 6,274	\$ 22,384	84%		\$ 49,745	\$ (706)	\$ 47,985	4%	\$ 187,245	\$ 5,568	\$ 70,369	62%
Outreach/Cap Building	\$ 27,175	\$ 1,570	\$ 17,646	35%		\$ 123,525	\$ 8,892	\$ 94,516	23%	\$ 150,700	\$ 10,462	\$ 112,162	26%
Travel/Conferences	\$ 52,140	\$ 3,150	\$ 20,594	61%		\$ 34,562	\$ 6,823	\$ 31,560	9%	\$ 86,702	\$ 9,973	\$ 52,154	40%
Grants Awarded	\$ 215,000	\$ 5,452	\$ 31,924	85%		\$ 152,500	\$ 41,482	\$ 102,606	33%	\$ 367,500	\$ 46,934	\$ 134,530	63%
Staff Development	\$ 9,700	\$ -	\$ 1,216	87%		\$ 14,050	\$ -	\$ 3,025	78%	\$ 23,750	\$ -	\$ 4,241	82%
Indirect	\$ 272,402	\$ 13,443	\$ 161,611	41%		\$ 255,656	\$ 38,219	\$ 296,767	-16%	\$ 528,058	\$ 51,662	\$ 458,378	13%
Misc/Dep/Int	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%		\$ 27,000	\$ -	\$ 7,414	73%	\$ 27,000	\$ -	\$ 7,414	73%
Work Experience	\$ 854,691	\$ 45,617	\$ 404,595	53%		\$ 550,000	\$ 50,181	\$ 381,467	31%	\$ 1,404,691	\$ 95,798	\$ 786,062	44%
On The Job Training	\$ 24,018	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 620,000	\$ 21,457	\$ 162,236	74%	\$ 644,018	\$ 21,457	\$ 162,236	75%
Incentives	\$ 2,300	\$ -	\$ 250	89%		\$ 22,000	\$ 1,600	\$ 21,175		\$ 24,300	\$ 1,600	\$ 21,425	12%
Occupational Training	\$ 114,016	\$ (3,925)	\$ 56,159	51%		\$ 1,025,000	\$ 81,506	\$ 312,517	70%	\$ 1,139,016	\$ 77,581	\$ 368,676	68%
Supportive Services	\$ 86,995	\$ 9,005	\$ 79,427	9%		\$ 415,000	\$ 22,864	\$ 72,217	83%	\$ 501,995	\$ 31,869	\$ 151,644	70%
Total	\$ 4,415,909	\$ 133,699	\$ 2,385,013	46%		\$ 5,238,160	\$ 405,000	\$ 2,712,472	48%	\$ 9,654,069	\$ 538,699	\$ 5,097,485	47%

Analysis

Budget: The PY24 budget with expenditures through the end of the February 2025. The budget includes a breakdown between WIOA (LWDB budget) and non-WIOA Funding (Community Impact Funds) and combined totals.

The PY24 budget allocates 38% on direct client spending including classroom training, work experience, on-the-job training and supportive services. The direct client spending is at 29% through the month of February. The budget has 47% remaining after 2/3's through the fiscal year.

Recommended Action

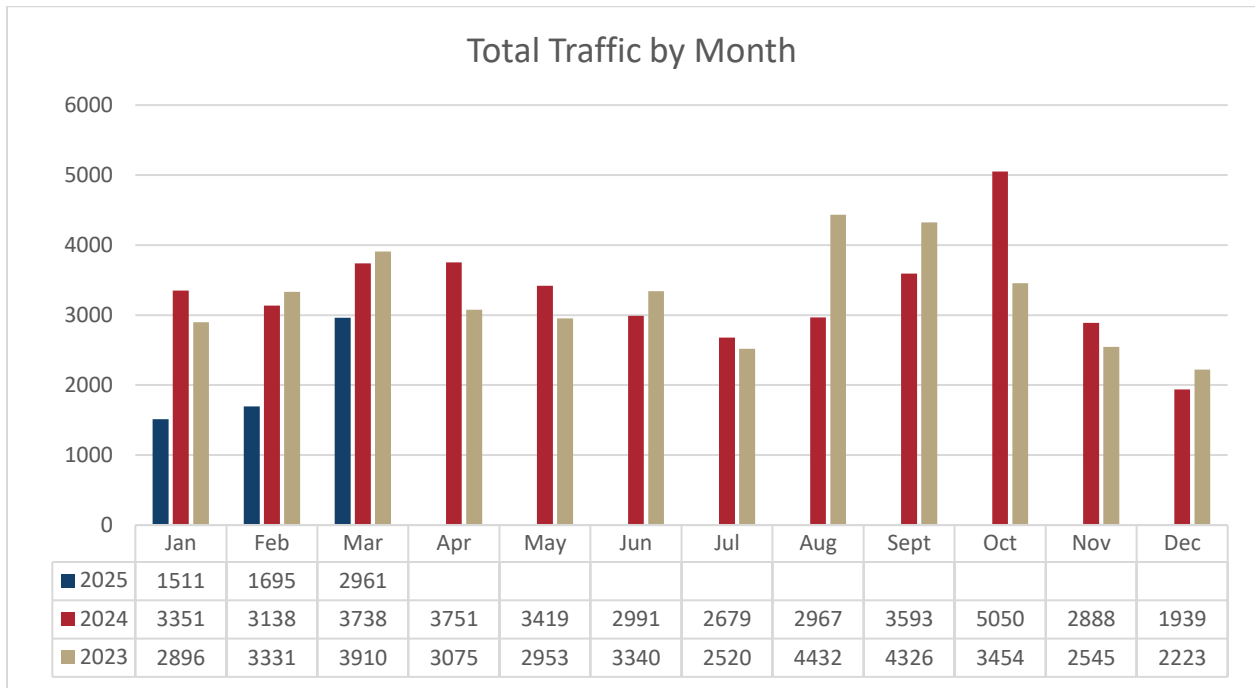
Receive and file.

