



**Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee  
Meeting Agenda**

**ZOOM Only:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83303793394>

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 • 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Alana McNary (11:30)
2. **Wichita Workforce Center Remodel Update:** Chad Pettera (11:35)  
*The Workforce Alliance completed moving administrative offices in March and an update will be provided on the remodel project at the Wichita Workforce Center.*  
**Recommended Action:** Receive and file.
3. **National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum 2026:** Alana McNary (11:40)  
*Board members and staff that attended the NAWB Forum on March 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas will share key takeaways from the event.*  
**Recommended Action:** Take appropriate action.
4. **State Proposed Training Expenditure Policy:** Keith Lawing (11:45) (pp. 2-6)  
*The Workforce Alliance provided comments on a policy proposed by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Works State Workforce Board that could have unintended consequences to “One-Stop” operations and support for skills training opportunities.*  
**Recommended Action:** Take appropriate action.
5. **Community Impact Project Updates:** Keith Lawing (12:00) (pp. 7-9)
  - Youth Employment Project (YEP) / “Momentum: Explore, Discover, Hire” Youth Career Fair
  - Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant
  - Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP)
  - EPA Brownfields Grant**Recommended Action:** Take appropriate action.
6. **Consent Agenda:** Keith Lawing (12:15)
  - A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2026 and March 11, 2026 (pp. 10-15)
  - B. Program Year 2025 (PY25) Budget Update (p. 16)
  - C. Operations & One-Stop Operator Report (pp. 17-23)
  - D. Reports: Fair Chance, Registered Apprenticeship and Communications (pp. 24-31)**Recommended Action:** Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
7. **Adjourn:** Alana McNary (12:30)

*The next WA Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.*

 **KANSASWORKS.com** In Partnership with  **AmericanJobCenter**

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

## **Item**

### State Proposed Training Expenditure Policy

#### **Background**

The Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Works State Workforce Board are proposing a policy that would require Local Workforce Development Boards to spend 40 percent of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds on skills training for job seekers. While the intent appears to be increasing participation in training, questions remain regarding the impact of this mandate and concerns about limiting local decision-making authority.

The Workforce Alliance, along with other stakeholders, has submitted formal comments and requested that implementation be delayed until the full impact is better understood.

#### **Analysis**

The proposed policy could have unintended consequences for Workforce Alliance operations and may ultimately result in fewer job seekers accessing skills training opportunities in South Central Kansas.

Key concerns raised in the Workforce Alliance's formal comments include:

- Shifts focus from outcomes to compliance: WIOA emphasizes employment and earnings outcomes, not fixed spending thresholds; this policy prioritizes spending levels over results.
- Reduces local flexibility: A mandated 40 percent training expenditure limits the ability to tailor services based on individual needs and regional labor market conditions.
- May decrease overall training impact: The Workforce Alliance has successfully leveraged WIOA funds to support significantly more individuals through braided funding strategies; this policy could weaken that model.
- Creates administrative burden: Additional tracking, reporting, and corrective action requirements may divert resources away from direct services.
- Risks disruption to integrated service delivery: The mandate could undermine coordination between Title I and Wagner-Peyser services, potentially increasing costs and reducing system efficiency.

Overall, while well-intentioned, the policy may have the opposite effect of its goal—reducing access to training and weakening system performance.

#### **Recommended Action**

Take appropriate action.



Date: April 3, 2026

Subject: Public Comment on Change to Kansas Department of Commerce, Workforce Services, 5-08-00 Training Expenditure Policy

To: Kansas Department of Commerce and KANSASWORKS State Board

From: Alana McNary, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Board Chair, and Chief People Officer at PEC

This document provides formal comments on the proposed Training Expenditure Policy on behalf of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA). While the intent to emphasize investment in training services is appreciated, there are significant concerns regarding the structure, justification, and potential impact of the proposed requirements.

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Local Workforce Development Boards are responsible for operations of the “One-Stop” system (AKA: American Job Centers, or KansasWorks Workforce Centers) and managing Title I funds for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth funds allocated to the local area. (**WIOA Sections 107(d), 121(d), and 128–133**). The comments below will focus on arbitrary spending mandates and potential impact on “one-stop” operations, specifically the integration of services between WIOA Title I and III.

First and foremost, the proposed policy establishes a 40 percent minimum training expenditure rate for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, which is not required under WIOA. Federal law does not mandate a minimum training expenditure threshold for these programs; rather, it emphasizes performance outcomes such as employment, earnings, and credential attainment.

WIOA does include specific expenditure requirements for Youth programs, most notably the requirement that at least 20 percent of funds be spent on work experience. The proposed state policy builds on this by effectively adding a new 20 percent training expenditure expectation for Youth, creating a combined spending framework that mirrors the 40 percent training requirement being imposed on Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. However, under federal law, Youth investments in work experience and training are part of a broader program design—not a single, prescriptive training mandate.

In effect, the proposed policy introduces a new state-level requirement that layers additional spending mandates on top of existing federal requirements. For Youth programs, this means adding a training expectation beyond the established 20 percent work experience requirement. For Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, it establishes a fixed 40 percent training threshold that does not exist in federal statute.

This approach takes decision-making away from local workforce boards and imposes a state-directed standard on how WIOA funds must be spent, limiting the flexibility intentionally built into the law. Local boards are best positioned to determine the appropriate mix of training, career services, and supportive services based on participant needs and regional labor market conditions.



The introduction of a fixed skills training expenditure percentage shifts focus away from outcomes and toward spending compliance. Training is an important tool, but it is not universally appropriate for all participants. Many individuals benefit from immediate employment services, career counseling, or supportive services that facilitate rapid attachment to the workforce. A rigid skills training spending mandate could delay employment and reduce overall program effectiveness.

The proposed threshold also appears arbitrary, as no supporting data or evidence is provided to demonstrate that a 40 percent training expenditure rate leads to improved participant outcomes. Without a clear evidence base, it is difficult to justify imposing such a requirement, particularly when it carries compliance implications.

Furthermore, the policy introduces significant administrative burden through additional tracking, reporting, and corrective action requirements. These expectations exceed federal requirements and may divert staff time and resources away from direct service delivery. The requirement for corrective action plans based on a non-federally mandated metric may also create a punitive environment rather than one focused on continuous improvement.

Finally, this policy also risks penalizing high-performing local areas that achieve strong employment and earnings outcomes. This conflicts with WIOA's outcome-based accountability framework and may discourage cost-effective and innovative service strategies.

The Workforce Alliance has consistently pursued additional non-WIOA funding to braid and align significantly greater investments in skills training through state, federal, philanthropic, and employer-supported initiatives. As a result, over the five-year period from Program Year 2021 through Program Year 2025, 281 individuals received training funded directly through WIOA, while more than 2,700 additional individuals accessed skills training supported by non-WIOA resources.

This demonstrates that the region's training impact is driven not solely by WIOA expenditures, but by the ability to braid funding streams and align multiple resources toward common workforce goals. By imposing a fixed training expenditure requirement on WIOA funds, the proposed policy may unintentionally weaken this model. Redirecting limited WIOA resources to meet a compliance threshold could reduce flexibility, limit the ability to secure additional funding, and ultimately result in fewer individuals receiving skills training overall—not more.

The proposed policy will also have consequences for the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) systems between Title I programs and Wagner-Peyser Employment Services under Title III. WIOA promotes a coordinated, customer-centered service model in which programs operate seamlessly to meet participant needs.<sup>1</sup> However, the introduction of a Title I-specific training expenditure requirement risks undermining this framework.

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<sup>1</sup> *TEGL 16-16 One Stop Operations Guidance for the American Job Center Network; TEGL 4-15 Guidance for WIOA; TEGL 19-16 Guidance on Service provided through the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES); TEGL 7-25 (see Pillar III of WIOA planning priorities) TEN 13-20 Advancing a One Workforce Vision and Strategy*



By mandating increased training expenditures, the policy will create misalignment between Title I and Title III program objectives. Title I staff may feel pressure to prioritize training enrollments to meet compliance thresholds, while Title III staff remain focused on rapid employment and universal access services. This divergence can lead to inconsistent service strategies, confusion for customers, and reduced cohesion among integrated staff teams.

Additionally, the requirement may discourage effective co-enrollment and shared service delivery approaches that are foundational to ISD. Rather than leveraging the strengths of both programs, staff may feel pressured to make program-specific decisions based on expenditure requirements rather than customer need. This could result in fewer participants benefiting from coordinated services and a less efficient use of system resources.

The policy may also increase administrative complexity for frontline staff operating in integrated environments, requiring additional tracking and documentation specific to Title I expenditures. This added burden could reduce time available for direct customer engagement and weaken the effectiveness of integrated service delivery.

Overall, the proposed requirement risks shifting the system away from a unified, outcome-driven model toward a more siloed, compliance-focused approach, contrary to the intent of WIOA.

The Workforce Alliance has operated an ISD model since 2007. The adoption of this proposed policy will likely require a complete dismantling of the current service delivery system at the Wichita Workforce Center. The result will be staffing reductions for the Workforce Alliance and the Kansas Department of Commerce will be required to perform multiple functions to support the “One-Stop” and take on the associated costs. This includes:

- 1 Full Time Front Desk/Reception staff
- 1 Part Time Front Desk/Reception staff
- 1 Part Time Operator/Phone staff
- 1 Part Time KANSASWORKS Chat staff
- 1 Part Time Business Services Supervisor
- 4 Full Time Business Services Representatives
- 1 Part Time Outreach/Workshops/Digital Skills Supervisor
- 1 Part Time Workshop staff
- 1 Part Time Outreach staff
- 1 Full Time Basic Career Services Staff
- 1 Full Time Career Services Supervisor
- 1 Full Time Axillary Office Supervisor
- 1 Full Time Butler Workforce Center Staff
- 1 Part Time Cowley Workforce Center staff
- 1 Part Time Sumner Workforce Center Staff
- 1 Pre-Employment Assessment Platform
- Cost to operate Butler Workforce Center
- Cost to operate Cowley Workforce Center



- Cost to operate Sumner Workforce Center
- Partial cost of platform to manage customer traffic and service sign up
- Partial cost of One Stop Operator

These costs are shared by multiple funding streams and programs not just WIOA. With a 40% spending mandate on training the Workforce Alliance will not be able to continue to support these “One-Stop” functions and meet the proposed policy requirement. The result will be that these duties need to be funded through Wagner Peyser to maintain services at the Wichita Workforce Center. This policy makes the leveraging of WIOA funds to support “One-Stop” operations practically impossible to accomplish system goals.

