

That's Good for Oklahoma!®

OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION PROMOTES EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMY

(GIT) It doesn't take a politician or a trained economist to recognize the link between employment and a healthy, vibrant economy. The equation is simple: The more people employed, the more robust the economy.

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) strives to provide employment security and in so doing promote the economic well-being of the state of Oklahoma. Every effort is made to establish a functional, statewide labor exchange to accommodate the needs of Oklahoma employers and residents. Through OESC local offices, the needs of employers and job-seeking individuals are facilitated by matching qualified workers with an employer's specific employment needs.

OESC avidly supports Oklahoma's employer community and is cognizant of their needs. Oklahoma Employer Advisory Councils have been established across the state to listen to the needs and concerns of employers. The councils play an active role in the community as vital information is disseminated to employers and feedback is gathered so that the delivery of service will continue to improve.

OESC offers many services to Oklahoma job-seekers and residents including referral to suitable employment opportunities, job training assistance to economically disadvantaged individuals and those dislocated due to business closings and layoffs and assessment of an individual's needs and referral to supportive agencies and programs.

HOW IT'S DONE

The Oklahoma Employment Security is made up of four major divisions: Employment Service, Economic Research and Analysis, Job Training Partnership act and Unemployment Insurance.

The Economic Research and Analysis Division is responsible for collecting, analyzing and disseminating a wide array of socioeconomic data. The Division maintains the Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS) programs such as Current Employment Statistics (CES), Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). In addition to these programs, this Division also maintains a number of other Labor Market Information (LMI) programs such as the Occupational Wage Survey Reports, Occupational Projections and the Oklahoma Labor Market

Review. These products and services are requested by a diverse group of customers who need or desire to track the economic health of the state of Oklahoma and its local areas.

The Job Training Partnership Division is primarily responsible for administering the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) of 1982.

JTPA is a federally funded program designed to provide employment and training services to individuals who, for various reasons, have been unable to obtain meaningful employment. This division is responsible for maintaining programs to prepare youth and unskilled adults for entry into the labor force. The program also provides job training opportunities to economically disadvantaged individuals and those dislocated due to business closings and layoffs.

The Employment Service Division maintains a statewide labor exchange between employers and job-seeking individuals as established by the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933. Assistance may be provided to individuals in the form of referral to jobs, training assistance, referral to supportive services, or job development. A Veterans Division provides service to Oklahoma veterans through

Veterans Representatives located in the local office and outstationed at key service delivery points across the state. An employer's labor needs are met and satisfied through the selection and referral of qualified workers.

OESC maintains the Unemployment Insurance Program to pay unemployment benefits to qualified unemployed wage earners. OESC makes rigorous efforts to locate suitable employment opportunities and/or provide reemployment assistance so those individuals receiving unemployment benefits may reenter the workforce as quickly as possible. The Unemployment Insurance Division maintains the Unemployment Insurance program which was established through the Social Security Act of 1935. Unemployment benefits are paid as a weekly sum to qualified unemployed wage earners covered under the law. Funds for payment of these benefits are provided through a state tax paid by employers. Administrative funding for the program is provided through the federal FUTA taxes paid by employers for that purpose.

OKLAHOMA ONE STOP CAREER CENTERS

The One Stop Technical Committees were formed to help the state plan for the new One Stop service delivery system. The LMI Technical Committee is chaired by Auther Jordan, Director of Eco-