Item

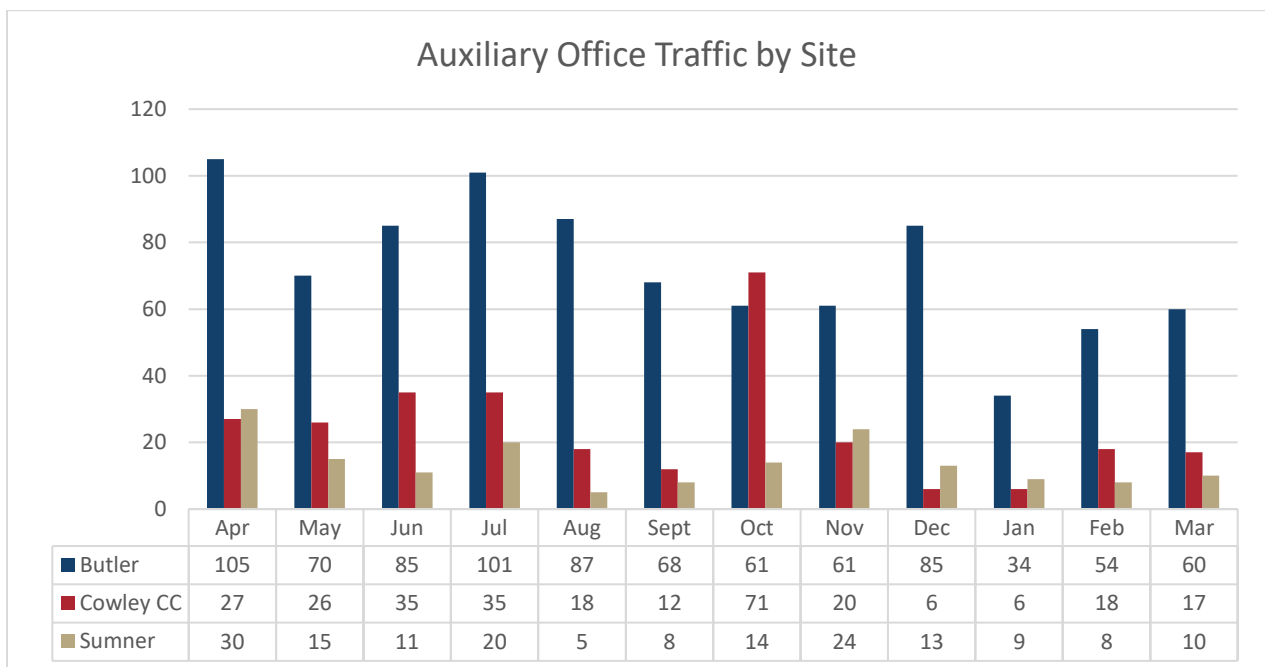
Workforce Centers Operations March Update

Job Seeker Traffic

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

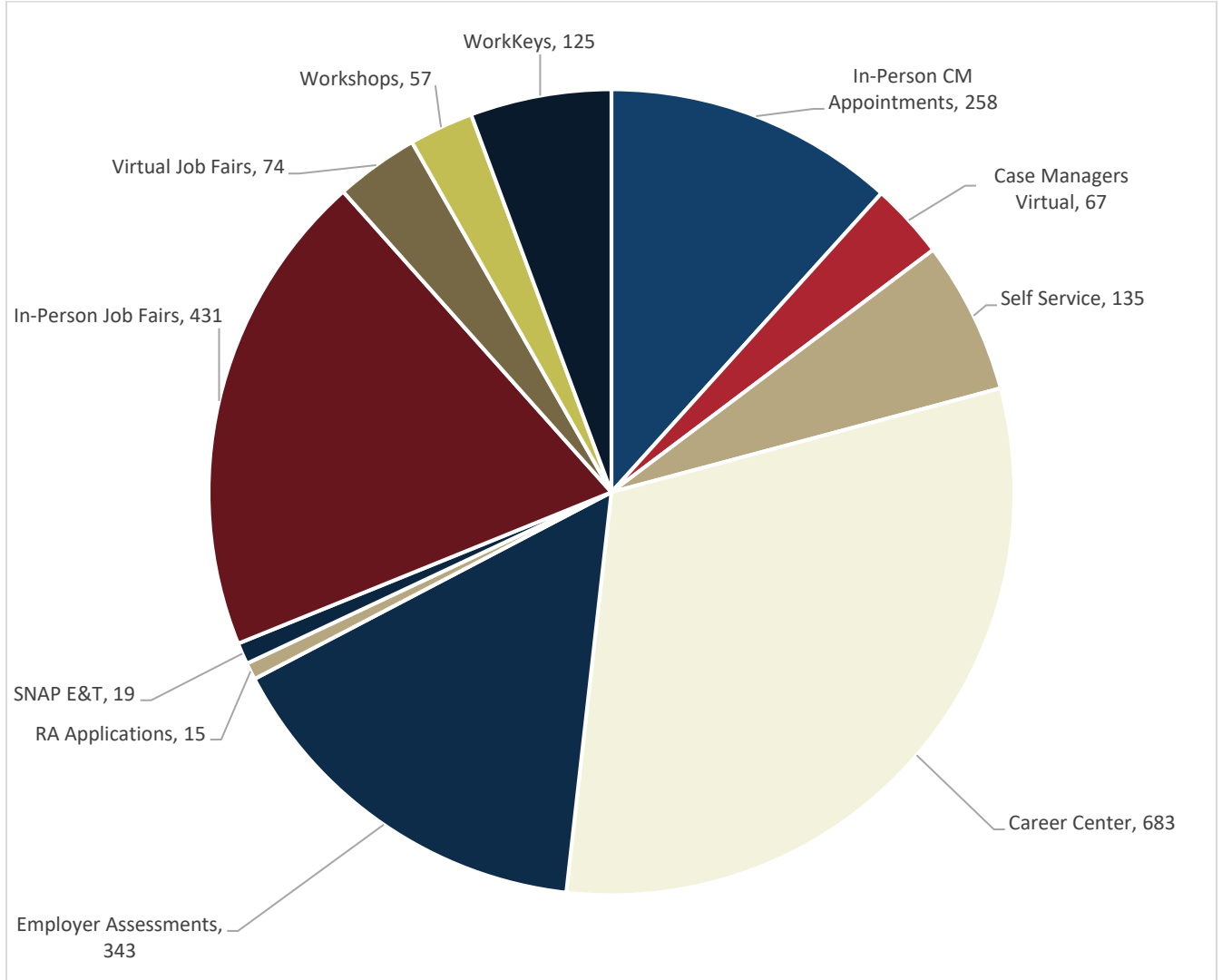


This bar graph offers a breakdown of the job seeker traffic by Area IV's Auxiliary Offices in Butler, Sumner, and Cowley counties.