In summary, the proposed training expenditure requirement is not required under federal law, lacks a clear evidence base on improving skills training outcomes, may lead to unintended negative consequences, including reduced local flexibility, increased administrative burden, weakened system integration, and actually **fewer** persons receiving skills training. The Workforce Alliance respectfully recommends that the KansasWorks State Workforce Board reconsider the implementation of a fixed expenditure threshold and instead focus on performance outcomes and local flexibility, consistent with the intent of WIOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this policy.



## YEP 2026 Outcomes

As of 4/1/2026

Measure	2026 Actual	2026 Goal	2025 Actual
Total Young Adults Served	4,316	5,500	5,274
Total Employment	800	2,200	2,196
Wages Earned (estimated)	n/a	\$3,200,000	\$3,155,040
Internships (Paid and unpaid)	115	600	575
Businesses Providing Internships	20	90	80
Workshop Participation	450	775	764
Badges Awarded	1,350	2,400	2,292
Camp HYPE Participation	n/a	200	163
Employer Engagement	185	400	244
Job Fairs	20	20	20
Job Fair Attendance by Young Adults	3,511	2,500	2,423
Job Fair Attendance by Employers	177	250	196
Events (Outreach, Job Fair, Workshop)	93	120	110
Schools and Districts Engagement	50 schools in 24 districts	40 schools in 27 districts	40 schools in 27 districts
Counties Engaged	7	8	6
WIOA Referrals	2	20	15

### Event since Last Meeting

- 12/18/2025 Chaparral High YEP Workshops
- 1/16/2026 Maize Workforce Center Tour and Workshops
- 1/23/2025 Maize Mock Interviews
- 2/7/2026 Internship Interview Day at Manufacturing Future Ready center
- 2/10/2026 Udall 10<sup>th</sup> grade O-net Online workshop
- 2/12/2026 Udall 10<sup>th</sup> grade O-net Online workshop
- 2/20/2025 Interview Workshop FRC Healthcare
- 2/20/2026 Interview Workshop FRC Healthcare
- 2/25/2026 El Dorado Skills USA Job Fair
- 2/25/2026 Cowley Transition Fair
- 2/27/2026 AM Pro Prep Mock interview workshop FRC Healthcare
- 2/27/2026 PM Pro Prep Mock interview workshop FRC Healthcare
- 3/3/2026 El Dorado Career Day
- 3/4/2026 Udall 9<sup>th</sup> grade Onet online workshop
- 3/5/2026 Udall 9<sup>th</sup> grade Onet online Workshop

3/5/2026 Wellington High School Job Fair  
3/9/2026 Kingman VR  
3/17/2026 IRC Interview Prep and Mock interviews  
3/31/2026 Valley Center Workshops & VR

**Upcoming Events**

4/6/2026 Augusta Jag K Workshops -Key 1  
4/6/2026 Augusta Jag K Workshops- Key 2  
4/7/2026 Augusta Jag K Workshops -Key 3  
4/7/2026 Augusta Jag K Workshops -Key 4  
4/8/2026 Augusta Jag K Workshops- I.S.-1  
4/8/2026 Augusta Jag K Workshops- I.S.-2  
4/9/2026 Augusta Jag K Workshops- I.S.-3  
4/9/2026 Augusta Jag K Workshops- I.S.-4  
4/10/2026 Augusta Mock Interview 1  
4/10/2026 Augusta Mock Interview 2  
4/13/2026 Augusta Mock Interview 3  
4/13/2026 Augusta Mock Interview 4  
4/18/2026 El Dorado Dream It, Be it  
4/22/2026 Momentum, Explore, Discover and Hire Career Fair at Century II


**CAMP HYPE**

6/1-6/4 Ascension Via Christi HYPE  
6/15-6/18 Sumner County HYPE  
6/22-6/25 Trade Skills HYPE  
7/13-7/16 WCH Public Safety HYPE  
7/20-7/23 Public Safety HYPE 2  
7/27-7/30 Textron HYPE  
8/3-8/6 McConnell AFB HYPE




Momentum is designed to connect students and businesses through career clusters, creating meaningful opportunities for both future professionals and employers.

**Register here:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/momentum-kansas-premier-high-school-career-fair-tickets-1935542041349?aff=oddtcreator>

 **Location:** Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center

 **Date:** April 22, 2026

 **Time:** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

This event offers:

- **For Businesses:** A chance to showcase your industry and company to **high school sophomores** who are beginning to explore career paths, and **high school seniors** who are ready to invest in their future and become enthusiastic, trainable candidates.
- **For Students:** Insight into diverse career opportunities and hands-on experiences to guide their Individual Plans of Study and future goals.

**Employers are encouraged to provide interactive, hands-on activities at their booths!**

**Registration Includes:**

- ✓ Access to 1,500+ future employees
- ✓ A booth at the career fair
- ✓ Lunch for two representatives

Don't miss this opportunity to inspire the next generation and build your future workforce!

Please contact Chelsea Daniel [Cdaniel@workforce-ks.com](mailto:Cdaniel@workforce-ks.com) with any questions!



**Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2026 – 11:30 AM**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met on January 14, 2026 at the Wichita Workforce Center and virtually via Zoom. Board Vice Chair Scott Stiles welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

**2. Workforce Alliance 2026 – 2028 Strategic Planning**

The creation of the organization’s new strategic framework is in the final phase.

Board members, stakeholders and attendees at the previous planning sessions were invited to attend a virtual meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed strategic framework and provide comments. Feedback from the virtual session and the draft framework were reviewed with Committee members. Suggestions have been made to streamline the framework as concerns were raised about resource constraints and the ambitious scope of the plan. Staff are confident that the proposed framework is focused on revenue-generating opportunities and to align and leverage resources. The framework was shared with Mayor Wu, Council Member Hoheisel and Commissioner Blubaugh as well as any community leaders and partners.

The framework included proposed new WA mission and vision statements; however, based on feedback, staff proposed three options for review. After discussions and suggestions, staff will send a revised mission statement to the Committee to be reviewed before the board meeting. The final draft of the framework will be presented to the board on January 28 for adoption.

As part of the revenue generation aspect of the strategic plan, the Committee discussed the annual golf tournament's sustainability. Staff noted that while the event has been successful, changes may need to be made due to increased expenses and a decrease in sponsorships. Committee members agreed that a task force should be formed of three to five board members to explore revenue generating options whether that means possible changes to the current event or pursuing other revenue generating events.

*Report was received and filed.*

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

Chad Pettera provided an update on the RFP for the Wichita Workforce Center leased space. Staff and the preferred vendor (current landlord New Leaf Plaza), reached an agreement on a 10 year lease with some requested changes to the space pending building code review by the City of Wichita/Sedgwick County. Changes include additional offices, a conference room addition as well as traffic flow and security improvements. Completion is planned expected by July 1<sup>st</sup>. WA staff started the lease review with legal counsel and hope to have that completed soon; the lease will include exit provisions.

**4. Administrative Office Lease- Garvey Center**

The Workforce Center Lease RFP was released with a goal of combining the administrative function currently located at the Garvey Center (300 W. Douglas) with the Wichita Workforce Center. This consolidation is a cost-saving measure in response to projected reduced revenues in 2026–2027 and staffing reductions due to grants expiring on 2026. The Garvey Center lease includes provisions allowing for termination for convenience and funding reductions with 60 days’ notice. WA staff requested committee approval to formally provide notice to the Garvey Center of intent to vacate the space once the new lease for the Wichita Workforce Center has been fully executed and construction there has been completed. The Committee took up Items 3 and 4 as a single action.



*Scott Stiles (Tony Naylor) moved to authorize the President/CEO to execute a lease with New Leaf Plaza pending legal review and notify the Garvey Center of WA's Termination of Leased Space at 300 W. Douglas in 2026 pending construction timelines. Motion adopted.*

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

Amanda Duncan provided an update on YEP activities. A Summer Internship Interview Day is scheduled on February 7th at the Future Ready Center. A joint regional career exploration and job fair is scheduled for April 22nd at Century II. 40 area high schools are invited to bring seniors to the event to talk to employers about jobs and sophomores to meet with employers to explore career options. Employers will be from different industry sectors that align with the State of Kansas' 16 career pathway areas. Registration is open for this event as well as the summer internship interview day. More employers are needed to participate in both events.

Staff are working with Mayor Wu and Wichita Public Schools board chair Stan Reeser on a February 5<sup>th</sup> event; they will be personally inviting 25-30 community-minded businesses to this luncheon to promote youth internship opportunities. Michele Gifford, Textron and Cheryl Childers expressed interest in attending the event to speak about the demand for youth employment opportunities far outweighing those currently offered by employers.

