

OKLAHOMA SENATE

**OVERVIEW
OF
STATE
ISSUES**



**REPORT BY SENATE STAFF
OCTOBER 2014**

OKLAHOMA SENATE

Overview of State Issues

October 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Oklahoma Senate Overview of State Issues is designed to provide a convenient summary of policy, budget and taxation issues that face Oklahoma's Legislature. Though full of factual groundwork, this book's goal is also to put issues in context.

Discussion begins with a brief overview of the state's economic conditions and population trends, since these dynamics so often serve as catalysts for change.

The state's tax structure is examined closely, beginning with an analysis of total taxation and how it compares with other states. Each major tax type is then presented in detail – how it is assessed, collected and spent under the law. Regional and national rate analyses are provided for each major tax type.

Overall expenditures are presented in a chapter that details the emergence of broad shifts in spending priorities. Recent bond issues for capital improvements are also highlighted.

Next is a series of chapters, each of which is dedicated to a major policy area that has been the subject of recent legislative deliberation and action. Subjects discussed include the programs and budgets of almost all major state agencies.

Where relevant, descriptions of issues include historical context and state-by-state comparisons. Programs and policies that at first may seem perplexing are more easily understood when viewed in historical context.

The information is by no means comprehensive. More information on a particular topic can be obtained by contacting the Senate staff analysts listed on the dividing page of each chapter.

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OVERVIEW

State Economy and Demographics

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STATE ECONOMY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Changes in the state marketplace and population are at the root of much of the Legislature's policy discussions. Shifts in these measures are often the catalyst for efforts to change state policies relating to social services, economic development, taxes and other areas.

THE OKLAHOMA ECONOMY

Oklahoma continues to be one of the nation's leaders in economic growth, from the start of the Great Recession, and through its slow recovery. In 2013, Oklahoma had the 4th highest real GDP growth rate in the nation. Oklahoma has greatly diversified its economy since the 1986 oil bust, but it is still heavily dependent on the oil and gas industry. A recent study by OERB, in conjunction with Oklahoma City University, states that 1 out of every 5 jobs and 1 out of every 3 dollars of gross state product (GSP) is, directly and indirectly, supported by the oil and gas sector.

Components of the 2013 Oklahoma Economy

	2013 Dollar Amount <u>in Millions</u>	Percent <u>of Total</u>
Services	\$37,884	21.15%
Government	\$28,303	15.80%
Mining	\$22,211	12.40%
F.I.R.E.	\$24,384	13.62%
Trade	\$20,609	11.51%
Manufacturing	\$18,246	10.19%
Transport & Warehousing	\$6,287	3.51%
Utilities	\$5,315	2.97%
Information	\$5,886	3.29%
Construction	\$7,443	4.16%
Agriculture	\$2,522	1.40%
Total GDP	\$179,090	100.00%

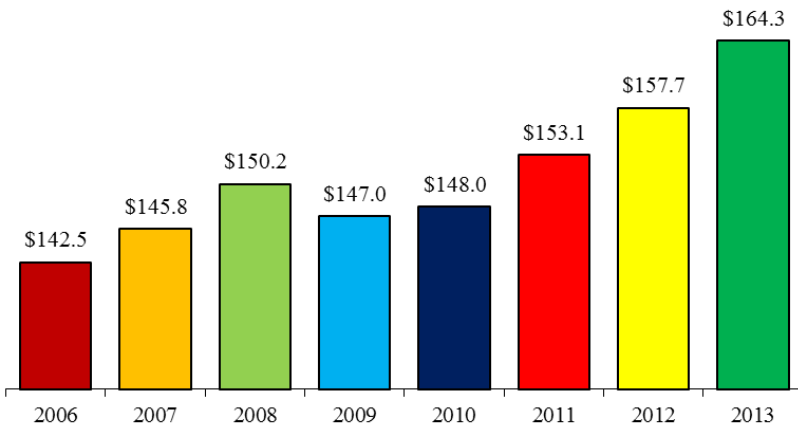
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

The Finance, Insurance and Real Estate sector (F.I.R.E.), manufacturing sector, and the services sector are the largest private components of the Oklahoma economy. Together they comprise 44.96 percent of total state output. While the services sector is often perceived as paying low wages, it includes many of the high wage and new economy jobs such as software consulting, management and health professionals.

ECONOMIC OUTPUT

The state economy's production – the gross state product or GSP – is the total amount of goods and services produced by all industries within a state.

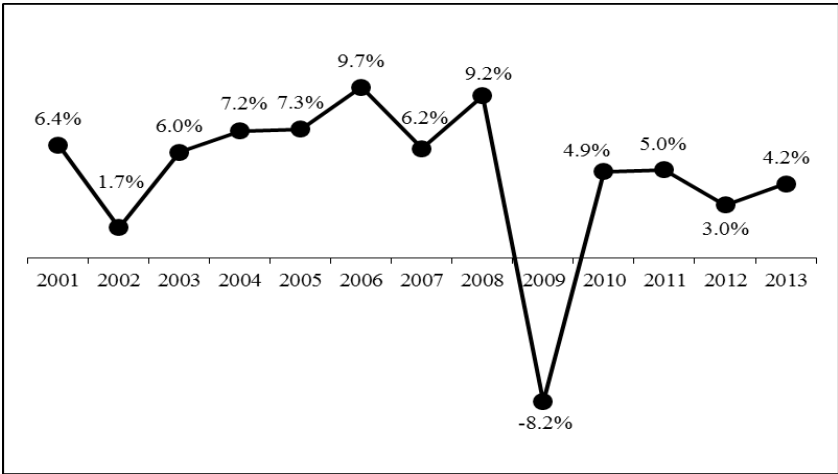
Oklahoma Real Gross State Product 2006 Through 2013 (In Billions; 2009 Dollars)



Source: BEA

The Real GSP, which is adjusted for price changes and is considered the most appropriate measure of state output, increased by 4.2 percent in the year 2013, which is the 4th highest in the nation. The Real GSP increased 3.0 percent in the year 2012.

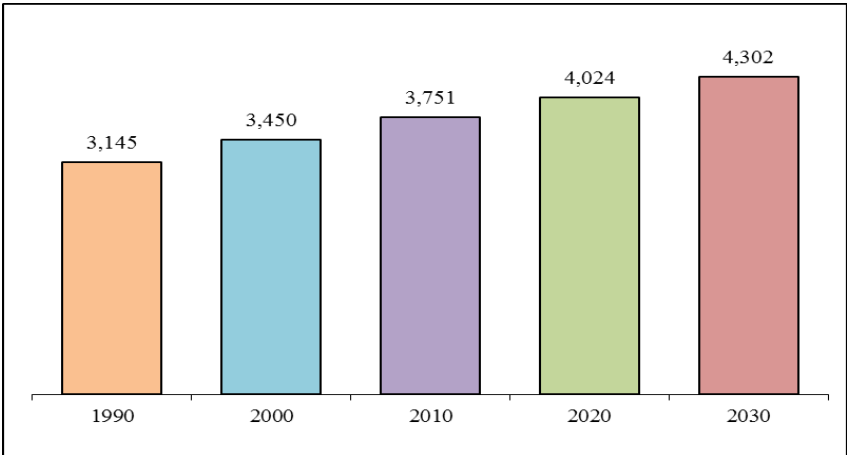
Oklahoma Real Gross State Product Growth Rate 2001 Through 2013



Source: BEA

POPULATION

Oklahoma Population Trend and Projections 1990 Through 2030 (In Thousands)



Source: Oklahoma Department of Commerce

Census data for the year 2010 place Oklahoma as the 28th most populous state in the nation, with 3.75 million residents. This compares to 1995, when Oklahoma's 3.27 million residents made it the 27th most populous state. The decline in ranking between 1995 and 2010 is not due to a loss of population, because the state gained over 521,000 residents over the past 16 years. Instead, the ranking drop is due to the fact that states that were smaller than Oklahoma are growing faster. The most recent American Community Survey estimates Oklahoma's current population is 3.85 million.

Projected Growth in Population

The latest U.S. Census Bureau report projects that Oklahoma's population will increase by 441,000 people or 11.8 percent between 2010 and 2030.

The current population estimate of Oklahoma citizens aged 65 years and older is 550,631 or 14.3 percent of the population. That number is expected to increase to 19.4 percent of the population by 2030, significantly higher than the expected state population growth as a whole, but less than the national projection of 19.7 percent. In 2010, Oklahoma ranked 24th as a state for the proportion of the population aged 65 years and older. That ranking is expected to drop to 33rd by 2030.

Working-Age Population

The percentage of Oklahoma's population that is in the prime working ages – between 18 and 64 years of age – is expected to decrease from 61.7 percent in 2010 to 55.6 percent in 2030. Oklahoma has a larger percentage of young and elderly compared to the nation.

The primary reason for Oklahoma's projected decrease in the working-age proportion of the population is the growth rate of elderly residents. While our expected growth rate of elderly citizens is lower than the national average, the state may still experience a profound impact to expected tax revenues and social-service demands within the state.