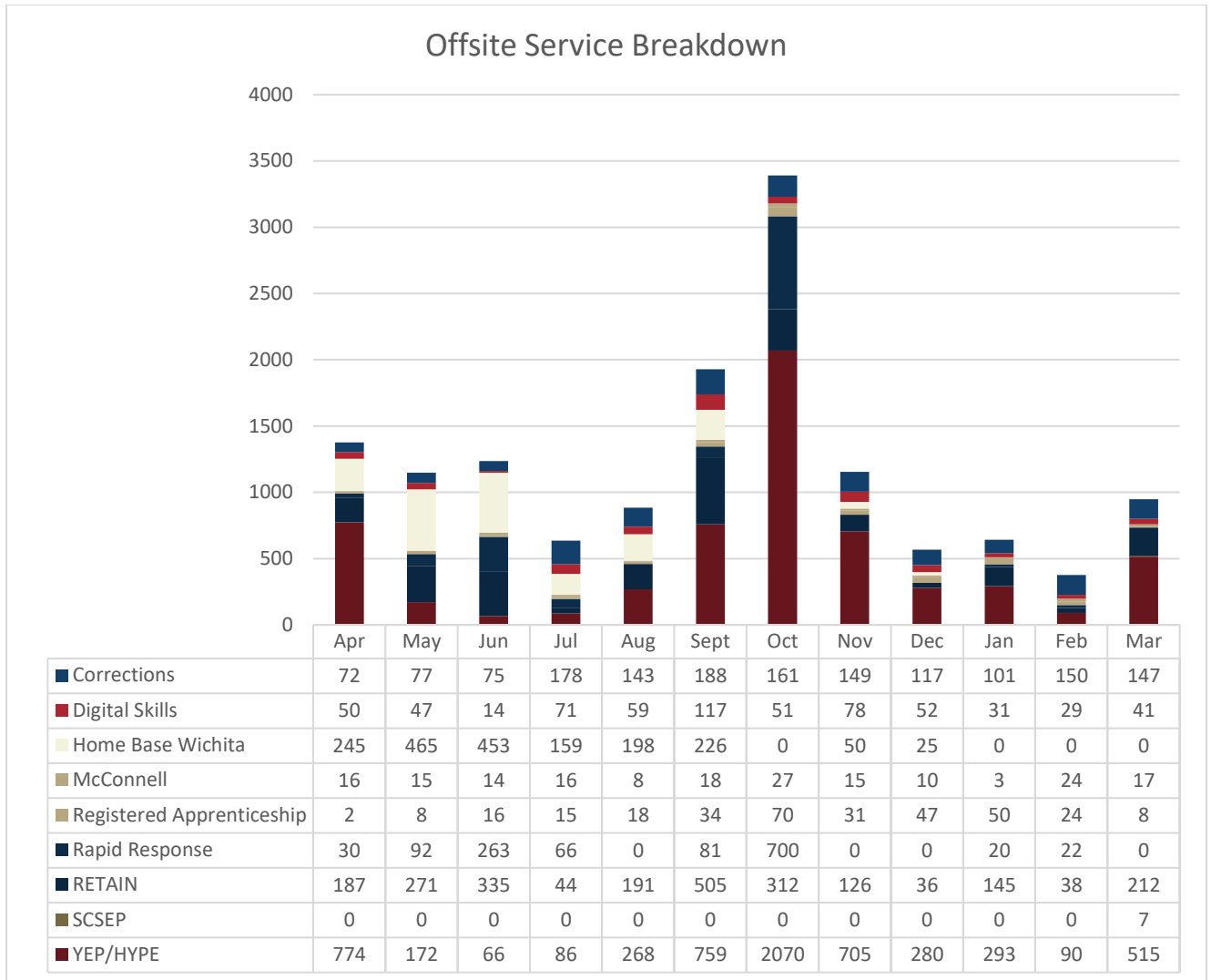


Job Seeker Services

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



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

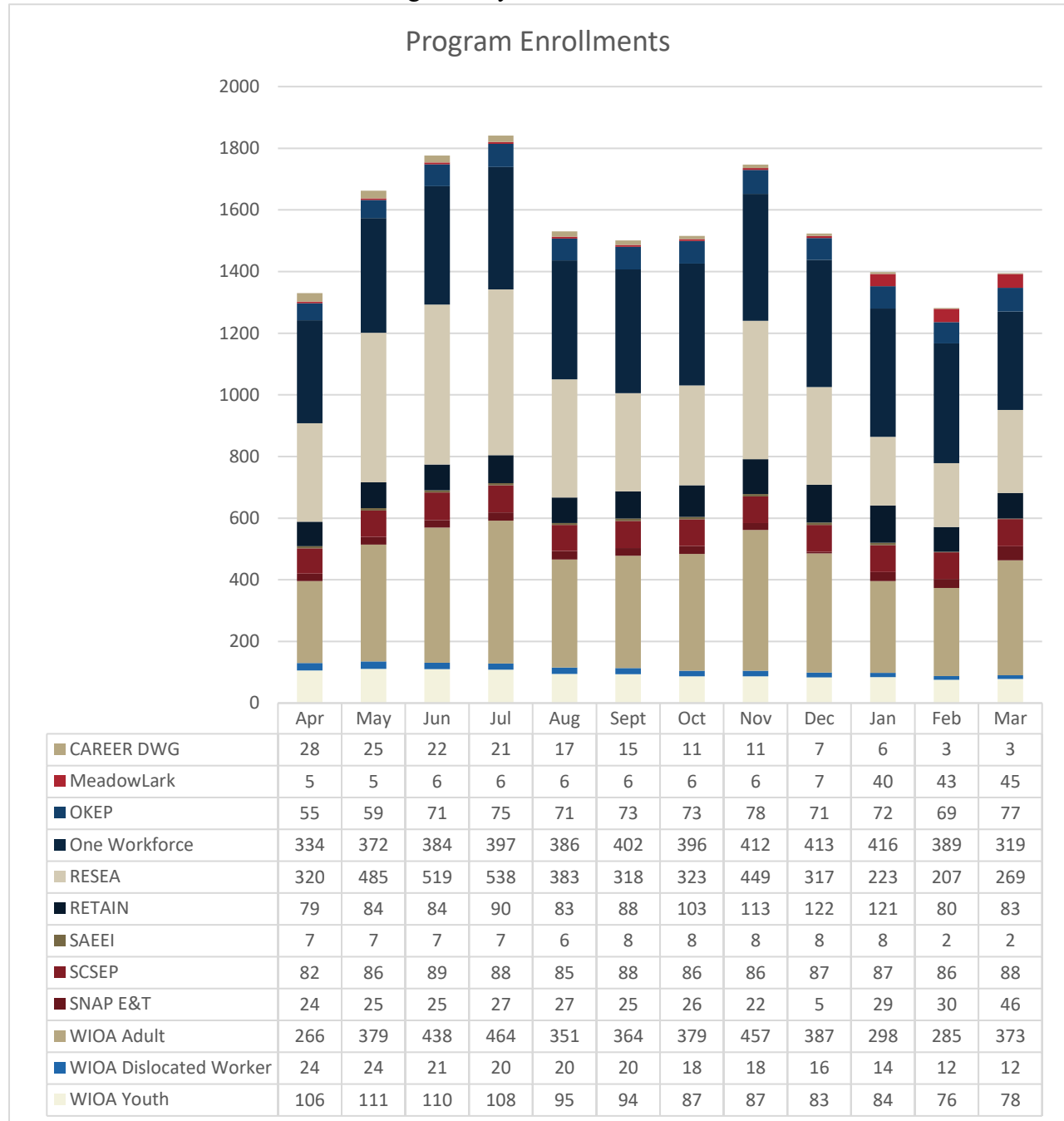


Throughout the last year, the Career Services staff has maintained a vital role in delivering comprehensive support to job seekers within Local Area IV. Their unwavering commitment extends to helping job seekers craft effective resumes, conduct mock interviews, navigate job searches, address barriers 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 engage 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.

