

Existing and Emerging

In-Demand Industry Sectors

In Central Oklahoma



April, 2017

Purpose. The purpose of this item is to make a determination of the industry sectors that have a substantial current or potential impact on the economy of Central Oklahoma.

Authority. The authority to make this determination is explicitly stated in Section 3(23)(B) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):

(B) DETERMINATION. — The determination of whether an industry sector or occupation is in-demand under this paragraph shall be made by the State board or local board, as appropriate, using State and regional business and labor market projections, including the use of labor market information.

Background. The definition of the term “in-demand industry sector” is given in Section 3(23) of WIOA:

(23) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION. —

(A) IN GENERAL. — The term “in-demand industry sector or occupation” means—

(i) an industry sector that has a substantial current or potential impact (including through jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate, and that contributes to the growth or stability of other supporting businesses, or the growth of other industry sectors; or

(ii) an occupation that currently has or is projected to have a number of positions (including positions that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) in an industry sector so as to have a significant impact on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate.

There are several reasons why it is important to properly determine the in-demand industry sectors for a local workforce area. For example:

First, Section 107(b)(2) of WIOA requires that the business members of the local workforce development board must represent businesses that “provide employment opportunities... in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area.” Therefore, it is important to determine the in-demand industry sectors in the local area in order to assure compliance with the board composition requirements of WIOA.

Second, in using funds for Youth Workforce Investment Activities, the local workforce development board is required to support activities that provide “*effective connections to employers... in in-demand industry sectors and occupations of the local and regional labor markets.*” (Reference WIOA Sec. 129(c)(1)(C)(v))

Third, pursuant to WIOA Sec. 134(c)(3)(F)(v), when Adults and Dislocated Worker participants are contemplating the selection of a program of occupational skills training, the law requires that, “*Priority consideration shall, consistent with clause (i), be given to programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials that are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area involved.*”

Fourth, pursuant to WIOA Sec. 134(c)(3)(G)(ii)(V)(aa), some special types of occupational skills training may be provided “*if... the local board determines that... it would be most appropriate to award a contract... in order to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in in-demand industry sectors or occupations....*”

Fifth, when Individual Training Accounts are used to support occupational skills training for a WIOA Title I participant, WIOA Section 134(c)(3)(G)(iii) requires that the training services “*...be directly linked to an in-demand industry sector or occupation in the local area or the planning region, or in another area to which an adult or dislocated worker receiving such services is willing to relocate, except that a local board may approve training services for occupations determined by the local board to be in sectors of the economy that have a high potential for sustained demand or growth in the local area.*”

Additional Background. In the WIOA Unified State Plan, the state’s key demand industry sectors are referred to as “ecosystems.”

The State Plan provides a description of the industries and occupations for which there is existing demand in the Central planning region. Here is an excerpt:

This section will provide an analysis of the industries and occupations for which there is existing demand in the Central planning region. The Central planning region consists of nine counties in the central area of the state, and is more densely populated than other planning regions. ...Aerospace and Defense is a significant ecosystem.... Central Oklahoma also has competitive advantages in Energy, Information and Financial Services, and Transportation and Distribution.

The State Plan goes on to describe additional industries and occupations for which demand is emerging. For Central Oklahoma, the emerging demand industries are identified as:

Health Care and Social Assistance; Accommodation and Food Services; Government; Retail Trade; Construction; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Management of Companies and Enterprises; Finance and Insurance; Educational Services; Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services; Transportation and Warehousing; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; Utilities; and Wholesale Trade.

Determination. Relying on the WIOA Unified State Plan as well as our own independent review of regional business and labor market projections, the Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board determines that the following industry sectors are “in-demand industry sectors” in Central Oklahoma.

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These sectors have a substantial current or potential impact (including through jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) on our regional economy:

- ✓ *Aerospace and Defense*
- ✓ ***Agriculture and Biosciences***
- ✓ *Energy*
- ✓ *Information and Financial Services*
- ✓ *Transportation and Distribution*
- ✓ *Health Care and Social Assistance*
- ✓ *Accommodation and Food Services*
- ✓ *Government*
- ✓ *Retail Trade*
- ✓ *Construction*
- ✓ ***Manufacturing***
- ✓ *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*
- ✓ *Management of Companies and Enterprises*
- ✓ *Finance and Insurance*
- ✓ *Educational Services*
- ✓ *Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services*
- ✓ *Transportation and Warehousing*
- ✓ *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation*
- ✓ *Utilities*
- ✓ *Wholesale Trade*

This determination will be reviewed periodically and may be updated as needed.