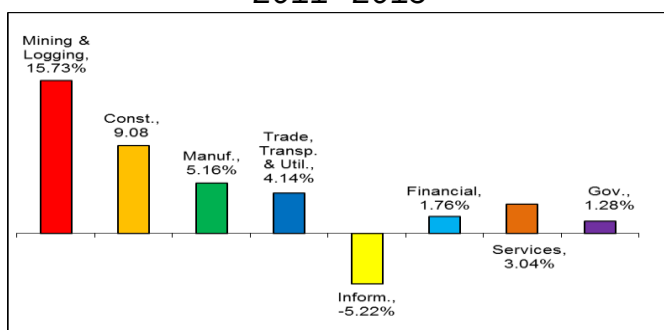
The population of Oklahoma residents, aged 65 and older, is expected to top 800,000 by 2030

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME TRENDS

Oklahoma's average wage per job in 2013 was \$39,940 or 86 percent of the national average. This wage represents an 18.5 percent growth in wages from the 2007 average wage.

The per capita personal income (PCPI) in 2013 for Oklahoma was \$41,586 which is 93.4 percent of the national average. Per capita personal income is a broad measure of economic well-being that includes wages and salaries, proprietor income, dividends and rents, and government transfer payments. PCPI grew by 10.5 percent between 2008 and 2013 in Oklahoma; the U.S. PCPI grew at a rate of 8.98 percent. When adjusted for the cost of living index, Oklahoma's PCPI is \$1,358 less than the national average.

Oklahoma Employment Growth Rate, by Sector 2011 - 2013



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Oklahoma's overall employment growth rate from 2011 to 2013 was 3.51 percent, compared to the national rate of 3.43 percent.

Oklahoma's unemployment rate of 4.7 percent in August 2014 was far below the national rate of 6.1 percent.

Top 15 Unemployment Rates for States Seasonally Adjusted August 2014		
Rank	State	Rate
1	North Dakota	1.8
2	Nebraska	3.6
2	South Dakota	3.6
2	Utah	3.6
5	Vermont	4.1
6	Hawaii	4.3
6	Minnesota	4.3
8	New Hampshire	4.4
9	Iowa	4.5
10	Wyoming	4.6
11	Oklahoma	4.7
11	Idaho	4.7
11	Montana	4.7
14	Kansas	4.9
15	Colorado	5.1



STATE BUDGET

Appropriation Checks and Balances

In Oklahoma, projected revenues are certified by the Board of Equalization. This Board is comprised of the Governor, Lt. Governor, State Auditor and Inspector, Treasurer, Attorney General, Superintendent of Instruction and President of the State Board of Agriculture.

The Oklahoma Constitution, Article X, Sec. 23, requires a balanced budget. Appropriations are limited to 95 percent of projected revenues and cannot exceed 12 percent in growth.

Any revenue collected that exceeds the certified estimate is deposited into the Constitutional Reserve (Rainy Day) Fund until it reaches a Constitutional cap of 15 percent of the prior year's General Revenue Fund actual collections. The Rainy Day Fund can be used under the following conditions:

- 3/8 of the fund can be used if General Revenue fails to meet the estimate in the current fiscal year;
- 3/8 of the fund can be used if General Revenue is projected to decline from one year to the next;
- 1/4 of the fund can be used if there is an emergency declaration by the Governor and a 2/3 vote in both the Senate and House of Representatives, or this same 1/4 can be used without the Governor's declaration if there is a 3/4 vote by Senate and House of Representatives.

The Governor has line item veto authority over all appropriation bills. Vetoes can be overridden by a super-majority vote by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

State Budget Cycle

The state fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year. The following is a breakdown of the budget cycle throughout that year.

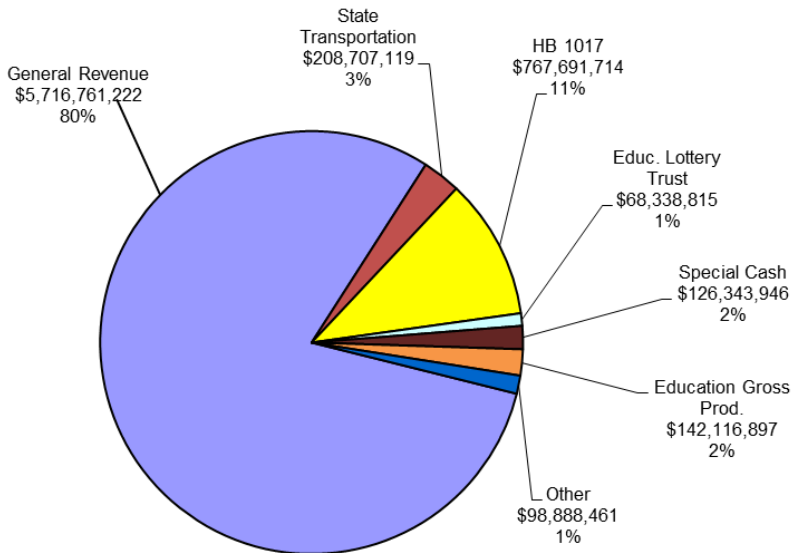
- **July 1** - The new fiscal year begins.
- **July through October** – Agencies formulate their budget work program. Budget limits may be set by the Legislature in the preceding legislative session. Agencies begin formulating the budget request they will present for the next legislative session. This is a good time for advocacy groups to begin talking with state agencies about funding issues.
- **October 1** – Agencies submit their budget request to the Governor and Legislature for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **November** – Appropriation Subcommittees begin analysis of agency program performance measures and begin filing related reports. No appropriations can be made to an agency until these reports have been filed.
- **December** – The Board of Equalization meets for initial certification of revenues. This is the revenue estimate used for the Governor’s budget. This is the best time for advocacy groups to contact the Governor about program budgets.
- **February** – The Governor submits budget recommendations to the Legislature on the first day of session. The Board of Equalization meets for certification of revenues. This is the revenue estimate the Legislature is bound by constitutionally unless it passes a bill to increase or decrease revenue and that bill is signed by the Governor.
- **February through April** – Supplemental appropriations are considered for the current fiscal year. Subcommittees hold budget hearings for the upcoming fiscal year and move substantive bills with fiscal impacts through the process. This is the best time to talk to the Legislature about budget issues.
- **Late April to May** – The Subcommittees get their budget allocation and convene the General Conference Committee on Appropriations (GCCA). By this time, the Senate and House Appropriation Subcommittees have decided most of what they want to fund, and it is time to work out their differences in conference.

- **May** – The Legislature begins filing appropriation bills. During session, the Governor has 5 days to sign or veto a bill or it becomes law without their signature. If the bill is passed during the last week of session, the Governor has 15 days to sign it or it becomes a pocket veto. Session ends on the last Friday in May.
- **June** – The Board of Equalization meets to certify any changes to certification as a result of legislation that was signed into law and to certify that the Legislature did not exceed its appropriation authority.
- **June 30** – The current fiscal year ends. Agencies submit Budget Work Programs to the Office of State Finance and the process starts over.

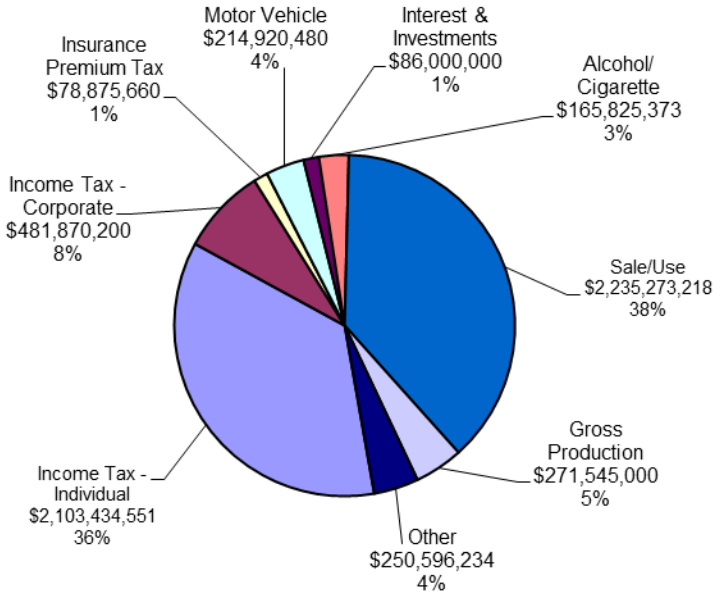
Legislative Appropriation Authority

The Board of Equalization certifies funds for the Legislature to appropriate and also provides estimates for some of the major agency revolving funds such as the Common Education 1017 Fund. It does not provide estimates for every revolving fund that the Legislature uses for appropriation. Revenues that were included in the Board's FY'15 certification packet totaled a little over \$7.208 billion. Summaries of the major revenue categories are on the following page.