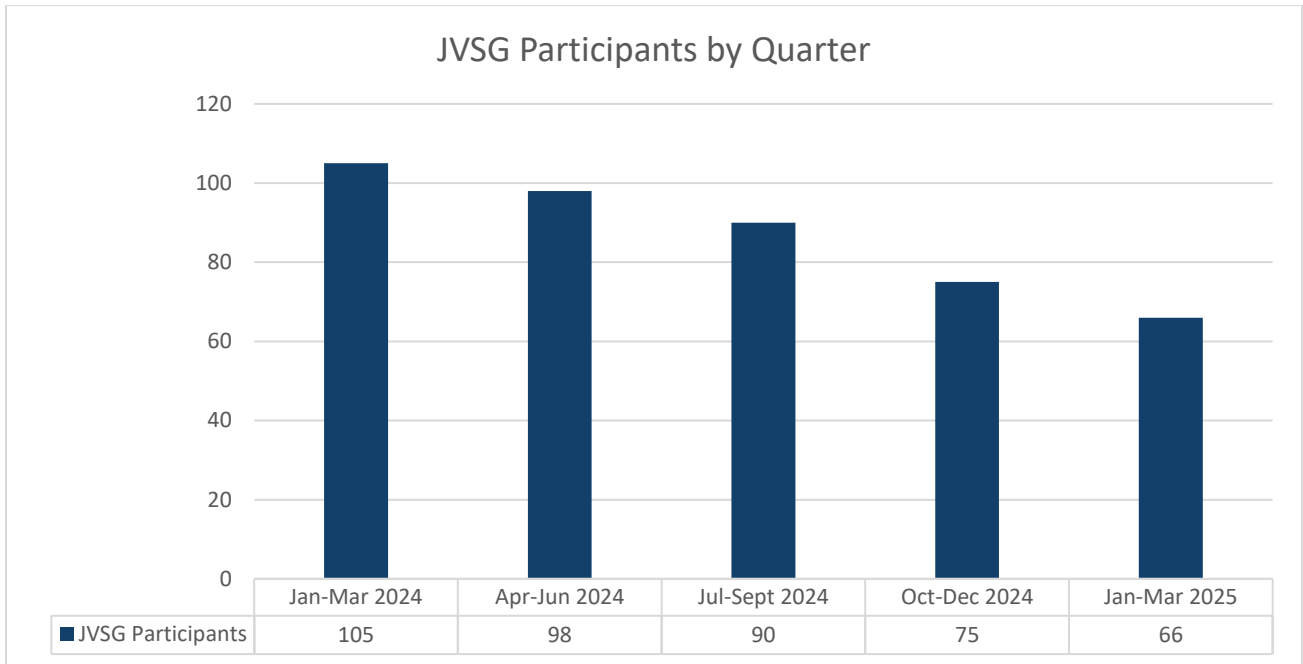
Program Enrollments

Program enrollments have remained steady going into 2025. There was a slight increase in enrollments in March almost matching January enrollments.



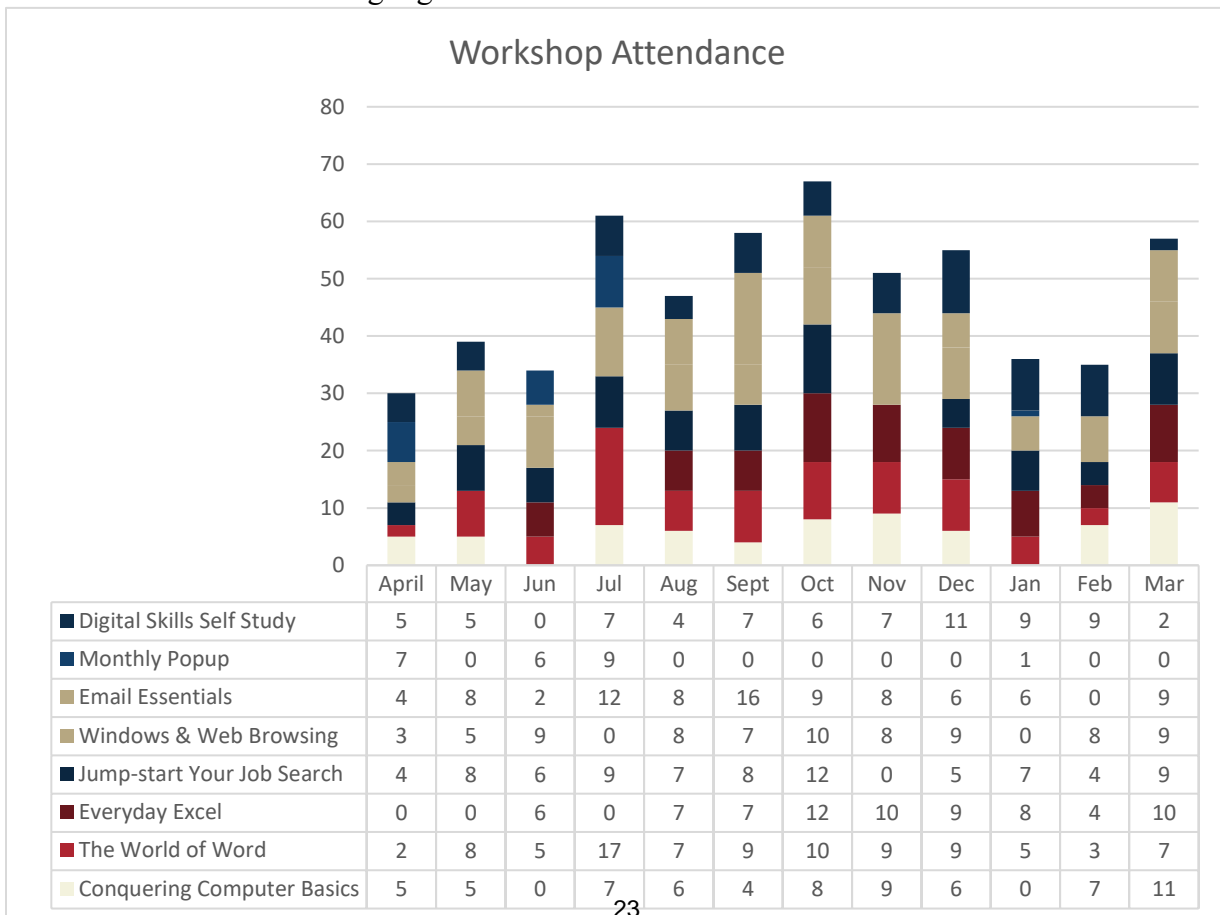
Program Enrollment Glossary

- CAREER DWG=Comprehensive and Accessible Reemployment Through Equitable Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant
- 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
- SAEEI=State Apprenticeship Equity, Expansion, and Innovation
- SCSEP=Senior Community Service Employment Program
- SNAP E&T=Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program 2 Employment and Training
- WIOA=Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act