*Report was received and filed.*

#### **6. 2025 Community Impact Projects**

- One Workforce Grant – This \$9.9 million grant to provide training in manufacturing and technology careers is ending this month and has been highly successful surpassing goals and coming in under budget. Staff plan to advocate for the retention of these funds and are working on a sustainability plan. A luncheon will be hosted on January 21<sup>st</sup> with grant partners and employers invited to review outcomes, share perspectives and gather feedback.
- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant (renamed Kansas Restorative & Opportunity Network (KRON)) – The grant proposal has been submitted; a decision is expected in April. If awarded, the grant would result in \$20 million dollars over five years beginning in July 2026 to assist justice-involved individuals in the Wichita and Kansas City area gain employment and provide services to address barriers to employment such as transportation. A one-page summary of the program was provided to the Committee for review.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) – Referrals are being received and applications accepted for this three-year program. Staff are increasing outreach to agencies that serve veterans to increase awareness and educate regarding eligibility requirements of the program.
- EPA Brownfields Grant – This two-year training program for careers in environmental related careers got a slow start due to the Federal Government shutdown, but staff are now working to contract training providers. Currently, 53 referrals have been received for the program and individuals are being prepared to enter into training. A Request for Proposals is out for outreach services to increase awareness of the program.
- Community Talent Talks – These events are designed to improve communication and engagement between the WA, regional employers and community partners on employment and skills training priorities. Events have been held in Butler, Cowley and Sumner counties. Staff met with Butler Community College staff earlier this month to follow-up on the Butler event and a Butler Summer Youth Lunch and Learn is scheduled at the Butler Welcome Center on February 28th. A recent Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for a summer youth employment initiative in partnership with the City of Caldwell originated from these talent talks.

*Report was received and filed.*



**7. Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes for December 10, 2025, Workforce Center operations and one-stop operator update for November, Program Year 2025 budget update and WA Communications, Corrections/Fair Chance and Registered Apprenticeship program updates were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Angela Slattery was hired by One-Stop Operator (OSO) Goodwill to be the new OSO Manager and was introduced to Committee members.

The operations report data shows in-person traffic at the Wichita Workforce Center has decreased; online traffic has increased. Staff are looking at this in regard to impact on programming in order to address and make changes where needed.

Scott Stiles (*Tony Naylor*) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

**Attendees:**

LWDB Executive Committee Members

Rod Blackburn  
Cheryl Childers  
Michele Gifford  
Kathy Jewett  
Pat Jonas via Zoom  
Tony Naylor  
Luis Rodriguez  
Scott Stiles, Vice Chair

Staff/Guests

Marcy Aycok  
Amanda Duncan  
Denise Houston  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
Chad Pettera  
Angela Slattery



**Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
March 11, 2026 – 11:30 AM

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Executive Committee met virtually on March 11, 2026 via Zoom. Board Chair Alana McNary welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

**2. Butler County Workforce Center Lease Termination**

- The lease for the Butler Workforce Center in El Dorado ends June 30, 2026.
- Costs associated with the facility are currently shared between WIOA, RETAIN program, and Orion Educational Services. RETAIN is scheduled to conclude in June 2026.
- Staff recommend ending the lease prior to June 30, 2026 due to recent WIOA budget concerns, lower levels of center traffic and proposed state policies that will make maintaining multiple facilities difficult.
- WA remains committed to serving Butler County residents and employers and are actively seeking co-location options with community partners such as El Dorado Inc., Chamber of Commerce and city library.
- No layoffs of current Butler County staff are planned.

*Rod Blackburn (Scott Stiles) moved to approve the termination of the Butler County Workforce Center lease. Motion adopted.*

**3. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Memorandum of Understanding for Required Partner**

- The required One-Stop Partner Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for mandated WIOA partners expires June 30, 2026. MOUs must be revised every three years. The current MOU is being renewed for program year 2026 and must be in place by July 1, 2026.
- A draft MOU was shared with all WIOA required partners in January with guidance to review and provide updates and was discussed at a WIOA partner meeting in February.
- To date, no partner has requested changes; updates may be needed depending on public comment period submissions. The Butler County center will be removed or marked “TBD” due to lease termination.
- There are no substantial changes from the current MOU; updates primarily reflect operational adjustments over the past three years, along with alignment with updated guidance and the current Local Plan.
- Each WIOA partner is also updating its partner service grid to include referral guidelines.
- Once released for public comment; partners will have 30 days to provide feedback. The final MOU will be presented to Committee at a future meeting for approval.

*Cheryl Childers (Scott Stiles) moved to approve publication of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) One Stop Partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for public comment. Motion adopted.*

**4. Partnership Agreement with the City of Caldwell for Summer Internship Program**

- The WA is working with the City of Caldwell on an application to the State of Kansas for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support a three-week, career-focused Caldwell Summer Internship Program.

- The program is designed to serve 25 students who have completed ninth or tenth grade, providing paid, hands-on work experiences combined with structured workshops in career readiness and financial literacy.
- Application for summer youth employment project previously submitted; requires resubmission due to technical corrections. A subrecipient agreement between WA and City of Caldwell is now required.
- The WA has been asked to serve as a partner in this initiative with proposed responsibilities to include project management, curriculum planning, employer coordination, student recruitment support, scheduling, and alignment with regional workforce priorities and best practices.
- The partnership is expected to formalize roles, responsibilities, performance expectations, and financial commitments through a written agreement between the Workforce Alliance and the City of Caldwell. Staff capacity and program alignment have been reviewed, and the proposed engagement is consistent with existing youth workforce strategies and priorities.

*Michele Gifford (Tony Naylor) moved to authorize the CEO to enter into a partnership agreement with the City of Caldwell to implement a Summer Internship Program as presented. Motion Adopted.*

#### 5. **Additions to the Eligible Training Provider (ETP) List**

A new training provider, Accelerated Academy, has requested approval for a new Dental Assisting program. Accelerated Academy offers a hybrid learning experience with theory work done online and hands on-learning completed at a partnering dental office. This program does show median earnings of \$19.15 an hour with a verified employer demand.

*Tony Naylor (Scott Stiles) moved to approve the initial programs as presented. Motion adopted.*

#### 6. **Workforce Alliance Updates**

- Consolidation of Workforce Alliance Operations - The move of administrative staff from the Garvey Center downtown to the Workforce Center is complete. Construction on the reconfiguration of space at the Workforce Center has begun. A consolidated floor plan of the Workforce Center will be provided to the Committee when available.
- "Momentum: Explore, Discover and Hire", a city-wide career fair is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at Century II. The WA is partnering with Wichita Public Schools and Maize Career Academy on the event. Thousands of students from 40 high schools are expected to attend. More employers are needed from the region to participate and provide career awareness and exploration for sophomores and job and internship opportunities for seniors. The goal is to have 125 employer booths; booth cost is \$250.
- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant – renamed Kansas Restorative & Opportunity Network (KRON) – The application has been submitted and a decision is expected in May. The project includes multiple partners in the Kansas City and Wichita region for five years at approximately \$20 million to assist justice-involved individuals gain employment and provide services to address barriers to employment.
- The State of Kansas has released policy updates for public comment with a deadline of April 3, 2026. Staff are concerned by some of the proposed changes and will be contacting board members to review and provide feedback to comments before they are submitted. Potential negative impact on local operations, funding flexibility, and training capacity.
- The WA's Revenue Generation Task Force has met. The annual Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament will be scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM at Willowbend Golf Club. Contract will be signed with the course. The task force will meet to discuss planning for the tournament and information will be shared when it becomes available.
- Board members Alana McNary and Cheryl Childers and staff Keith Lawing and Amanda Duncan will attend the annual National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum from March 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 26th.

*Report was received and filed.*

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

**Attendees:**

*LWDB Executive Committee Members*

Rod Blackburn  
Cheryl Childers  
Michele Gifford  
Kathy Jewett  
Pat Jonas  
Alana McNary, Chair  
Tony Naylor  
Luis Rodriguez  
Scott Stiles, Vice Chair

*Staff/Guests*

Marcy Aycok  
Amanda Duncan  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
Chad Pettera  
Angela Slattery, One-Stop Operator, Goodwill  
Brian Miles, WA Board Member

DRAFT

## Workforce Alliance Consolidated Budget PY25

July 2025 - June 2026

*Expenditures Through 2/28/2026*

Category	WIOA				Community Impact Funds				Consolidated			
	Budget	Feb Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	% Budget Remaining	Budget	Feb Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	% Budget Remaining	Budget	Feb Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	% Budget Remaining
Wages	\$ 1,675,282	\$ 91,789	\$ 796,492	52%	\$ 1,149,341	\$ 85,736	\$ 987,551	14%	\$ 2,824,623	\$ 177,525	\$ 1,784,043	37%
Fringe	\$ 412,880	\$ 31,303	\$ 209,906	49%	\$ 282,472	\$ 20,585	\$ 201,189	29%	\$ 695,352	\$ 51,888	\$ 411,095	41%
Facilities	\$ 262,996	\$ (16,439)	\$ 233,719	11%	\$ 141,360	\$ 10,131	\$ 82,957	41%	\$ 404,356	\$ (6,308)	\$ 316,676	22%
Contract/Pro Fees	\$ 58,685	\$ 4,696	\$ 58,303	1%	\$ 31,063	\$ 4,502	\$ 40,855	-32%	\$ 89,748	\$ 9,198	\$ 99,158	-10%
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 28,049	\$ 7,751	\$ 24,964	11%	\$ 22,325	\$ 4,831	\$ 22,659	-1%	\$ 50,374	\$ 12,582	\$ 47,623	5%
IT	\$ 88,800	\$ 2,754	\$ 22,963	74%	\$ 67,290	\$ 4,447	\$ 52,890	21%	\$ 156,090	\$ 7,201	\$ 75,853	51%
Outreach/Cap Building	\$ 31,120	\$ 1,003	\$ 12,971	58%	\$ 78,010	\$ 10,517	\$ 66,220	15%	\$ 109,130	\$ 11,520	\$ 79,191	27%
Travel/Conferences	\$ 44,568	\$ 2,535	\$ 21,215	52%	\$ 35,860	\$ 1,839	\$ 29,335	18%	\$ 80,428	\$ 4,374	\$ 50,550	37%
Grants Awarded	\$ 185,000	\$ -	\$ 20,629	89%	\$ 75,000	\$ 24,654	\$ 133,447	-78%	\$ 260,000	\$ 24,654	\$ 154,076	41%
Staff Development	\$ 7,890	\$ 98	\$ 889	89%	\$ 12,050	\$ 60	\$ 631	95%	\$ 19,940	\$ 158	\$ 1,520	92%
Indirect	\$ 302,184	\$ 9,059	\$ 94,643	69%	\$ 295,000	\$ 35,805	\$ 294,016	0%	\$ 597,184	\$ 44,864	\$ 388,659	35%
Misc/Dep/Int	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 27,000	\$ -	\$ 6,293	77%	\$ 27,000	\$ -	\$ 6,293	77%
Work Experience	\$ 862,749	\$ 60,477	\$ 415,901	52%	\$ 325,000	\$ 136,598	\$ 390,461	-20%	\$ 1,187,749	\$ 197,075	\$ 806,362	32%
On The Job Training	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 765,250	\$ 19,349	\$ 254,164	67%	\$ 765,250	\$ 19,349	\$ 254,164	67%
Incentives	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 200	90%	\$ 74,000	\$ 300	\$ 20,975	72%	\$ 76,000	\$ 300	\$ 21,175	72%
Occupational Training	\$ 186,201	\$ 2,000	\$ 36,933	80%	\$ 780,000	\$ 67,521	\$ 459,438	41%	\$ 966,201	\$ 69,521	\$ 496,371	49%
Supportive Services	\$ 139,704	\$ 15,754	\$ 61,251	56%	\$ 379,200	\$ 5,384	\$ 59,036	84%	\$ 518,904	\$ 21,138	\$ 120,287	77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,288,108</b>	<b>\$ 212,780</b>	<b>\$ 2,010,979</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>\$ 4,540,221</b>	<b>\$ 432,259</b>	<b>\$ 3,102,117</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>\$ 8,828,329</b>	<b>\$ 645,039</b>	<b>\$ 5,113,096</b>	<b>42%</b>

