

provide universities within Oklahoma's higher education system opportunities to develop programs for workforce training for fast-changing, high paying job fields, to build expertise in targeted knowledge-based industries and to transfer research to the marketplace.

2. Job Matching and Job Search Assistance

For more information, contact the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission at (405) 557-7149.

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) provides computerized and customized assistance to serve the needs of employers and job seekers. There is no cost to businesses for screening and referrals of qualified job applicants by job service specialists.

If your business is new to Oklahoma, considering Oklahoma, or expanding in Oklahoma, you will want to contact your nearest Workforce Center for assistance in hiring new people, tax credit programs, assessment, training and education, unemployment insurance, etc. The toll-free phone number to locate the nearest center is 1-888-980-WORK or log on to <http://www.workforceok.org/>.

3. Workforce Investment Act Programs

To find out more about these programs, contact your local Workforce Oklahoma Center. You can find the center nearest you by calling 1-888-980-WORK.

The workforce investment act provides training and supportive services to individuals, as well as specific services, to business such as customized training, on the job training, and in some cases incumbent worker training.

4. Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

For more information, contact Terry Watson of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Workforce Solutions, at (405) 815-5206 or terry_watson@odoc.state.ok.us, or log on to <http://www.okcommerce.gov/council>.

The purpose of the Governor's Council is to align the delivery of employment, training, and education programs with the economic development goals of the state.

The Governor's Council has a master plan for talent development for the state and from that plan makes recommendations to the Governor and legislature. The plan is intended to be demand-driven to meet the talent and skill needs of Oklahoma employers and Oklahoma's key industry sectors. The Council is a public/private partnership and consists of business and key government agencies that represent Oklahoma's workforce and economic development entities.

In addition to a talent development strategy, the Council produces related industry sector reports, labor market studies, employer survey data, the Oklahoma report card, and other related information. The Council also sponsors initiatives such as [okcareerplanner.com](http://www.okcareerplanner.com), a comprehensive career management virtual site located at <http://www.okcareerplanner.com>, the Career Readiness Certificate program, and the