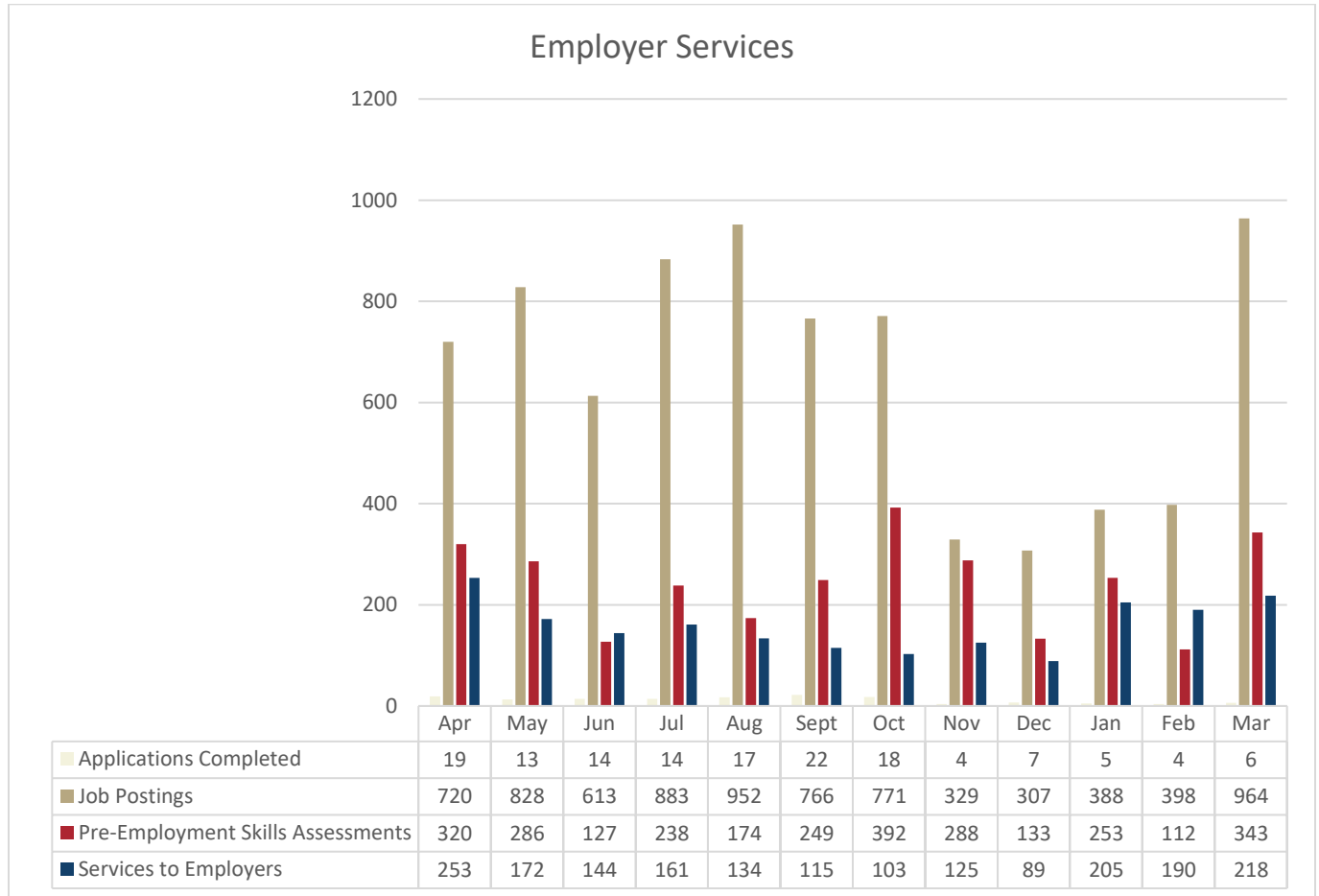
Community Outreach & Workshops

In March, WA staff served 41 individuals across 3 offsite events, teaching workshops and promoting access to digital skills through DOCK programs. The WA also facilitated 7 workshops on site for a total of 57 job seekers, and 44 individuals enrolled in online training, resulting in a total 98 individuals accessing digital skills services.



Employer Services Overview

March saw an increase of 142.2% in job postings in Local Area IV compared to February. This was a significant increase from the previous few months, and more in line with the job posting numbers in 2024. Staff will continue to monitor this trend as we continue into 2025. There were 964 total job postings across the 6-county radius for March. On a statewide level, there were 35,113 active positions available for job seekers to browse. Additionally, the system recorded a pool of 11,325 resumes for employers to consider during their recruitment efforts.