**Analysis**

Budget: The PY25 budget reflects expenditures from July 2025 through February 2026. While the contract line item is currently overspent for the year, there are surpluses in other budget categories, so this is not a concern at this time.

The budget provides a breakdown of funding between WIOA (LWDB budget) and non-WIOA sources (Community Impact Funds), as well as combined totals. Direct client spending accounts for 35% of total expenditures so far this fiscal year, totaling \$1,698,359.

**Recommended Action**

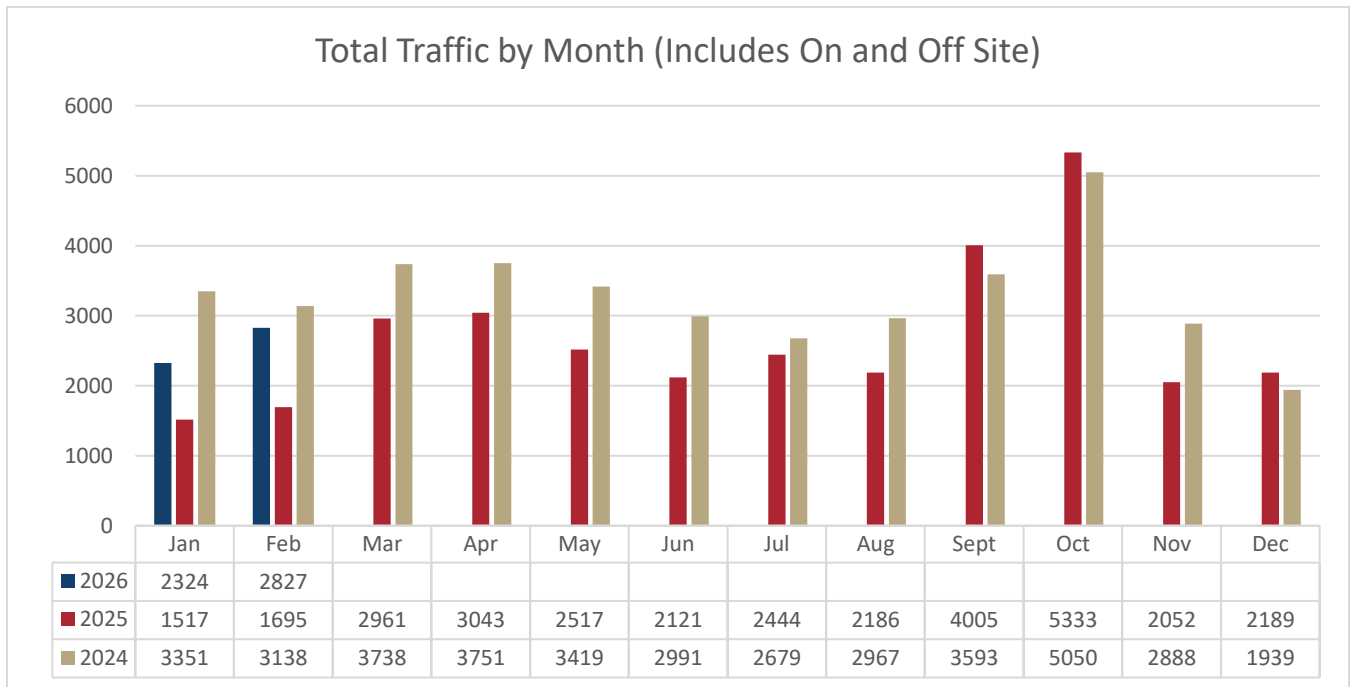
Receive and file.

**Item**

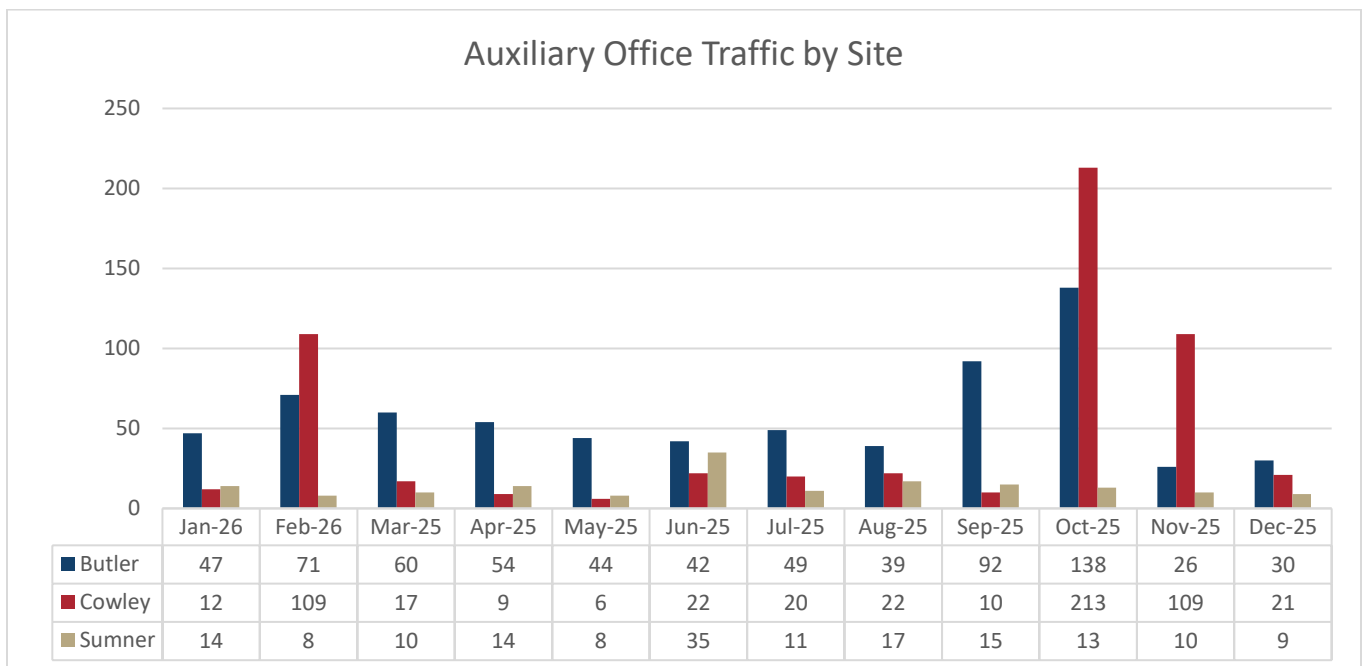
Workforce Centers Operations February 2026 Update

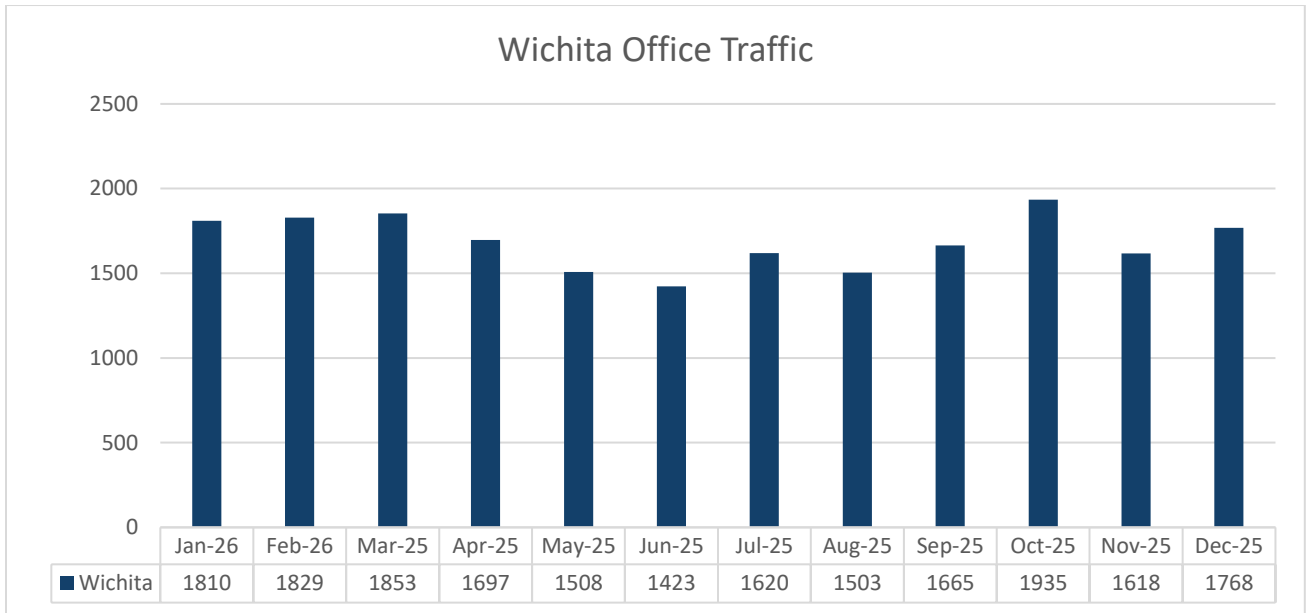
**Job Seeker Traffic**

The bar graph below provides a visual representation of job seeker traffic through February of 2026. Overall, job seeker engagement at all four centers is steady.