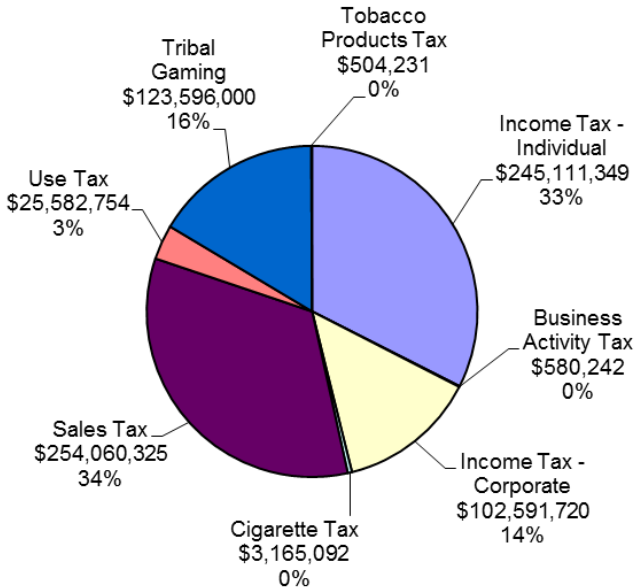
Authorized Expenditures by Major Category, FY '15



Total Estimate for General Revenue Fund by Major Category, FY '15



HB 1017 Fund by Major Category, FY '15



State Expenditures

Seventy-two agencies received state appropriated dollars in FY'15 totaling \$7,121,723,873; however, section 144 of SB 2127, the FY '15 General Appropriations bill, was nullified due to an opinion issued by the Attorney General. This section increased the amount of carryover funds required for the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. This change would have increased the amount of funds going into the General Revenue fund. Due to that section being nullified, OMES reduced all allocations from the GR fund by 0.1219354%. The final amount allocated to state agencies totals \$7,114,931,342. (See Summary of Appropriations Chart on pages 15-16.)

Of the agencies receiving an appropriation, there were some significant changes. The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability fully absorbed the duties of the Teacher Preparation Commission which caused OCTP to cease to exist. The Department of Consumer Credit became a non-appropriated agency due to HB 2831 of 2010 which allowed the agency to retain a larger portion of fee revenues. The OSU Medical Authority has been assigned to the Health and Human Services subcommittee with a permanent funding source. Finally, funds originally appropriated to the Workers' Compensation Court are now split between the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims.

Supplemental appropriations for FY '14 totaled \$110,124,017. Agencies that received a supplemental for FY '14 include the State Election Board, State Ethics Commission, House of Representatives, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Department of Agriculture, Food, & Forestry, the Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Department of Corrections, and the Long Range Capitol Planning Commission. The common education portion of the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund shortfall was provided with a \$25,523,000 appropriation.

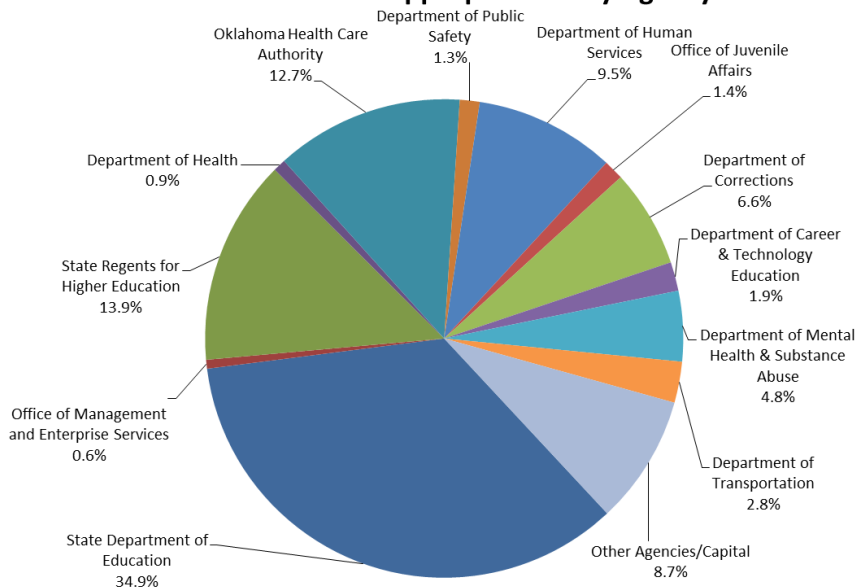
The State Department of Education received an increase of almost \$80 million for flexible health benefits and increases to the funding formula. DHS received over \$40 million in new funds for the Pinnacle Plan. Seven agencies received flat funding, including the Regents for Higher Education, the Department of Career Technology, the District Attorneys Council and the Supreme Court. There were 52 agencies whose budgets were reduced between 1% and 5.5%. Approximately 12,378 state employees received pay raises between 5% to 13.5% annually.

The table on the following page lists the top twelve agencies receiving an appropriation for FY'15, after the allocation reduction. This table does not include the \$357.1 million or \$416.8 million apportioned to ODOT's ROADS Fund in FY '14 and FY '15 respectively. The FY'14 amounts include any supplemental an agency received.

Top Twelve Agency Appropriation History FY'14 to FY'15

	FY'14 Appropriation	FY'15 Appropriation	Dollar Change	Percent Change
State Department of Education	\$2,407,604,082	\$2,484,873,132	\$77,269,050	3.2%
State Regents for Higher Education	\$988,549,006	\$987,523,283	-\$1,025,723	-0.1%
Oklahoma Health Care Authority	\$1,001,386,338	\$905,365,450	-\$96,020,888	-9.6%
Department of Human Services	\$630,958,664	\$674,869,684	\$43,911,020	7.0%
Department of Corrections	\$476,731,068	\$470,900,942	-\$5,830,126	-1.2%
Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse	\$336,821,458	\$338,691,561	\$1,870,103	0.6%
Department of Transportation	\$208,707,119	\$197,228,227	-\$11,478,892	-5.5%
Department of Career & Technology Education	\$138,142,618	\$138,727,945	\$585,327	0.4%
Office of Juvenile Affairs	\$98,187,205	\$96,499,033	-\$1,688,172	-1.7%
Department of Public Safety	\$90,416,790	\$95,709,377	\$5,292,587	5.9%
Department of Health	\$62,983,682	\$60,632,476	-\$2,351,206	-3.7%
Office of Management and Enterprise Services	\$45,132,347	\$42,785,331	-\$2,347,016	-5.2%
Subtotal (91% of Total)	\$6,485,620,377	\$6,493,806,441	\$8,186,064	0.1%
Other Agencies/Capital	\$738,204,140	\$621,124,901	-\$117,079,239	-15.9%
Total Appropriations	\$7,223,824,517	\$7,114,931,342	-\$108,893,175	-1.5%

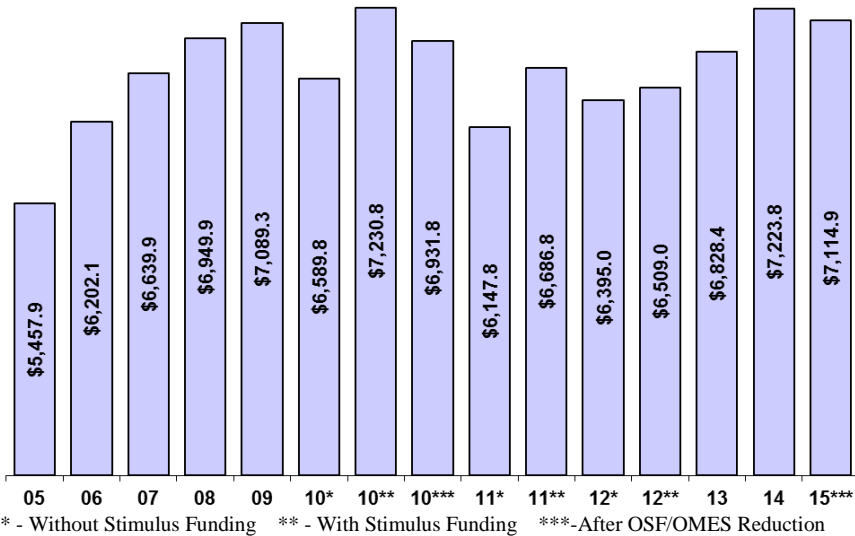
Share of All FY '15 Appropriations by Agency



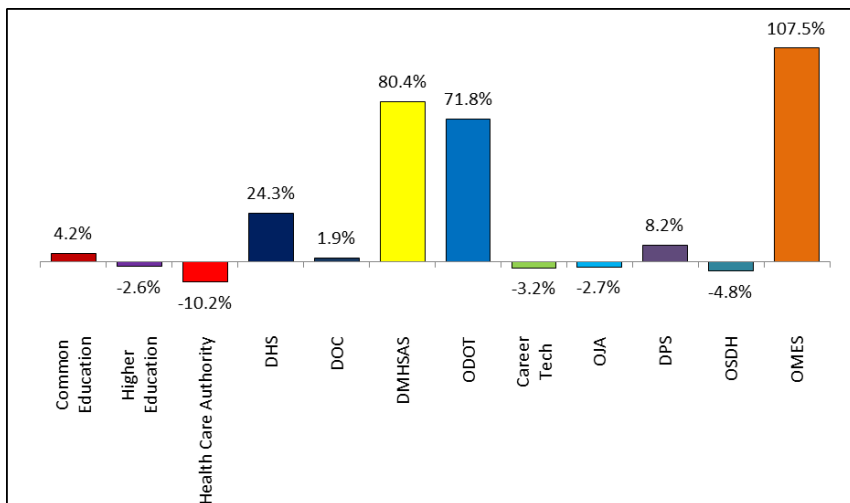
Appropriation History FY'05 to FY'15

Appropriations for the past ten years have been up and down but with an overall trend to increase. After state revenues began to rebound in 2004, significant gains were made in FY'05 and FY'06. The implementation of major tax reductions beginning in FY'07 and a slowdown in the national economy in FY'08 and FY'09 contributed to more moderate expenditure growth in those years. By early 2009, the state was beginning to feel the effects of the national recession. The Board of Equalization certified a decrease in revenues which necessitated reductions to most state agency budgets. The Legislature and Governor used federal stimulus dollars to backfill those cuts at Common Education, Higher Education and for agencies that receive Medicaid funds. A severe economic downturn in FY'10 led the Office of State Finance to reduce allocations by 7.5%. The following graph depicts the FY'10 - FY'12 budgets with and without these stimulus funds and the final total budget for FY'10 after the OSF cuts. There were no remaining stimulus funds in FY'13. Appropriations for FY'15 are lower than FY'14 due to a significant amount of funds used for FY'14 supplementals.