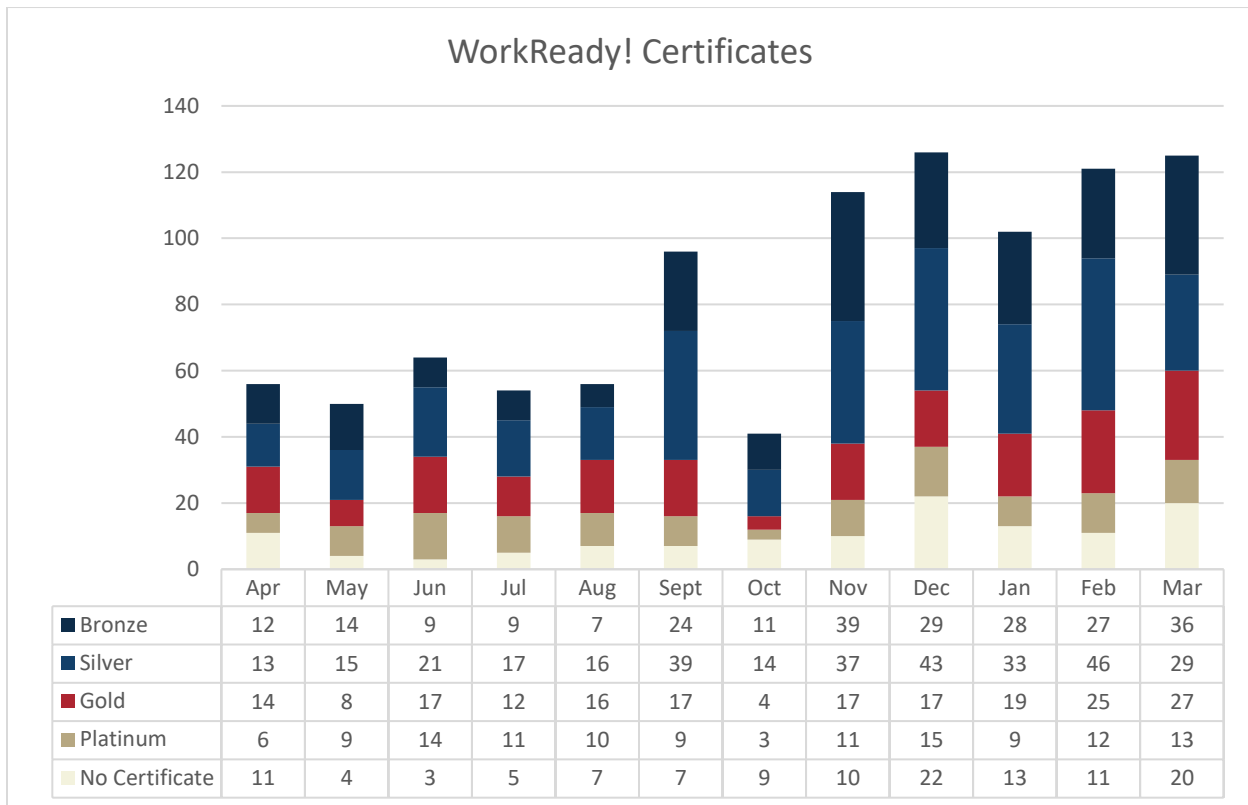


Job Fairs

In March, our Workforce Centers coordinated three in person employer hiring events, achieving remarkable success in bridging connections between local job seekers and local businesses. Collectively, these events engaged a total of 431 candidates with representatives from 26 diverse companies underscoring the vitality and reach of our initiatives.

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 10 sessions were offered during the month of March, with 169 job seekers scheduled to complete. Local Area IV saw a slight decline in attendance rate, sitting at 74%, with it being at 80.1% in the previous month. A total of 125 participants completed the assessment and an 84% award rate was documented.



One Stop Operator Update

March was a productive and fast-paced month for One Stop Operations. Onboarding and training efforts were in full swing, and Patricia continues to adjust well to her new role while gaining insight into the world of workforce development.

The Wichita Workforce Center participated in the statewide tornado drill, which proved to be both successful and informative. The experience allowed us to identify and address gaps in our current safety procedures, ensuring a more comprehensive and effective emergency response plan for both staff and partners.

Community engagement remained a priority. Lindsay represented One Stop Operations at several events, including the Talent Summit Breakfast hosted by WSU Tech, the City of Wichita's *Way to Work* youth interviews, and the *Network Sedgwick County* event, where she connected with a variety of community and partner organizations. She is also collaborating with the Department of Commerce on the newly established *CREW Board*, a statewide initiative focused on employee engagement across the Department of Commerce and Workforce Centers.

Internally, Lindsay and Patricia are actively working to enhance operations and team collaboration. They are in the process of revamping the cadence and structure of Friday morning meetings and developing a *Workforce 101* plan to invite employers, community organizations, and partners to learn more about the services offered at the Workforce Center.

Recommended Action

Receive and File.



Corrections Workforce Partnership Report
 April 1, 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 1 2025 Program Outcomes are below:

Quarter 1 2025	Sedgwick County Department of Corrections	Wichita Parole Office	Total
Employment Lab Attendees	58	0	58
Direct Referrals*	16	22	38
Individual Employment Services Provided	224	249	473
Appointments scheduled/NS or cancel	49/32	55/33	104/65
Individuals Entering Employment**	79	20	99
Entered Employment Rate	78%	91%	84.5%
Employment Retention: 6 Months	69%	65%	67%
Employment Retention: 12 Months	60%	75%	67.5%
Average Wage: 6 months	\$14.50	\$14.50	\$14.50
Average Wage: 12 months	\$14.50	\$15.75	\$15.13

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

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

2025 started with a few hiccups. In the first quarter there were several days offices were closed due to harsh winter weather. This resulted in many appointments having to be cancelled. The no show/cancelled rate is usually an issue but this quarter the weather contributed to that more than usual. At probation the employment lab is still a very necessary and highly used resource. The numbers for referrals and employment rate at Parole are very positive. Employment retention rates and average wages have remained steady.

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

Annual cumulative numbers for 2024 are below based on data available.

2024 Summary	Sedgwick County Department of Corrections	Wichita Parole Office	Total
Employment Lab Attendees	226	0	226
Direct Referrals*	148	128	276
Individual Employment Services Provided	1266	511	1777
Individuals Entering Employment**	241	42	283
Entered Employment Rate	81.63%	83.5%	82.6%
Employment Retention: 6 Months	69.8%	95%	82.4%
Employment Retention: 12 Months	74.5%	69.9%	72.2%
Average Wage: 6 months	\$14.53	\$15.04	\$14.79
Average Wage: 12 months	\$14.77	\$14.67	\$14.72

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

***Includes referrals from 2023 who gained employment in 2024*



Communications Report
As of 4/5/25

March 2025 Feature Stories

- [WBJ Talent Summit: Lawing notes more jobs available than takers](#)
- [Heroes MAKE America Expands Aviation Training Opportunities for Veterans in Wichita](#)
- [Workforce Alliance Joins Initiative Aiming to Improve Jobs and Career Navigation](#)

March 2025 Job of the Day		
Date	Job Title	Employer
3/3/2025	Tree Maintenance Worker II Forestry	City of Wichita
3/4/2025	Civil Engineer (C43)	City of Wichita
3/5/2025	Maintenance Mechanic (B) Sewer Treatment	City of Wichita
3/6/2025	Bus Mechanic's Helper - 315 Vehicle Maintenance	City of Wichita
3/7/2025	Senior Planner Advanced Plans	City of Wichita
3/10/2025	Assistant County Attorney I	Butler County Courthouse
3/11/2025	Maintenance Electrician	BG Products, Inc.
3/12/2025	Purchasing Coordinator	City of Winfield
3/13/2025	Home Visitor	Futures Unlimited
3/14/2025	Biology/Microbiology Instructor	Cowley College
3/17/2025	Operations Supervisor	FedEx Freight, Inc.
3/18/2025	Digital Navigator	Goodwill Industries
3/19/2025	School Bus Driver	First Student
3/20/2025	Industry Embedded Technical Instructor (Pfizer)	WSU Tech
3/21/2025	Registered Nurse Andover ER	Wesley Medical Center
3/24/2025	Cybersecurity Analyst (SOC Entry Level)	Novacoast
3/25/2025	Systems Administrator - Airport	City of Wichita
3/26/2025	Systems Administrator (Wichita, KS)	Emprise Bank
3/27/2025	Senior ERP System Developer	Galaxy Technologies
3/28/2025	Development Operations Manager	Ideatek Telecom, LLC
3/31/2025	Squad Member	Smalls Sliders ICT