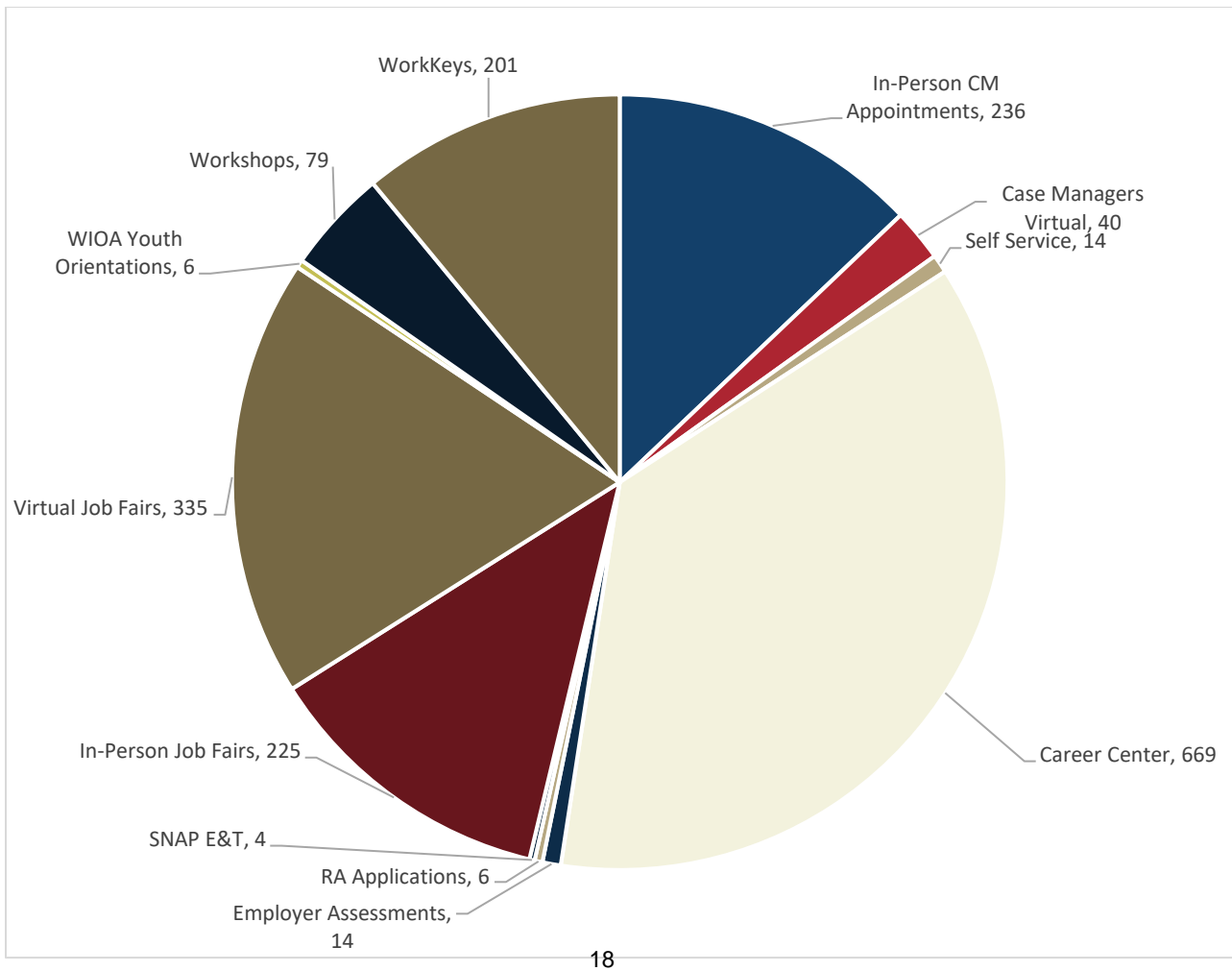
This bar graph offers a breakdown of the job seeker traffic by Auxiliary Offices in Butler, Sumner, and Cowley counties.