10-Year Appropriation History



Top Twelve Agency Appropriations Percent Change FY'11 to FY'15



Summary of Appropriations FY'14 – FY'15

	FY'14 Appropriation	FY'15 Allocation	\$ Change from FY '14	% Change from FY '14
Education Subcommittee				
State Department of Education	2,407,604,082	2,484,873,132	77,269,050	3.2%
State Regents for Higher Education	988,549,006	987,523,283	-1,025,723	-0.1%
Department of Career & Technology Education	138,142,618	138,727,945	585,327	0.4%
Oklahoma Educational Television Authority	3,822,328	3,607,696	-214,632	-5.6%
State Arts Council	4,010,087	3,784,911	-225,176	-5.6%
Commissioners of the Land Office	15,062,250	8,538,600	-6,523,650	-43.3%
Department of Libraries	5,898,633	5,567,411	-331,222	-5.6%
Physician Manpower Training Commission	4,379,254	4,133,837	-245,417	-5.6%
Oklahoma School of Science and Math	6,332,274	6,324,553	-7,721	-0.1%
Oklahoma Center for Adv. Of Science & Technology	17,811,449	16,811,295	-1,000,154	-5.6%
Office of Educational Quality & Accountability	661,271	1,928,916	1,267,645	191.7%
Commission on Teacher Preparation	1,526,179	0	-1,526,179	-100.0%
TOTAL EDUCATION	3,593,799,431	3,661,821,579	68,022,148	1.9%
General Government & Transportation Subcommittee				
State Auditor and Inspector	4,706,986	4,442,678	-264,308	-5.6%
Office of the State Bond Advisor	143,112	135,075	-8,037	-5.6%
State Election Board	8,109,141	7,799,338	-309,803	-3.8%
Office of Civil Emergency Management	651,179	614,614	-36,565	-5.6%
State Ethics Commission	1,456,749	737,229	-719,520	-49.4%
Office of Management and Enterprise Services	45,132,347	42,785,331	-2,347,016	-5.2%
Governor	2,172,900	2,105,143	-67,757	-3.1%
House of Representatives	17,574,682	15,663,074	-1,911,608	-10.9%
Legislative Service Bureau	9,892,835	4,892,835	-5,000,000	-50.5%
Lt. Governor	506,591	478,145	-28,446	-5.6%
Merit Protection Commission	490,967	463,398	-27,569	-5.6%
Oklahoma Military Department	11,747,997	11,856,826	108,829	0.9%
Senate	13,171,789	12,447,341	-724,448	-5.5%
Space Industry Development Authority	394,589	372,432	-22,157	-5.6%
Oklahoma Tax Commission	46,915,944	44,281,506	-2,634,438	-5.6%
Department of Transportation*	208,707,119	197,228,227	-11,478,892	-5.5%
Oklahoma State Treasurer	3,553,873	3,354,437	-199,436	-5.6%
TOTAL GEN. GOV'T & TRANSPORTATION	375,328,799	349,657,630	-25,671,170	-6.8%
Health & Human Services Subcommittee				
Commission on Children and Youth	2,027,167	2,127,076	99,909	4.9%
Office of Disability Concerns	317,607	299,773	-17,834	-5.6%
Department of Health	62,983,682	60,632,476	-2,351,206	-3.7%
Oklahoma Health Care Authority	1,001,386,338	905,365,450	-96,020,888	-9.6%
Department of Human Services	630,958,664	674,869,684	43,911,020	7.0%
J.D. McCarty Center	4,140,338	4,412,206	271,868	6.6%
Office of Juvenile Affairs	98,187,205	96,499,033	-1,688,172	-1.7%
OSU Medical Authority	13,000,000	12,270,020	-729,980	-5.6%
Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse	336,821,458	338,691,561	1,870,103	0.6%
Department of Rehabilitative Services	30,949,232	30,544,807	-404,425	-1.3%
University Hospitals Authority	44,530,391	42,069,019	-2,461,372	-5.5%
Department of Veteran Affairs	35,698,752	36,096,750	397,998	1.1%
TOTAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	2,261,000,834	2,203,877,855	-57,122,979	-2.5%

	FY'14 Appropriation	FY'15 Allocation	\$ Change from FY '14	% Change from FY '14
Natural Resources & Regulatory Services Subcommittee				
Department of Agriculture	28,210,247	25,842,914	-2,367,333	-8.4%
Department of Commerce	32,573,212	28,234,481	-4,338,731	-13.3%
Conservation Commission	13,461,684	10,366,565	-3,095,119	-23.0%
Department of Consumer Credit	31,730	0	-31,730	-100.0%
Oklahoma Corporation Commission	11,324,427	10,775,325	-549,102	-4.8%
Department of Environmental Quality	9,057,973	7,133,575	-1,924,398	-21.2%
Historical Society	12,502,546	12,005,595	-496,951	-4.0%
Horse Racing Commission	2,072,167	1,973,779	-98,388	-4.7%
Insurance Commissioner	1,871,937	1,768,980	-102,957	-5.5%
J.M. Davis Memorial Commission	306,009	288,826	-17,183	-5.6%
Department of Labor	3,311,160	3,129,046	-182,114	-5.5%
Department of Mines	879,139	878,067	-1,072	-0.1%
Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission	365,315	270,984	-94,331	-25.8%
Department of Tourism and Recreation	21,803,003	20,654,161	-1,148,842	-5.3%
Oklahoma Water Resources Board	11,499,671	6,606,623	-4,893,048	-42.5%
Will Rogers Memorial Commission	740,486	698,906	-41,580	-5.6%
TOTAL NAT RESOURCES & REG SERVICES	150,010,706	130,627,828	-19,382,878	-12.9%
Public Safety & Judiciary Subcommittee				
Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission	3,140,334	3,051,222	-89,112	-2.8%
Attorney General	15,228,141	14,579,934	-648,207	-4.3%
Department of Corrections	476,731,068	470,900,942	-5,830,126	-1.2%
Court of Criminal Appeals	3,634,631	3,630,199	-4,432	-0.1%
District Attorneys and District Attorneys Council	39,687,258	39,639,475	-47,783	-0.1%
District Courts	59,600,000	55,596,305	-4,003,695	-6.7%
Office of the State Fire Marshall	1,796,764	1,746,235	-50,529	-2.8%
Oklahoma Indigent Defense System	15,699,353	16,079,722	380,369	2.4%
Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation	14,283,059	14,353,361	70,302	0.5%
Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training	3,757,560	3,554,021	-203,539	-5.4%
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	8,698,281	10,207,414	1,509,133	17.3%
Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs	3,616,418	3,762,276	145,858	4.0%
Pardon and Parole Board	2,292,454	2,466,681	174,227	7.6%
Department of Public Safety	90,416,790	95,709,377	5,292,587	5.9%
Supreme Court	17,300,000	17,291,099	-8,901	-0.1%
Workers Compensation Commission	1,500,000	2,746,647	1,246,647	83.1%
Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims	4,247,166	2,746,647	-1,500,519	-35.3%
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY	761,629,277	758,061,557	-3,567,720	-0.5%
Long Range Capital Planning Commission	45,000,000	0	-45,000,000	-100.0%
Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund	25,523,000	0	-25,523,000	-100.0%
Rural Economic Action Plan	11,532,469	10,884,894	-647,575	-5.6%

Total Appropriation	7,223,824,517	7,114,931,342	-108,893,174	-1.5%
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ODOT-The agency also received \$357.1 million and \$416.8 million from the ROADS Fund in FY '14 and FY '15 respectively.



BONDS

General Obligation Bonds – Governmental Purpose

The Oklahoma Constitution requires that general obligation bonds be approved by a vote of the people and that the enabling law provide for the collection of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the debt as it comes due within twenty-five years of issuance.

Voter-approved general obligation bonds are a full-faith and credit obligation of the State and carry a pledge by the State to make repayment of principal and interest from any legally available source of funds. The only outstanding governmental-purpose general obligation bonds of the State have been issued by the Oklahoma Building Bonds Commission.

The outstanding governmental-purpose, general obligations bonds of the State of Oklahoma are secured initially by cigarette taxes. These are tax-supported bonds.

Self-Supporting General Obligation Bonds – Industrial Loans

The Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority operates a voter-approved general obligation bond program under which the proceeds of the issues are used to make industrial development loans. The State Constitution limits the amount of general obligation debt that can be outstanding at any time for this purpose to \$90,000,000. If the borrower fails to make payment under this program, the ODFA will issue State general obligation bonds and use the proceeds to pay off the loan. General obligation bonds have never been issued to pay obligations due under this program.

The outstanding OIFA general obligation bonds are secured initially by the loan repayments and then by OIFA reserves. These are tax-backed, but not tax-supported bonds.