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:

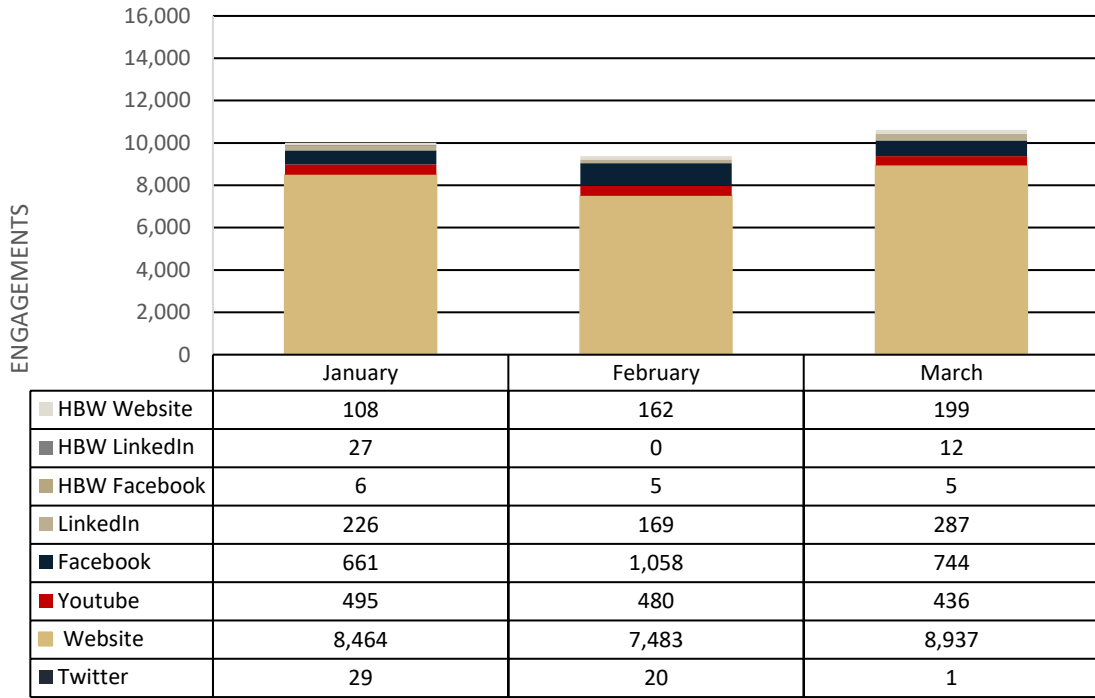
- Engagements - measures the total number of public interactions including shares, likes and comments
- Total Impressions - the number of times content is displayed to a user
- Followers – unique users who subscribe to receive updates

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

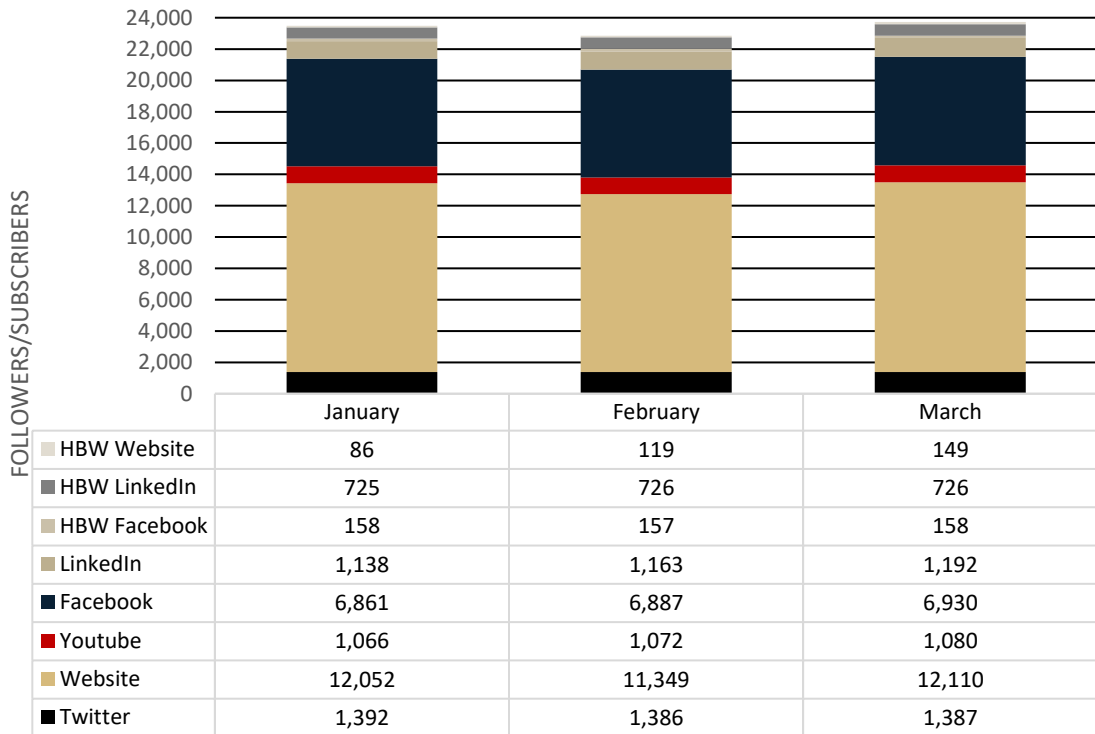
- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WorkforceCenter>
- Home Base Wichita Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HomeBaseWichita>
- YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/Workforce-ks>
- Twitter at <https://twitter.com/workforcecenter>
- LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/workforce-centers-of-south-central-kansas/>
- 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/>