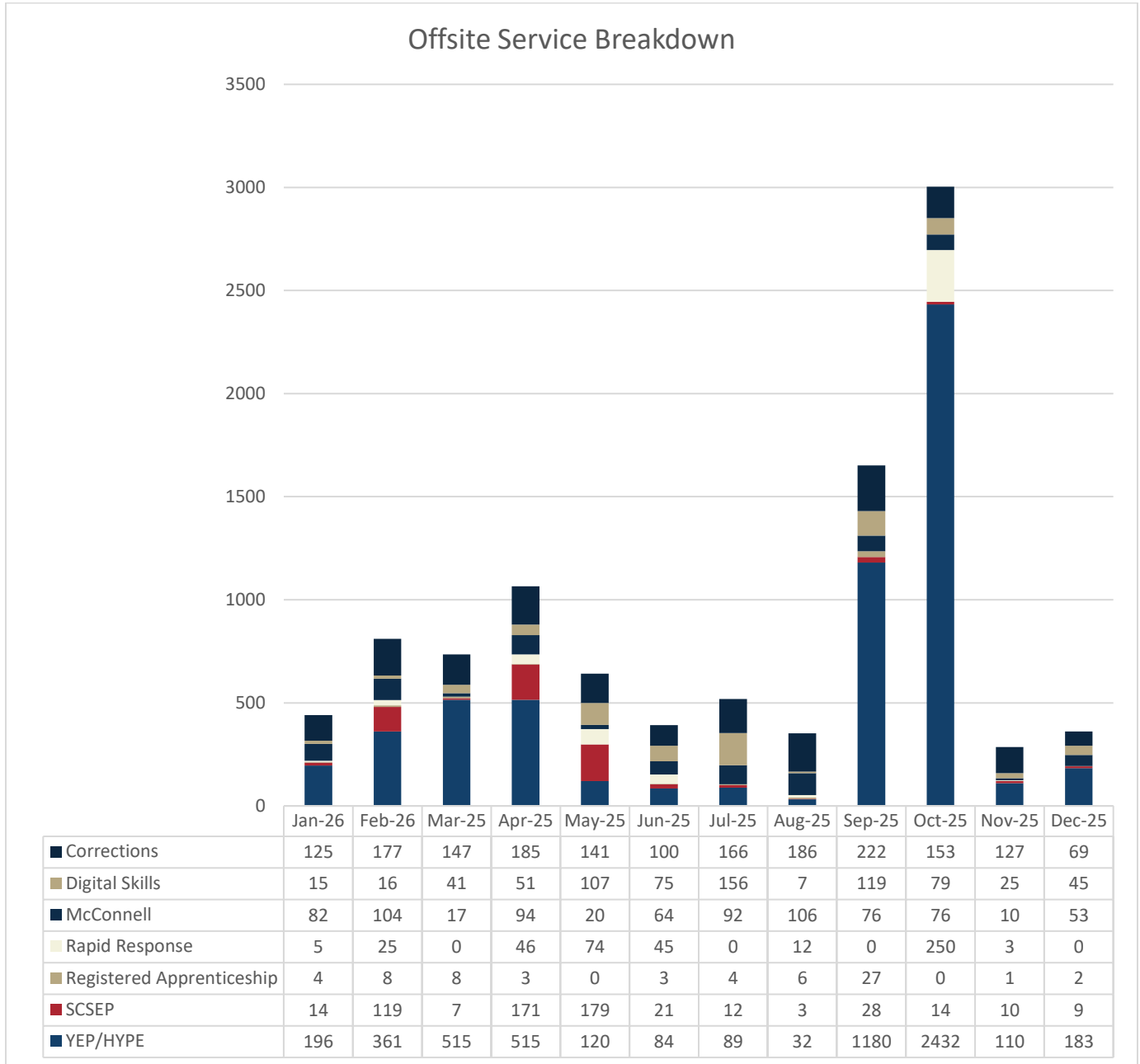


### Job Seeker Services

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



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

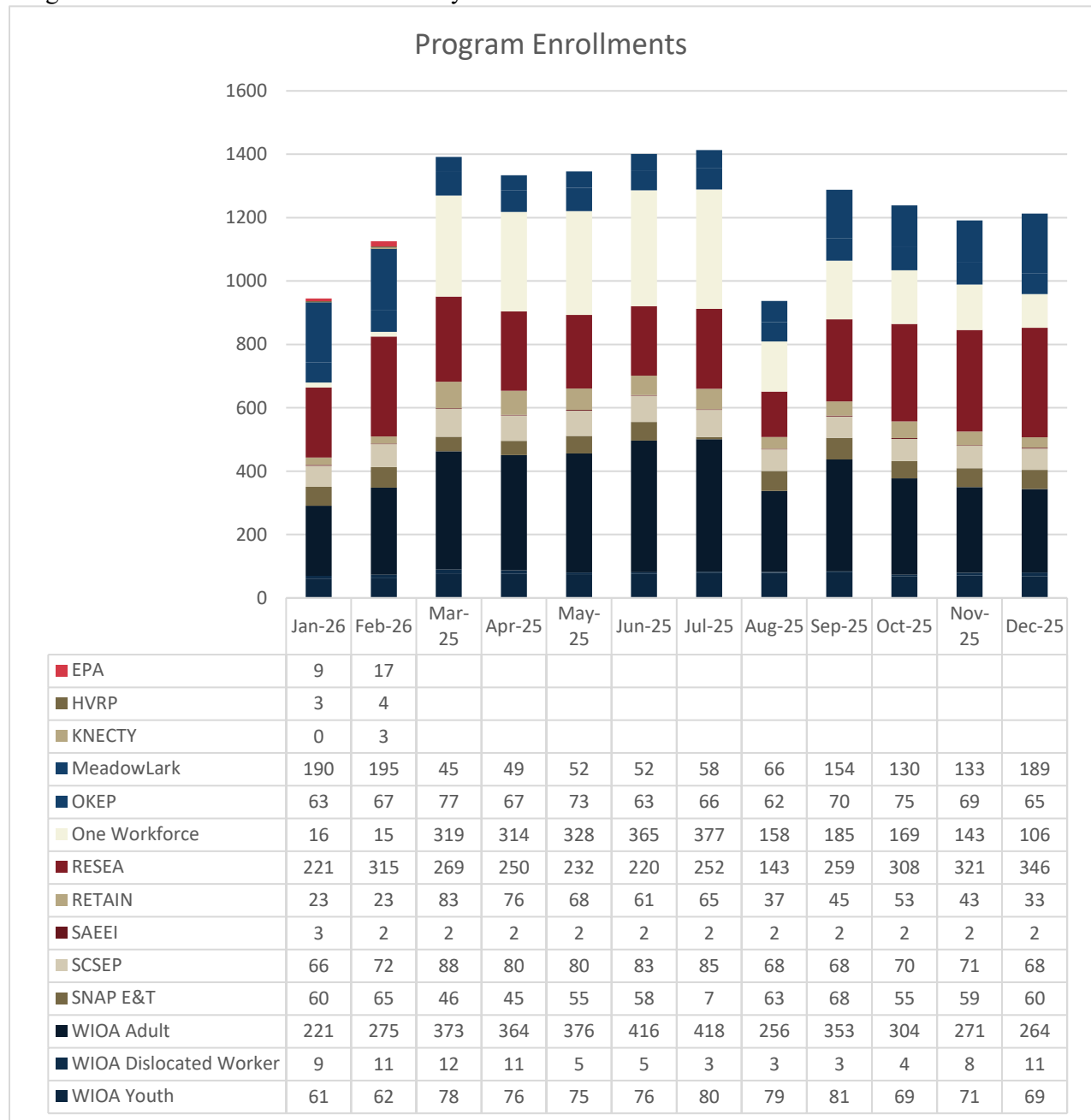


Throughout the last year, the Career Services staff has maintained a vital role in delivering comprehensive support to job seekers. Their unwavering commitment extends to helping job seekers craft effective resumes, conduct mock interviews, navigate job searches, address barriers to employment, and promptly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

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

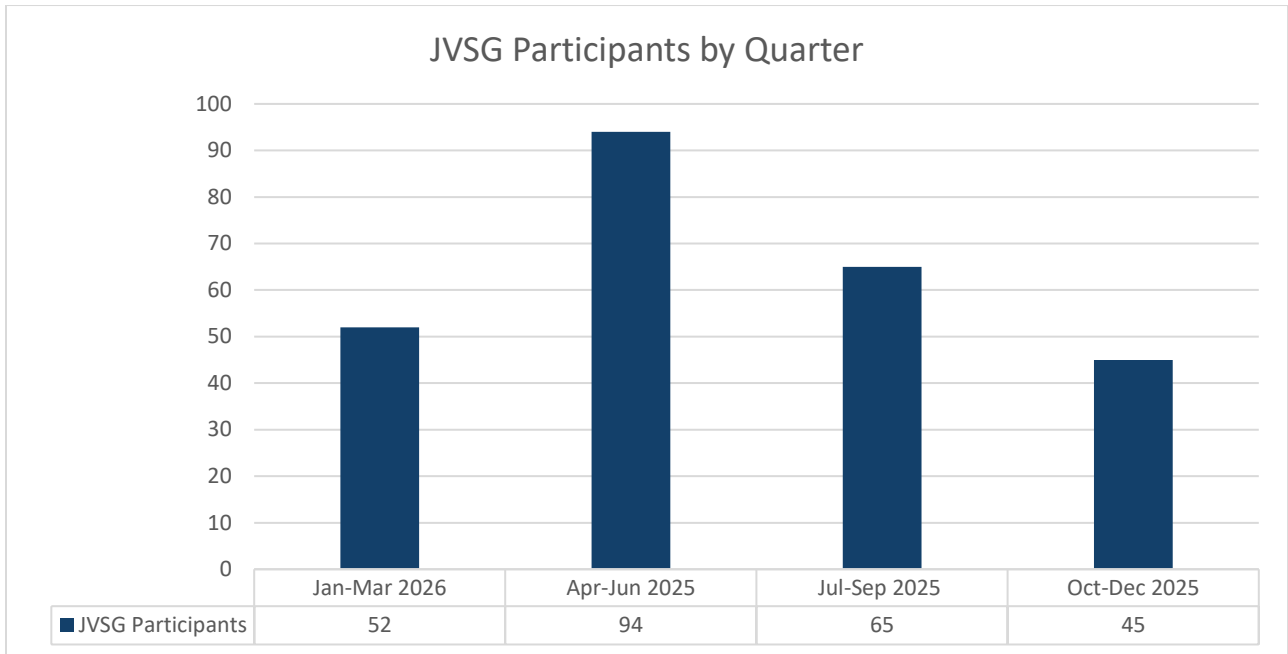
**Program Enrollments**

Program enrollments have remained steady.



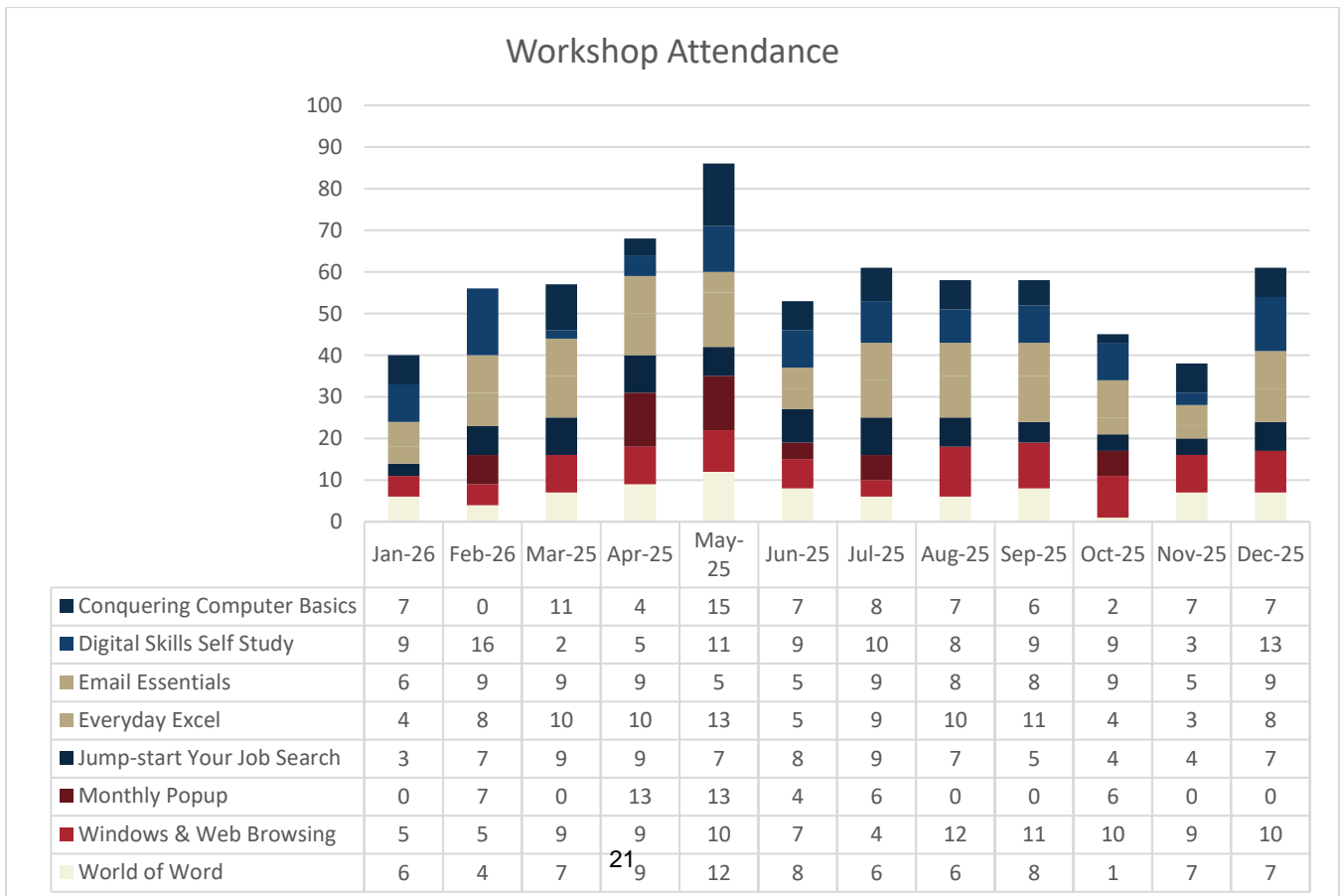
Program Enrollment Glossary

- 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
- 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 Employment and Training
- WIOA= Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act



