



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

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COWIB Open Records Policy

Pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act, December 2005

Approved and Published: Draft

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PURPOSE: To ensure and facilitate the public's right of access and review of government records so they may efficiently and intelligently exercise their inherent political power. (Reference: Oklahoma Open Records Act, 24A.2.)

The Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board (COWIB) is the policy and guidance board for the Workforce Oklahoma system in Central Oklahoma. We are business leaders with a goal to establish a highly skilled, productive workforce in our 9-county area.

The Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board (COWIB) complies with WIOA's Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination provisions which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions, transgender status, and gender identity), national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, disability, political affiliation or belief, or, the basis of citizenship status or participation in a WIOA Title-1 financially assisted program or activity.

COWIB is an Equal Opportunity Employer/ Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. This was financed in whole or in part by fund from the US Dept. of Labor as administered by the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development.

<http://www.cowib.org/>



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Purpose

To ensure and facilitate the public's right of access and review of government records so they may efficiently and intelligently exercise their inherent political power. (Reference: Oklahoma Open Records Act, 24A.2.)

Authority

The authority for this policy derives from Section 107(e) of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) which requires all local workforce investment boards to comply with the "Sunshine Provision" of WIA:

"(e) Sunshine Provision. –The local board shall make available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings, information regarding the activities of the local board, including information regarding the local plan prior to submission of the plan, and regarding membership, the designation and certification of one-stop operators, and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth activities, and on request, minutes of formal meetings of the local board."

Background

As a public body created by the Board of Chief Elected Officials, and supported in whole or in part by public funds, the Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board has the duty to comply with the Oklahoma Open Records Act. The Act provides that, with some exceptions, all records of public bodies shall be open to any person for inspection, copying, and/or mechanical reproduction during regular business hours. Within the Open Records Act, there is a provision that a public body may charge a fee for recovery of the costs of document copying.

Local Policy

1. Records open for public inspection.

It is hereby made the duty of every official and employee of the Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board, who keeps public records pertaining to the COWIB or its Board of Chief Elected Officials (BCEO), to keep such public records available and open for public inspection for proper and reasonable purposes, during all business hours of the day; provided, however, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any records which are required by law to be kept secret or confidential.

The COWIB's Chief Executive Officer is hereby authorized to establish reasonable procedures to:

- a. Provide prompt, reasonable access to the COWIB's records during regular business hours; and
- b. Protect the integrity and organization of its records and to prevent excessive disruptions of its essential functions. (Reference: Oklahoma Open Records Act, 24A.5.5)

2. Confidential Federal Records.

As provided in the Oklahoma Open Records Act, any records coming into the possession of the COWIB and/or BCEO or records generated or gathered as a result of federal legislation may be kept confidential to the extent required by federal law. (Reference: Oklahoma Open Records Act, 24A.13)

3. Fees for copies of or searches for COWIB records.

Persons desiring copies of or searches for any records of the COWIB or its Board of Local Elected Officials shall pay to the COWIB, Inc., such fees as are established in Attachment A, General Schedule of Fees. (Reference: Oklahoma Open Records Act, 24A.5.3)

Pursuant to the Open Records Act: “A public body may charge a fee...for recovery of the reasonable, direct costs of record copying, or mechanical reproduction.”

Pursuant to the Open Records Act: “In no case shall a search fee be charged when the release of said documents is in the public interest, including, but not limited to, release to the news media, scholars, authors and taxpayers seeking to determine whether those entrusted with the affairs of the government are honestly, faithfully, and competently performing their duties as public servants.”

Pursuant to the Open Records Act: “Fees shall not be used for the purpose of discouraging requests for information or as obstacles to disclosure of requested information.”

COWIB interprets the Open Records Act to state that a public body is permitted, but not required, to charge search fees and copying fees, etc., under certain circumstances as described in the Act. Therefore, COWIB has published the General Schedule of Fees given in Attachment A of this policy. However, COWIB retains the authority to waive the imposition of fees in instances in which the amount of the fees to be charged is so small as to be considered negligible.

Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Statement

All Recipients, and Sub-recipients / Sub-grantees must comply with WIOA’s Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination provisions which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions, transgender status, and gender identity), national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, disability, political affiliation or belief, or, for beneficiaries, applicants, and participants only, on the basis of citizenship status or participation in a WIOA Title-I financially assisted program or activity.

Addenda / Revisions

The COWIB Chief Executive Officer is authorized to issue additional instructions, guidance, forms, etc., to further implement these procedures.

Questions about these procedures may be directed to the COWIB’s Policy Analyst at (405) 622-2026.

General Schedule of Fees

Copies of COWIB &/or BCEO Board records; inspection of public records

Established: December, 2005

Except as otherwise provided in this schedule or by State statute, the fees for inspection and copying of public records shall be:

- a. Photocopy of public document, per page, of any documents not exceeding 8 1/2" × 14" in size . . . \$1.00
- b. Photocopy of public document, per page, of any document exceeding 8 1/2" × 14" in size . . . \$5.00
- c. Search fee for time spent locating requested records, when the request is:
 1. solely for commercial purpose; or
 2. clearly would cause excessive disruption of essential COWIB / BCEO functions; each quarter hour or any portion thereof . . . \$10.00
- d. Computer generated reports, audio tapes and/or video tapes, not including search time, per hour of production time or any portion thereof . . . \$100.00
- e. Photographs:
 1. all 5" × 7" photographs provided as a picture on photo paper, each . . . \$10.00
 2. all digital photographs provided as electronically recorded file, provided on digital media, if available and resources allow, each . . . \$12.00
- f. Handling charge to prepare documents for mailing or shipping, pickup or to electronically deliver or transmit documents, per request, if available and resources allow, per quarter hour or any portion thereof, plus postage if applicable . . . \$15.00

NOTE:

Pursuant to Section 24A.5 of the Oklahoma Open Records Act, "Any public body establishing fees under this act shall post a written schedule of fees at its principal office and with the county clerk."