General Obligation Bonds – Credit Enhancement Reserve Fund Program

The Oklahoma Development Finance Authority (the “ODFA”) is constitutionally authorized to incur general obligation indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$100 million to provide credit support for the Credit Enhancement Reserve Fund (“CERF”) Program. All or portions of issues approved for participation in the program are guaranteed by CERF. The guarantee provides that general obligation bonds will be sold, if needed, to make required debt service payments.

The \$100 million Constitutional authorization has been divided by statute, with \$60 million dedicated to the Pooled Business Financing Program and the Public Facilities Financing Program and \$40 million reserved for the Quality Jobs Investment Program.

This general obligation bonding authority represents a contingent liability and, as such, do not require any expenditure of State funds unless general obligation bonds are issued. These are tax-backed, but not tax-supported bonds.

Lease Revenue Bonds

With statutory authorization, the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority (the “OCIA”) issues lease revenue bonds and notes to finance State capital facilities and equipment. Security for the bonds is provided by a lease with the State entity that occupies the facility or uses the equipment. The lease payments typically come from appropriations made by the Oklahoma Legislature for that purpose.

The legal structure of these issues provides that the leases may be terminated in the event sufficient appropriations are not received to make the required lease payment. As a result, the Oklahoma Supreme Court has held that the OCIA lease revenue bonds do not constitute a debt, as defined in the Oklahoma Constitution and, therefore, do not require voter approval. The credit markets view OCIA lease-backed obligations as slightly less secure than the State’s general obligation.

Most outstanding OCIA bonds are secured by annual appropriations to the agency lessees (although a few pay from other agency sources). Most of these are tax-supported bonds.

Direct Agency and Higher Education Lease Obligations

In addition to the bonds sold by the OCIA, a number of other State agencies and institutions of higher education have issued lease revenue obligations to meet capital needs. Often, the annual lease payments are made by the State agencies from the appropriation they receive for operations, without the need for an increase in their budget to meet the lease requirement. In other cases, however, the agency is given approval by the Legislature to enter into a lease purchase agreement that requires an increase in the annual general revenue appropriation.

In both cases, these leases may also be terminated in the event of non-appropriation.

These lease obligations are secured by a variety of agency or campus sources. Some require appropriation support. These are a mix of tax-backed and tax-supported bonds.

Regents for Higher Education Master Lease Programs

In 2001, a master lease program was created to provide for the more efficient and cost-effective financing of equipment acquisition by Oklahoma's public institutions of higher education. The Oklahoma Development Finance Authority (the "ODFA") issues bonds for this program that are secured by a lease with the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education and by sub-leases with the participating campuses. In the event the lessees do not make their required lease payments from other sources, the State Regents can divert that institution's share of higher education appropriations to ensure timely payment of principal and interest on the bonds.

In most cases, the participants use a dedicated campus revenue stream, such as fees, user charges, or other income to make their lease payments. In 2006, the master lease program was expanded to include real property projects, resulting in even greater savings for the campuses.

A list of projects to be funded through the master lease programs must be submitted to the Oklahoma Legislature during the first week of the session each year. The Legislature has 45 days to reject any or all projects on the list. If projects are not disapproved within that period, they are deemed approved.

The outstanding ODFA master lease bonds are secured initially by various fees, user chargers, and revenues. These are tax-backed, but not tax-supported bonds.

General Revenue Bonds – OU and OSU

The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University have statutory authority to issue General Revenue Bonds, secured by any generally available revenues, excluding only appropriated tax dollars and other specifically restricted funds. This security pledge allows OU and OSU to access the credit markets at very favorable interest rates. Any projects expected to be funded using this type of debt must be submitted to the Legislature for review each year. If the Legislature does not reject a project, it is deemed approved 45 days after the submission.

These are revenue bonds secured by all general revenues of the universities, except appropriated tax dollars and certain restricted funds. These are neither tax-backed, nor tax-supported bonds.

Revenue Bonds – Multiple Issuers

Many State entities generate revenues from their operations and can, with proper statutory authority, issue bonds secured by their program or system cash-flows. Examples of these are: the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority; Grand River Dam Authority; Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority; Oklahoma Student Loan Authority; Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency; and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

While some of these entities issue bonds for capital purposes, others use bond proceeds to make loans in keeping with their program purpose. In either case, investors in these revenue bonds look to the cash flow of the operation rather than the State general revenues, for security. The legal documents describing the security behind these bonds make it clear that they are not an obligation of the State of Oklahoma.

State Capitol Bonds

In 2010, the condition of the Oklahoma State Capitol had deteriorated to the point that scaffolding had to be erected over the south entrance to protect persons entering and exiting the building from falling limestone and other building parts. In 2013, the Legislature enacted a measure (HB 2032) which combined an income tax rate reduction with earmarking of income tax revenues for repairs to the Capitol. The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that this measure violated the constitutional requirement that each bill embrace a single subject.

In 2014, the Legislature enacted a second measure (HJR 1033) which authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to issue bonds in an amount up to \$120 million to renovate, repair and remodel the Capitol. The State Capitol Repair Expenditure Oversight Committee, consisting of six legislators and three gubernatorial appointees, was also created to prepare and approve a project programming plan, with a preliminary plan to be delivered to the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services by December 31, 2014, and a final plan by June 30, 2015.

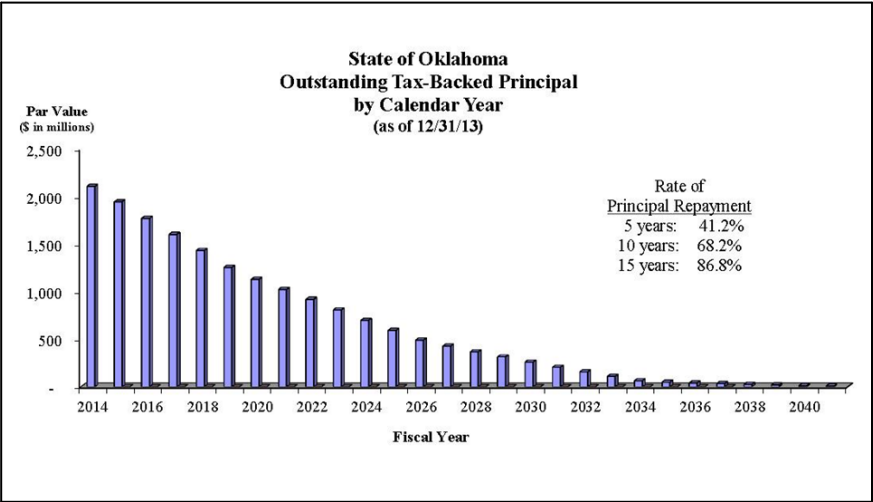
**State of Oklahoma
Calculation of Current Gross and Net Annual Debt Burden**

GROSS DEBT SERVICE	Fiscal Year	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
General Revenue Fund Appropriations ¹	\$ 5,305,209,345	\$ 5,592,023,679
General Obligation Bond Debt Service	\$ 25,066,749	\$ 5,980,768
G.O. Debt Service as % of Appropriations	0.47%	0.11%
Annual Lease Payments	\$ 194,381,099	\$ 220,946,223
Lease Payments as % of Appropriations	3.66%	3.95%
Total Gross Annual Payments	\$ 219,447,848	\$ 226,926,991
Total Gross Annual Payments as % of Appropriations	4.14%	4.06%
NET DEBT SERVICE	Fiscal Year	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
General Revenue Fund Appropriations ¹	\$ 5,305,209,345	\$ 5,592,023,679
Net General Obligation Debt Service	\$ 25,066,749	\$ 5,980,768
G.O. Debt Service as % of Appropriations	0.47%	0.11%
Annual Net Lease Payments (see below for list of exclusions)	\$ 133,009,314	\$ 159,758,476
Lease Payments as % of Appropriations	2.51%	2.86%
Total Net Annual Payments	\$ 158,076,063	\$ 165,739,244
Total Net Annual Payments as % of Appropriations	2.98%	2.96%

Exclusions from Gross Debt Service and explanation:

- * All Master Lease payments are excluded, since the campuses make these payments from other sources. No additional appropriations are made for these payments.
- * The ODFA issues under Community Development Pooled Finance Act (payments are made from each company's withholding tax collections before they are certified as State revenues).
- * The ODFA issues under tire program in 2004 for Goodyear and Michelin (also secured by each company's withholding tax collections, but also backed by State's corporate tax receipts).

¹ Unrestricted General Revenue Funds appropriations, including prior year certified revenue and cash.



State of Oklahoma
Selected Ratios for Tax-Backed Debt: 2014
(including comparisons with bordering states)

	State Rank (Moody's Rating)						
	OK	TX	NM	CO	KS	MO	AR
	(Aa2)	(Aaa)	(Aaa)	(Aa1)	(Aa2)	(Aaa)	(Aa1)
Gross Tax-Supported Debt	42nd	4th	40th	18th	34th	31st	44th
Net Tax-Supported Debt	36th	9th	32nd	31st	30th	26th	39th
Net Tax-Supported Debt:							
- Per Capita	41st	38th	20th	42nd	23rd	36th	39th
- As % of 2012 Personal Income	42nd	40th	17th	43rd	26th	36th	38th

¹ The higher the number, the lower the state's debt and the lower its debt ratios. Information was taken from from Moody's "2014 State Debt Medians Report." Colorado and Kansas ratings are issuer ratings, since reports i Moody's reports no general obligation debt.