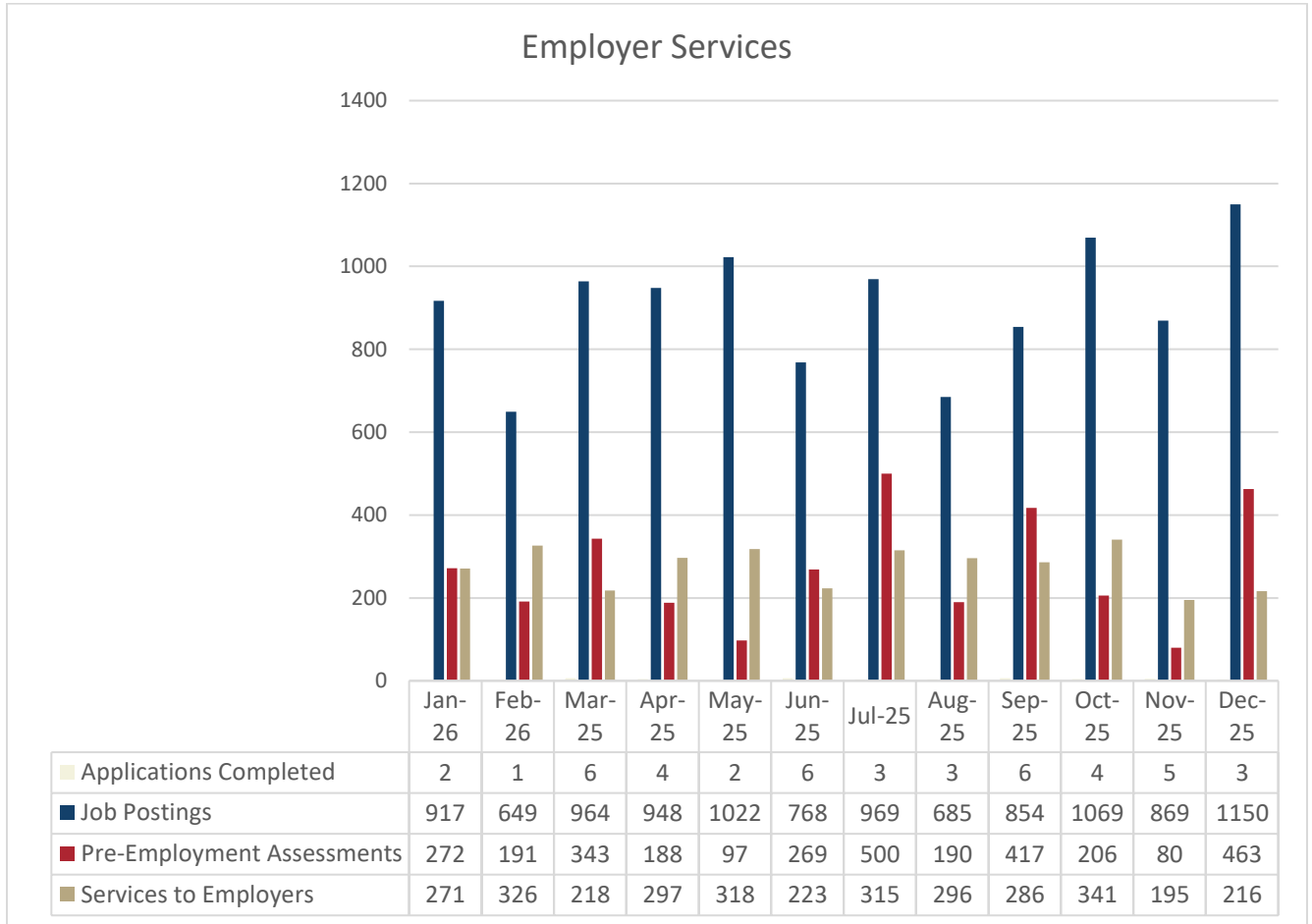
### Community Outreach & Workshops

In February 2026, WA staff facilitated 13 digital skills workshops and training sessions that reached 115 unduplicated participants. Participants engaged in continued online learning, initiating 78 learning modules and completing 72 of them. These efforts contributed to 53 digital credentials earned and 143 hours of learning completed. Collaboration with community partners remained an important source of engagement, generating 14 referrals to services.



**Employer Services Overview**

February saw a decrease of 29.2% in job postings compared to January. There were 649 total job postings across the 6-county radius for February. On a statewide level, there were 37,172 active positions available for job seekers to browse. Additionally, the system recorded a pool of 11,914 resumes for employers to consider during their recruitment efforts.

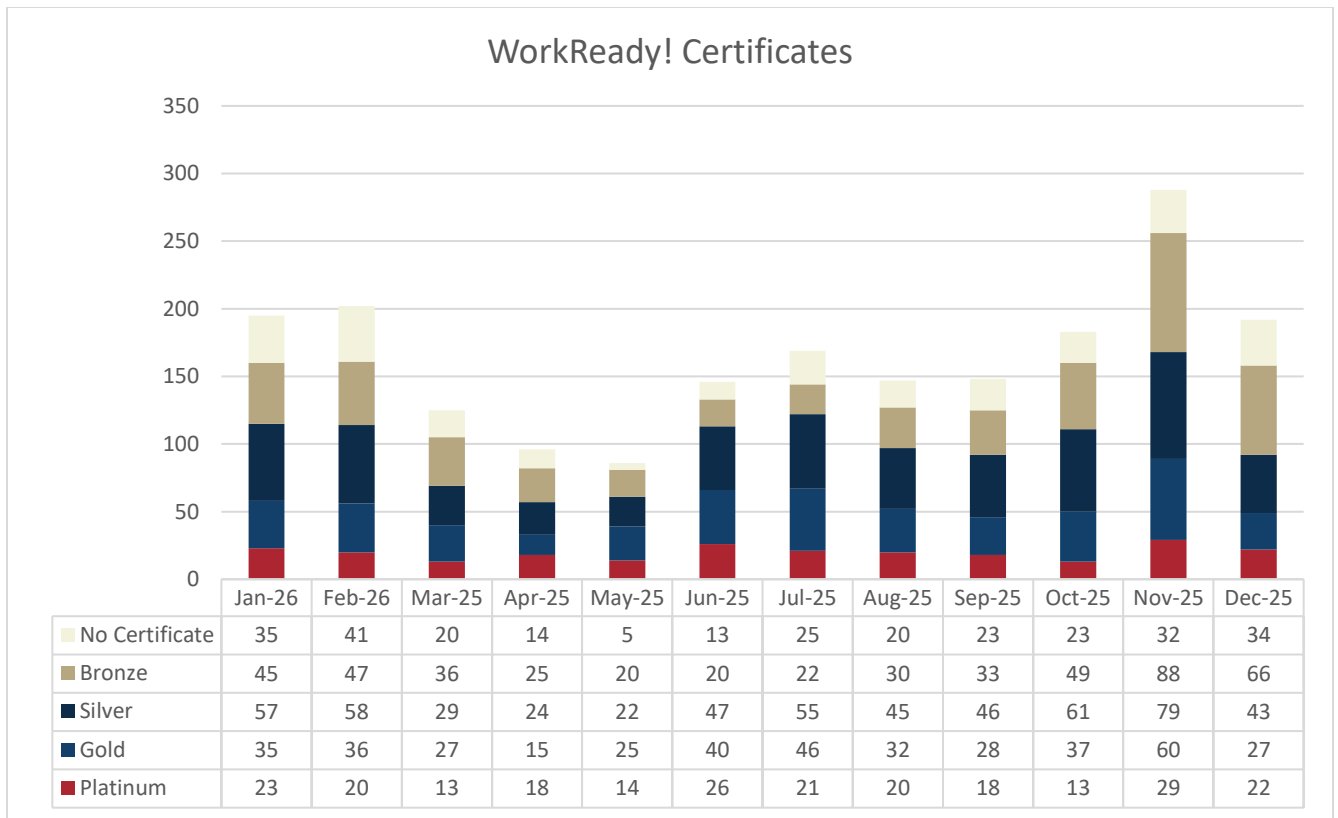


**Job Fairs**

In February, the Workforce Center hosted two in person job fairs in partnership with 21 employers, bringing in 203 job seekers across both events. Additionally, 8 employers from our local area participated in the statewide virtual job fair, where 327 unique job seekers visited the local area employer booths, resulting in 81 job applications.

**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 15 sessions were offered during the month of February, with 319 job seekers scheduled to complete. The area saw a decrease in attendance rate, sitting at 63.3%, with it being at 73.6% in the previous month. A total of 202 participants completed the assessment, and a 79.7% award rate was documented.



**Recommended Action**

*Receive and File.*



**Corrections Workforce Partnership Report**  
April 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 1 2026 Program Outcomes are below:

<b>Quarter 1 2026</b>	<b>Sedgwick County Department of Corrections</b>	<b>Wichita Parole Office</b>	<b>Total</b>
Employment Lab Attendees	72	0	72
Direct Referrals*	50	34	84
Individual Employment Services Provided	296	170	466
Appointments scheduled/NS or cancel	58/27	46/28	104/55
Individuals Entering Employment**	75	12	87
Entered Employment Rate	100%	80%	90%
Employment Retention: 6 Months	71%	87%	79%
Employment Retention: 12 Months	95%	72%	83.5%
Average Wage: 6 months	\$15.15	\$15.81	\$15.48
Average Wage: 12 months	\$15.50	\$18.65	\$17.10

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

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

2026 has begun on a very strong note. As anticipated, referrals have increased for both probation and parole populations. The number of clients obtaining employment is particularly impressive, and employment retention rates continue to remain high. Average wages have held steady, indicating consistency in job quality. Additionally, participation in employment lab sessions has increased.

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

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

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

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

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



**Registered Apprenticeship Report**

**As of 3/31/2026**

**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 24 approved programs and 19 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, and Greater Wichita YMCA.