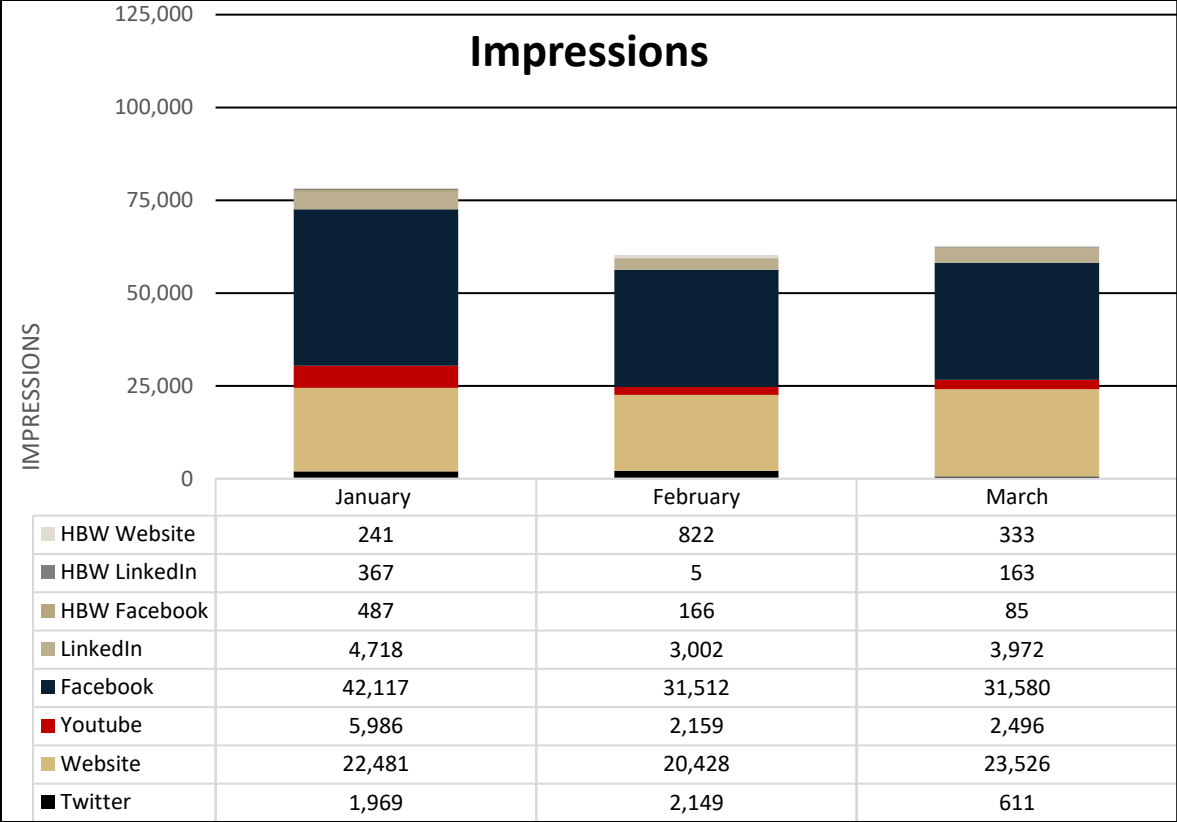
The month of March saw increased engagement on all platforms except Twitter, YouTube, and both Facebook pages. Impressions increased across all platforms except Twitter, HBW Facebook, and the HBW Website. Followers increased on all platforms except the HBW Facebook.

Engagements



Followers/Subscribers





April 23, 2025

Submitted by: Keith Lawing

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 January 22, 2025, the Executive Committee has taken the following actions:

March 12, 2025Approved:

- New Time and Effort policy and updated the WA's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.
- On-the-Job Training contracts for the Eligible Training Provider List for B&B Airparts, Creekstone Farms and Great Plains Industries.
- Authorization for the President/CEO to enter into a contract with Elite CDL School to provide Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program Elements.

April 9, 2025Authorized the President/CEO to:

- Execute a lease amendment for the Butler Workforce Space to extend the term through June 30, 2026.
- Enter into an annual lease with four renewals for space at 300 W. Douglas pending final WIOA funding award.
- Enter into a contract with Gabrielle Ramirez to provide English tutoring for Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program.

Approved:

- Release of the draft Local Area IV Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan for public comment. WIOA requires each Local Area to have an approved Local Plan. These plans must be reviewed and updated every four years.

Recommended Action:

Adopt the actions of the LWDB Executive Committee as presented.

Item

On-the-Job Training (OJT) Contracts for the Eligible Training Provider List (ETP)

Background

1. Approval of Addition to the ETP List for OJT

The following employer has submitted an application to be added to the ETP list for OJT.

Employer:	JR Custom Metal Products, LLC dba Anchor Fabrication Kansas
Company Description:	Light, Medium, and Heavy Metal Fabrication
Location:	Wichita, Sedgwick County
Occupation(s):	Welders, Powder Coat Production, Assembly, Brake Press Operators, Quality
Training Length:	Up to 6 months depending on occupations
Average Wage Range:	\$18.00/hr is the average entry level wage
Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, dental and vision insurance • Life insurance • Disability • FSA • Vacation/PTO • Holiday pay • 401Kwith company match available
Comments:	<p>Originating as a concept in 1989, Anchor Fabrication began with the purchase of a modest 25,000 square-foot custom metal fabrication facility before operations officially commenced in January 1990.</p> <p>Most recently, Anchor Fabrication has merged four companies into one metal fabrication shop. Anchor Manufacturing, ABBY, and Quality Industries, and JR Custom Metal Products Inc are all Anchor Fabrication.</p> <p>These acquisitions enable Anchor to provide light, medium, and heavy metal fabrication under one roof, simplifying purchase orders, logistics, and quality control for our customers.</p> <p>This grant will help Anchor Fabrication Kansas with the ongoing development and technical processes.</p>
OJT Funding Streams <i>subject to availability</i>	All Funding streams are available and appropriate based on occupation and new hire eligibility requirements.

Recommended Action

Approve addition of JR Custom Metal Products, LLC dba Anchor Fabrication Kansas to OJT ETP list.

Item

On-the-Job Training (OJT) Contracts for the Eligible Training Provider List (ETP)

Background

1. Approval of Addition to the ETP List for OJT

The following employer has submitted an application to be added to the ETP list for OJT.

Employer:	Keycentrix
Company Description:	Technology company for pharmacy software development and support.
Location:	Wichita, Sedgwick County
Occupation(s):	Software Developer, Database Developer, Quality Assurance Analyst
Training Length:	Approximately 6 months to a year
Average Wage Range:	Entry level - \$20.00
Benefits:	Full benefit package
Comments:	<p>Keycentrix is a contracted Employer Partner. The contract is scheduled to expire on 4/30/2025.</p> <p>Although there are no current trainings in place, there are opportunities for both OJT and IWT.</p> <p>Over the course of the One Workforce Grant, Keycentrix has been reimbursed at least \$134,129.88 by utilizing both OJT and IWT.</p>
OJT Funding Streams <i>subject to availability</i>	All Funding streams are available and appropriate based on occupation and new hire eligibility requirements.

Recommended Action

Approve continuation of **Keycentrix**. on OJT ETP list.