OKLAHOMA TAXES

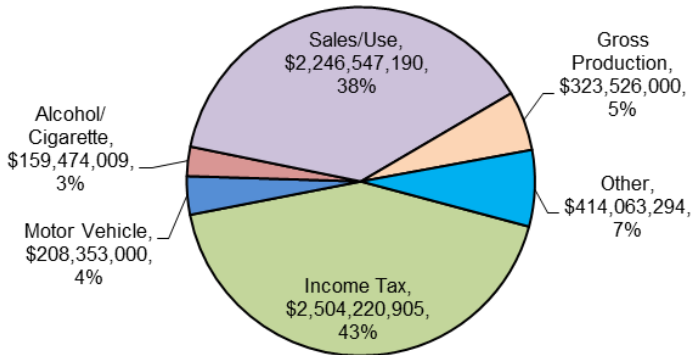
This chapter focuses on how Oklahoma government imposes taxes to support state, county, municipal and other local government programs. It also provides extensive detail on several major tax sources – how the taxes are assessed, how they are allocated, and where possible, how they compare with other taxes in the region and nation. To set the stage, a pie chart is provided on page 24 to show the categories of taxes collected which make the greatest contribution to Oklahoma’s General Revenue Fund. To conclude, an overview is provided of selected legislative tax policy initiatives over the past few decades.

STATE REVENUE MIX

Oklahoma’s revenue stream relies most heavily on income and sales/use tax. Gross production tax from the oil and gas industry, motor vehicle taxes and fees and alcohol and cigarette taxes are also significant, although to a lesser degree. While reliance on revenue from income and sales tax is not unique, Oklahoma is part of a small subset of states which benefit greatly from gross production taxes. This reliance on a sometimes volatile revenue source comes with its own set of revenue estimating and budgeting challenges.

State tax collections flow into various funds, the most important of which is the General Revenue Fund (more about this fund in the State Budget chapter). The pie chart below looks at the major categories of tax revenue which make up the General Revenue Fund.

Sources of Tax Revenue to General Revenue Fund FY'15 Estimates (In Millions)



Total = \$5.85 Billion

Source: Oklahoma State Board of Equalization, June 2014 Certification

COMPARING STATE-BY-STATE TAX LEVELS

Policymakers often use state-by-state tax comparisons to guide their decisions. However, profound differences in how state and local governments operate in various states can skew comparisons. For example, some states require cities and counties to pay a large part of welfare and mental health costs. In Oklahoma, state government is solely responsible for providing those functions. Also, some states fund schools exclusively with state aid (Hawaii and New Mexico), while others have almost no state-level funding for schools (New Hampshire). By comparison, in FY'14 Oklahoma state government provided about 61 percent of common education school costs.

Comparison of Per Capita State and Local Taxes

Most experts agree the best way to compare taxes among states is to combine state and local tax revenues, which eliminates the differences in state versus local responsibility for public services. The following table shows the most recent comparison of per capita state and local taxes.

State and Local Taxes 2011 Per Capita Taxes

<u>State</u>	<u>Taxes Per Capita</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
Arizona	\$3,348	39
Arkansas	\$3,386	38
Colorado	\$4,259	19
Kansas	\$4,096	23
Louisiana	\$3,631	31
Missouri	\$3,269	42
Nebraska	\$4,234	20
New Mexico	\$3,488	35
Oklahoma	\$3,174	44
Texas	\$3,542	33
U.S.	\$4,296	

Source: State Rankings 2014, A Statistical View of America, CQ Press, p. 301

Among regional states, Oklahoma has the lowest per capita tax revenue and all states in the region are below the national average. Alaska was the highest in the nation with total per capita taxes of \$10,074. Alabama had the lowest with \$2,889 in total per capita taxes.

The average Oklahoman contributes \$1,122 less per year in state and local tax revenue than the average American.

Comparison of Taxes as a Percent of Income

Comparing the amount of taxes paid per capita (above) becomes more meaningful when that amount is adjusted for the relative wealth of each state's residents. To do that, the chart on page 26 compares the percentage of personal income the average resident pays in taxes. Oklahoma, with its relatively low per capita income level, ranked 47th of the 50 states in state and local tax revenue as a percentage of personal income in 2011.

State and Local Taxes As Percentage of Personal Income

<u>State</u>	<u>Taxes as % of 2011 Income</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
Arizona	9.5%	36
Arkansas	10.0%	23
Colorado	9.7%	30
Kansas	10.0%	23
Louisiana	9.4%	38
Missouri	8.6%	44
Nebraska	10.0%	23
New Mexico	10.2%	19
Oklahoma	8.4%	47
Texas	8.8%	40
U.S.	10.3%	

Source: Ibid, p. 303

Alaska is ranked highest at 22.1 percent. South Dakota is ranked lowest at 7.4 percent. Overall, the amount of state and local taxes as a percentage of personal income in the U.S. dropped slightly from 10.7% to 10.3% between 2009 and 2011. Oklahoma data show the same trend, with a decrease from 9.7 percent to 8.4 over the same period. Oklahoma's percentage is lowest in the region, however it is interesting to note how close it is to that of Texas, a state often cited as having a lower tax burden due to the lack of a personal income tax.

INCOME TAXES

Oklahoma collected more than \$3.24 billion in income tax revenues in FY'14. Income taxes are the largest single source of money for the state General Revenue (GR) Fund, accounting for 38.3 percent of total revenue and about 45.1 percent of the deposits to the GR Fund in FY'14. The state income tax is imposed on the Oklahoma taxable income of all individuals and corporations, whether resident or nonresident. Oklahoma taxable income is based on federal adjusted gross income, so income tax changes enacted by Congress can impact state tax levels.

According to the CQ Press State Rankings 2014 publication, in 2012 Oklahoma ranked 33rd among the states in per capita revenue collection from individual income taxes.

Individual Income Tax

Oklahoma's graduated income tax rate ranges from $\frac{1}{2}$ percent to 5.25 percent, depending upon the amount of taxable income. For the 2014 tax year, the schedule for a single individual is as follows:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ percent on the first \$1,000
- 1 percent on the next \$1,500
- 2 percent on the next \$1,250
- 3 percent on the next \$1,150
- 4 percent on the next \$2,300
- 5 percent on the next \$1,500
- 5.25 percent on the remainder (see * below)

Since 2000, the Legislature has enacted a number of income tax changes, ratcheting down the top marginal individual rate from 7 percent to 5.25 percent. Legislation enacted during the 2014 session will result in two further reductions, once certain revenue targets are met (referred to as "triggers"). Based on the way the law is written, this could result in a top rate of 5% as early as tax year 2016 and 4.85% as early as 2018 (discussed more fully in the final section of this chapter). As a result of such changes over time, the following top marginal income tax rates apply:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Top Marginal Rate</u>
2004	6.65%
2005	6.25%
2006	5.65%
2007	5.50%
2012	5.25%
2016 (*possible)	5.0%
2018 (*possible)	4.85%

Individual Income Taxes Comparison

As the chart below demonstrates, Oklahoma ranked 33nd out of 43 states in the per capita amount of individual income taxes collected. When compared to the other states in this region, the state ranked 6th lowest of nine states. Five states in our region have higher maximum individual income tax rates and three have lower maximum rates.

In 2012, Connecticut had the highest per capita income tax collections with \$2,053 collected per person. Seven states (Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming) have no individual income tax.

The average Oklahoman pays \$168 less per year in individual income taxes than the average American citizen.

Income Taxes

2014 Rates; 2012 Per Capita Revenue and Rankings

<u>State</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Per Capita Revenue</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
Arizona	2.59 - 4.54%	\$472	41
Arkansas	1 - 7%	\$814	27
Colorado	4.63%	\$940	22
Kansas	2.7 - 4.8%	\$1,002	17
Louisiana	2 - 6%	\$538	39
Missouri	1.5 - 6%	\$852	25
Nebraska	2.46 - 6.84%	\$991	18
New Mexico	1.7 - 4.9%	\$552	38
Oklahoma	0.5 - 5.25%	\$727	33
Texas	--	--	--
U.S.		\$895	

Source: Ibid, p. 333, and State Individual Income Taxes, 2014 Tax Rate Table, web page of Federation of Tax Administrators (www.taxadmin.org)

Corporate Income Tax

Corporate income tax is imposed at a flat six percent rate on Oklahoma taxable income. The corporate income tax rate was last changed in 1990, as part of HB 1017. Income taxes paid by Oklahoma corporations produced \$533 million in revenues during FY'14. Corporate income taxes total just over 13 percent of the amount collected through all income taxes.

Corporate Income Taxes Comparison

Oklahomans pay about 88 percent of the national average per capita in corporate income taxes. With the exception of Arkansas and New Mexico, all states in the region are below the national average.

In comparing per capita corporate income tax revenue, Oklahoma ranks 28th of the 46 states that levy a corporate income tax.

Alaska is the highest with \$907 collected per capita. Four states (Nevada, Texas, Washington and Wyoming) have no corporate income tax.