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Active Apprentices</b>
Bailey’s Learning Academy	Early Childhood Educator	Approved	6
CDH	Construction Craft Laborer	Approved	5
	Welder	Approved	0
Child Start	Early Childhood Educator	Approved	0
CMJ Manufacturing, Inc.	Machine Operator	Approved	3
	CNC Operator	Approved	0
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	3
F&H Insulation Sales and Services, Inc.	Coatings	Approved	1
	Insulation Worker	Approved	2
Goodwill Industries	Employment Training Specialist	Approved	0
Greater Wichita YMCA	Preschool Teacher (CDA)	Approved	0
	Preschool Teacher (CCC)	Approved	0
ISG Tech	Service Technician 1	Approved	0
Kiddy Kollege	Lead Child Care Teacher	Approved	10
Little Kings and Queens Daycare	Early Childhood Worker	Approved	0
Miracle Home Care Azara Home Health	Certified Nursing Assistant	Approved	1
Rainbows United	Childcare Development Specialist	Approved	1
Rusty Eck Ford	Automotive Technician	Approved	0
UV&S	Computer Support Specialist	Approved	1
Yingling Aviation	Avionics Technician	Approved	27



**Registered Apprenticeship Report**  
**As of 3/31/2026**  
[LAIV Registered Apprenticeship Information](#)

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

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Status</b>
Prime Craftsman Homes	Multiple	In Development
HCA Healthcare	Patient Care Technician	In Development

The WA accepts onsite applications for five RA programs. In March, three individuals engaged in the RA application process, resulting in one completed application, details are below:

<b>RA Application and Prescreen Activity</b>			
2026	Applications and Prescreens	Completed Referrals	Completion Percentage
January	3	2	66%
February	4	1	25%
March	3	1	33%
<b>Totals</b>	10	6	60%

**The WA works in partnership with**





**Communications Report**  
As of 3/5/26

**February 2026 Feature Stories**

[Newstalk: Digital Skills Workshops at the Workforce Center](#)

<b>February 2026 Job of the Day</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Employer</b>
2/2/2026	Academic Life Skills Teacher	USD 259 - Wichita Public Schools
2/3/2026	Mechanic III	City of Wichita
2/4/2026	Billing Specialist - COMCARE	Sedgwick County
2/5/2026	Director of Allied Health / SBA Training Center	Butler Community College
2/6/2026	Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools / Board Clerk	Derby Public Schools
2/9/2026	Welder	EnviroTech Fabrication & Finishes
2/10/2026	Strategic Communications Manager	Envision, Inc.
2/11/2026	Facilities Care Manager	Harris Dream Clean
2/12/2026	Mechanical Engineer – Advanced Machine Tools	Fairmount Technologies
2/13/2026	Classroom Teacher Pre-K	Futures Unlimited
2/16/2026	Saw Operator	Aero Metals Alliance (Sunshine Metals)
2/17/2026	Press Brake Operator	Metal-Fab, Inc.
2/18/2026	Bodyworker	Chance Rides, LLC
2/19/2026	Quality Inspector	Arcane Industries
2/20/2026	Assistant Machine Operator	Pratt Industries (Love Box)
2/23/2026	Residential Estimator & Project Manager	Elite Electric Company
2/24/2026	CNC Machining Supervisor	Cox Machine, Inc.
2/25/2026	Senior Program Director	Greater Wichita YMCA
2/26/2026	Registered Nurse (RN) Clinical Manager - Home Health	Interim Healthcare of Wichita, Inc.
2/27/2026	Wastewater & Water Supervisor	Cox Machine, Inc.

## Digital Media Report

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

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

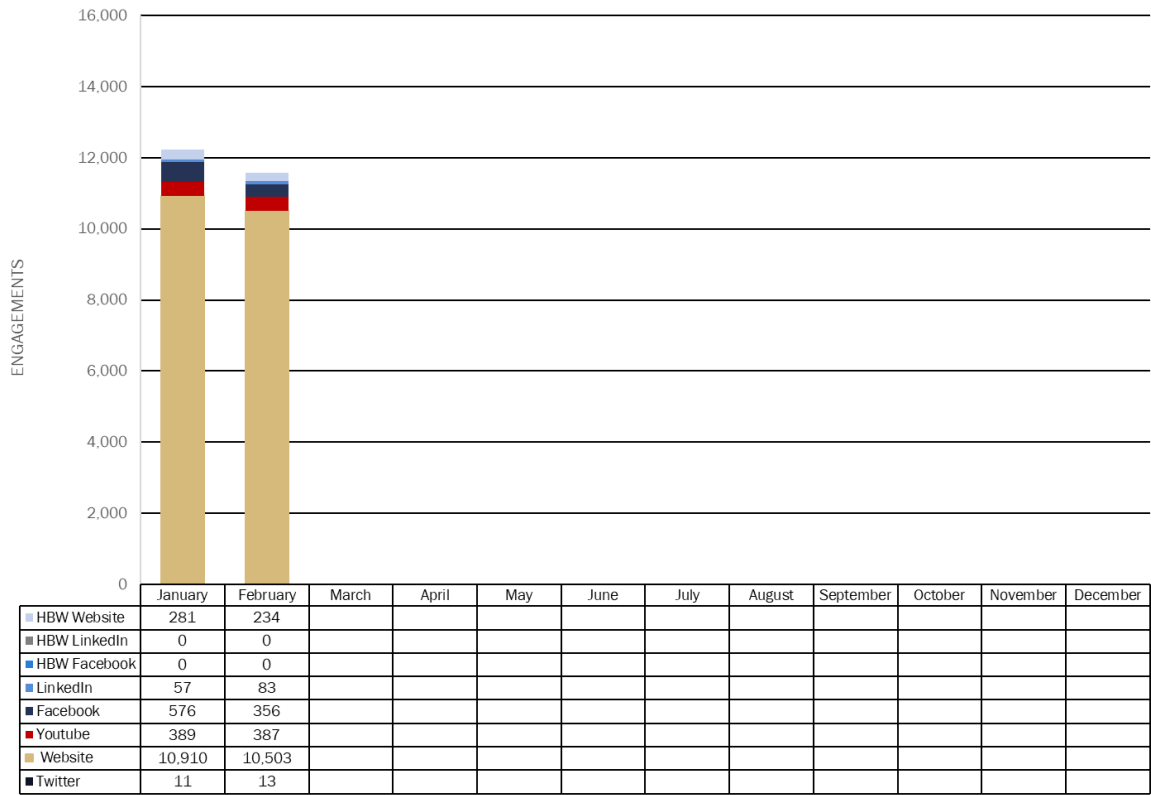
- Engagements - measures the total number of public interactions including shares, likes and comments
- Total Impressions - the number of times content is displayed to a user
- Followers – unique users who subscribe to receive updates

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

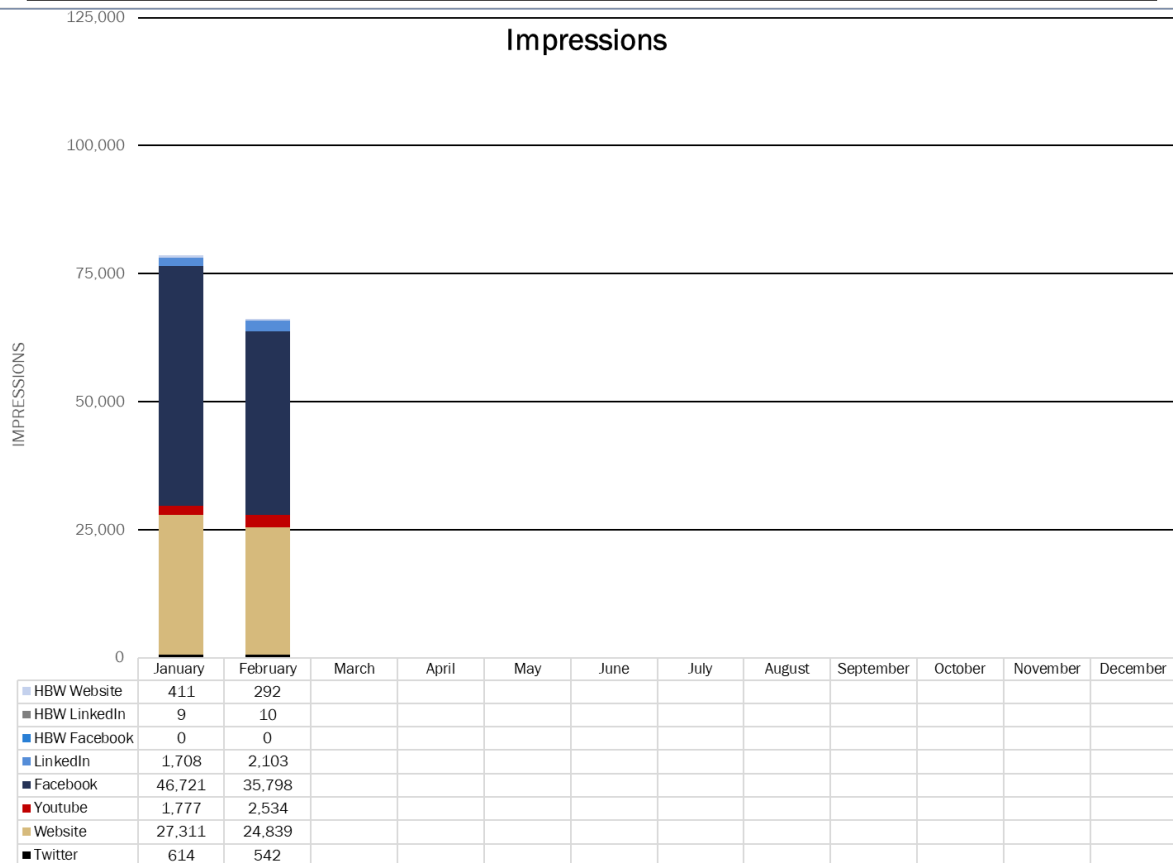
- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WorkforceCenter/>
- Home Base Wichita Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HomeBaseWichita>
- YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/Workforce-ks>
- Twitter at <https://twitter.com/workforcecenter>
- LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/workforce-centers-of-south-central-kansas/>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

The month of February saw decreased engagement on all platforms except Twitter and LinkedIn. Impressions decreased across all platforms except Youtube and both LinkedIn accounts. Followers increased on all platforms except Twitter, both websites, and the HBW Facebook.

## Engagements



## Impressions



### Followers/Subscribers