Corporate Income Tax 2014 Rates and 2012 Per Capita Revenue and Rankings

State	Tax Rate	Per Capita Revenue	Ranking
Arizona	6.5%	\$99	35
Arkansas	1 - 6.5%	\$137	20
Colorado	4.63%	\$95	36
Kansas	4%	\$110	31
Louisiana	4 - 8%	\$63	40
Missouri	6.25%	\$50	45
Nebraska	5.58 - 7.81%	\$126	25
New Mexico	4.8 - 7.3%	\$135	21
Oklahoma	6%	\$117	28
Texas	--	--	--
U.S.		\$133	

Source: Ibid, p. 335 and 2014 web page of Federation of Tax Administrators (www.taxadmin.org)

Statutory Apportionment of Income Taxes

Individual income tax revenues are apportioned by the Oklahoma Tax Commission on a monthly basis according to the following statutory schedule:

- 85.66% to the General Revenue Fund, which is appropriated by the Legislature;
- 8.34% to the Education Reform Revolving Fund;
- 5.00% to the Teachers' Retirement System Dedicated Revenue Revolving Fund; and
- 1.00% to the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund to reimburse local governments for lost revenues related to the exemption from ad valorem taxes of new, expanded or acquired manufacturing facilities.

Corporate income tax revenues are apportioned monthly as follows:

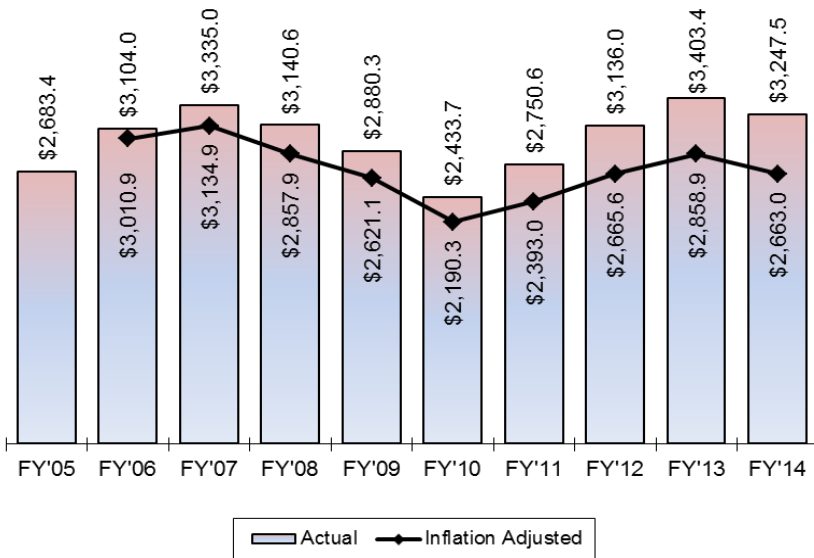
- 77.50% to the General Revenue Fund, which is appropriated by the Legislature;
- 16.5% to the Education Reform Revolving Fund;
- 5.00% to the Teachers' Retirement System Dedicated Revenue Revolving Fund; and
- 1.00% to the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund.

It is important to note that in some cases, the statutes provide for a certain distribution either *before* the apportionment percentages are applied or *outside* the traditional apportionment process. This is sometimes referred to as revenue “taken off the top”. In the case of income tax collections, amounts are distributed this way to the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety Fund (known as the ROADS Fund), Oklahoma’s Promise (formerly known as OHLAP), two public transportation-related funds and a fund for certain agency computer systems. Of these, the ROADS fund is by far the largest amount, with a distribution expected to reach \$416 million in FY’15.

History of Revenues from State Income Taxes

In real dollar terms, total revenues from state income taxes have increased significantly over the last 10 years, but when adjusted for inflation using 2005 as the base year, the result is considerably less significant.

History of Income Tax Revenue
FY’05 Through FY’14 (In Millions)



Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator

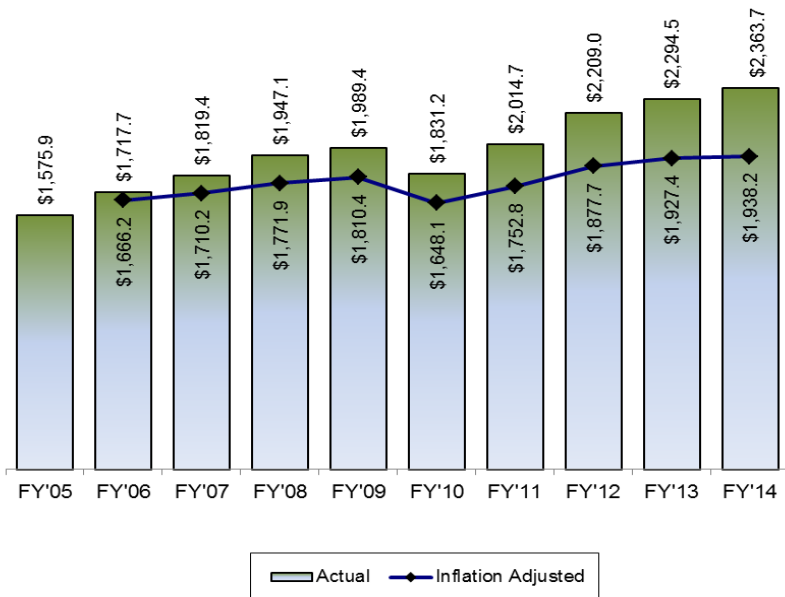
SALES AND USE TAXES

In FY'14, state sales tax revenue totaled over \$2.36 billion and the use tax produced \$237 million. The state rate for both the sales tax and use tax in Oklahoma is 4.5 percent. The two taxes accounted for 40.3 percent of actual GR Fund revenues in FY'14. The Legislature has authorized municipalities and counties to levy sales taxes. There is no limit on the amount a municipality may levy, although voter approval is required. Counties may levy up to two percent. The use tax applies the same 4.5 percent tax on items purchased in other states to be used in Oklahoma.

History of the State Sales Tax

Sales tax collections grew by 50 percent between FY'05 and FY'14 but when adjusted for inflation, grew by only 23 percent. Despite a slight dip in FY'10, collections reached a ten year high in FY'14.

*State Sales Tax Collections
FY'05 Through FY'14 (In Millions)*



Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator

Until 1983, all revenue from the state's then two percent sales tax was dedicated to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for fulfilling the Oklahoma Social Security Act. These funds were spent at the discretion of the Public Welfare Commission and were not subject to legislative appropriation. Effective July 1983, statutes were amended to provide more legislative control. Though the funds remained separate from the GR Fund, they could be expended only through direct appropriation by the Legislature.

During the 1984 legislative session, a temporary third cent was added to the sales tax rate, with the new revenue allocated to the GR Fund. Because of revenue shortfalls during the next fiscal year, the 1985 Legislature made permanent the third-cent tax and added another 0.25¢, making the total tax rate 3.25 percent.

Sales tax changes were again made during the 1987 session. Earmarking of the original two percent sales tax to DHS was discontinued and the funds were allocated to the GR Fund for annual appropriation by lawmakers. Also that year, the Legislature confronted severe budget shortfalls by raising the sales tax from 3.25 percent to 4.0 percent effective June 1, 1987.

Most recent changes in the sales tax were made by the 1990 Legislature as part of HB 1017, the Education Reform Act. Effective May 1, 1990, the sales tax increased from 4.0 percent to 4.5 percent.

Sales Tax Exemptions

Items exempt from the state sales tax by statute include most advertising, natural gas and electricity sold for residential use, prescription drugs, and groceries purchased with food stamps and sales for resale. Many other sales to or by certain organizations are also exempt. Most services are not taxed.

As a result of the passage of SQ 713 in November of 2004, cigarette and tobacco products are no longer subject to sales tax.

State and Local Sales Tax 2014 Rates; 2012 Per Capita Revenue and Rankings

State	State Sales Tax Rate	State & Local Per Capita Revenue	Ranking
Arizona	5.6%	\$1,271	9
Arkansas	6.5%	\$1,242	10
Colorado	2.9%	\$1,021	18
Kansas	6.15%	\$1,144	13
Louisiana	4.0%	\$1,433	4
Missouri	4.225%	\$824	31
Nebraska	5.5%	\$918	24
New Mexico	5.125%	\$1,346	5
Oklahoma	4.5%	\$1,036	17
Texas	6.25%	\$1,063	16
U.S.		\$967	

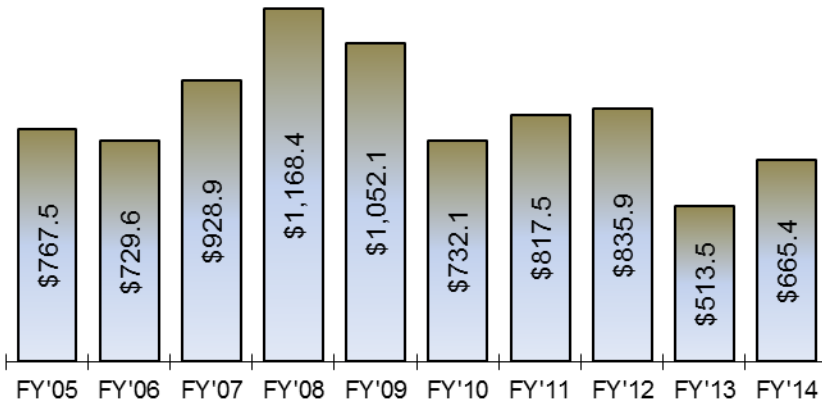
Source: Ibid, pg. 305 and 2014 web page of Federation of Tax Administrators (www.taxadmin.org)

Oklahoma's per capita ranking of 17th in state and local sales tax revenue places it in the top half of those state's which levy a sales tax. However, in the region only 3 states rank lower. When only the sales tax rate is compared, only Colorado and Louisiana have lower state rates. Washington is the highest with \$1,893 collected per capita. Four states (Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon) have no sales tax. The average Oklahoman spends \$69 more a year in per capita sales taxes than the average American citizen.

GROSS PRODUCTION TAXES

Significant revenues are generated for a number of state and local services through taxes levied on extraction and production of certain raw materials. Gross production taxes from the severance tax provided \$665.4 million in FY'14.

History of Gross Production Tax Collections FY'05 Through FY'14 (In Millions)



Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission

There are two types of gross production taxes: the severance tax and petroleum excise tax. The severance tax produces the lion's share of the revenue.

Severance Tax

A severance tax is a tax levied upon the production or mining of minerals when they are "severed" from the earth. Taxes are levied on the production of uranium at 5% and other minerals, ores and asphalt are taxed at 0.75%. The tax on production of oil and gas is more complex, with a standard 7% tax rate which has been modified over time based on the price per barrel or mcf and on incentives for certain types of drilling.

From the late 1990's until the beginning of FY'14, the tax on oil and gas was based on a three-tiered structure. If the price of oil or gas rose or fell by a specified amount, the tax rate would be adjusted. While it could fluctuate between 1%, 4% and 7%, the price thresholds were not modified or indexed in a way that resulted in many changes. Essentially, the tax rate remained at 7% for most of the time the three-tiered structure was in place.

During that same time period, eight unique incentives were put into place to encourage the use of specific drilling technologies or to enhance production in certain marginal wells. Each incentive had its own qualifying criteria, time limit and sunset date. Generally speaking, most gave the producer a tax rebate for 6/7ths of the 7% tax paid on production during a specified number of months. After each well reached the time limit of the applicable incentive, all production

was taxed at 7%. Sunset dates on these incentives were extended a number of times, but in 2010 and 2014, more significant changes were made.

During the 2010 legislative session, HB 2432 changed the incentive for horizontally-drilled wells and certain deep-drilled wells. In lieu of the rebate of 6/7ths of the tax, the wells were taxed at an up-front reduced rate for a specific time period (1% for horizontal and 4% for deep). HB 2432 also addressed then-current budget issues by suspending the payment of rebates due on certain production. That amount was later repaid over a three-year period beginning in FY'13.

Perhaps the most significant gross production tax change in decades occurred during the 2014 legislative session. HB 2562 modified the tax rate/incentive structure for all new production from wells spudded on or after July 1, 2015. Those wells will be taxed at 2% for 36 months and then 7% thereafter. While certain existing incentives were left in place for current production, each will sunset either on July 1, 2015 (deep well, new discovery, and 3-D seismic) or on July 1, 2020 (enhanced recovery, inactive well, production enhancement incentives and economically-at-risk). Both the process of claiming an incentive through a rebate and the taxation of certain production at 1% or 4% will phase out as the incentives reach the sunset date.

Petroleum Excise Tax

A petroleum excise tax is levied, in addition to the severance tax, on oil and gas at a rate of 0.095 of 1 percent of gross value.

Apportionment of Gross Production Taxes

Severance Taxes on Oil: Pursuant to 68 O.S. 1001, the apportionment of severance tax revenues varies depending on the tax rate imposed.

- If levied at a seven percent tax rate:
 - 25.72% to the Common Education Technology Fund;
 - 25.72% to the Higher Education Capital Fund;
 - 25.72% to the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Fund;
 - 3.745% to the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund;
 - 7.14% to counties where the oil is produced, for roads;
 - 7.14% to school districts;
 - 4.28% * to three funds – the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Capital Expenditure Revolving Fund, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission Infrastructure Revolving Fund and the Community Water Infrastructure Development Revolving Fund – at one-third each from FY'07 to FY'15; and
 - 0.535% to the Statewide Circuit Engineering District Revolving Fund.

- If levied at a four percent tax rate:
 - 22.50% to the Common Education Technology Fund;
 - 22.50% to the Higher Education Capital Fund;
 - 22.50% to the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Fund;
 - 3.28% to the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund;
 - 12.50% to counties where the oil is produced, for roads;
 - 12.50% to school districts;
 - 3.75%* to three funds – the Oklahoma tourism and Recreation Capital Expenditure Revolving Fund, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission Infrastructure Revolving Fund and the Community Water Infrastructure Development Revolving Fund – at one-third each from FY’07 to FY’15; and
 - 0.47% to the Statewide Circuit Engineering District Revolving Fund.

* Beginning FY’16, the percentage divided between three funds will revert back to the REAP Water Projects Fund.

- If levied at a two percent tax rate:
 - 50.0% to the General Revenue Fund;
 - 25.0% to counties where the gas is produced, for roads; and
 - 25.0% to school districts.
- If levied at a one percent tax rate:
 - 50.0% to counties where the oil is produced, for roads; and
 - 50.0% to school districts.

Severance Taxes on Gas: Like revenues from severance taxes on oil production, the monthly apportionment of severance taxes on gas production varies depending on the tax rate imposed.

- If levied at a seven percent tax rate:
 - 85.72% to the General Revenue Fund;
 - 7.14% to counties where the gas is produced, for roads; and
 - 7.14% to school districts.
- If levied at a four percent tax rate:
 - 75.0% to the General Revenue Fund;
 - 12.5% to counties where the gas is produced, for roads; and
 - 12.5% to school districts.
- If levied at a two percent tax rate:
 - 50.0% to the General Revenue Fund;
 - 25.0% to counties where the gas is produced, for roads; and
 - 25.0% to school districts.

- If levied at a one percent tax rate:
 - 50.0% to counties where the gas is produced, for roads; and
 - 50.0% to school districts.

Severance Taxes on Other Minerals: Severance tax revenues from other minerals are apportioned monthly as follows:

85.72%	to the General Revenue Fund;
7.14%	to counties where the mineral is produced for roads; and
7.14%	to school districts.

Petroleum Excise Taxes: Until July 1, 2016, petroleum excise tax revenues from oil are apportioned monthly as follows:

82.634%	to the General Revenue Fund*;
10.526%	to the Corporation Commission Plugging Fund; and
6.84%	to the Interstate Oil Compact Fund.

Excise tax revenue from natural gas is apportioned monthly as follows:

82.6045%	to the General Revenue Fund*;
10.5555%	to the Corporation Commission Plugging Fund; and
6.84%	to the Interstate Oil Compact Fund.

After July 1, 2016, petroleum excise tax revenues from oil and gas will be apportioned monthly as follows:

92.35%	to the General Revenue Fund*; and
7.65%	to the Interstate Oil Compact Fund.

* The first \$2.7 million is transferred to the Corporation Commission.

MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES

The State of Oklahoma levies an annual tax for the registration of motor vehicles, and also levies excise taxes upon the transfer of title or possession of motor vehicles. Until 2001, the annual registration fee was based upon the value of the vehicle, and the excise tax was based on the factory delivered price, depreciated 35 percent per year for used vehicles. This resulted in a situation in which annual registration fees were increasing as factory delivered prices increased from year to year, and in which the value upon which excise taxes were paid was unequal to the sales price of a vehicle. (Typically, the value upon which excise taxes were paid was higher for new vehicles and considerably lower for used vehicles.) The fees to register vehicles in Oklahoma, other than commercial and farm vehicles, were among the highest in the nation, resulting in various forms of tax evasion and avoidance, such as increased use of out-of-state tags, Indian tags and commercial vehicle tags.

In 2000, the Legislature referred to the voters a question which imposed flat registration fees based upon the age of the vehicle (\$85 for vehicles 1-4 years old, \$75 for 5-8 years old, \$55 for 9-12 years old, \$35 for 13-16 years old and \$15 for 17+ years old, all with an additional \$5 in other fees added on). The question also based excise taxes on the actual sales price of new vehicles, at a rate of 3.25 percent. For used vehicles, the excise tax is based on the actual sales price also, at a rate of \$20 for the first \$1,500 and 3.25 percent on the remainder. The value of used vehicles must be within 20 percent of the “blue book” value.

Beginning with FY’14, motor vehicle taxes and fees will be apportioned monthly as follows:

36.20%	to school districts;
24.84%	to the General Revenue Fund*;
0.31%	to the State Transportation Fund;
7.24%	to counties;
2.59%	to counties for county roads;
3.62%	to county highway funds;
0.83%	to county general funds;
3.10%	to cities and towns;
1.24%	to the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement Fund;
0.034%	to the Wildlife Conservation Fund; and
20.0%	to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Fund*.

*Between 2007 and 2014, fifteen percent of the total apportionment was shifted from the General Revenue Fund to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Fund.

This apportionment is subject to a “hold harmless” provision which mandates that no amounts earmarked for certain recipients (schools, counties, cities and towns and the Roads and Bridges Fund) will ever fall below the amount apportioned in the previous year. Any additional monies needed come from the amount which would otherwise go to the General Revenue Fund. Adjustments under this provision have been made from time to time.

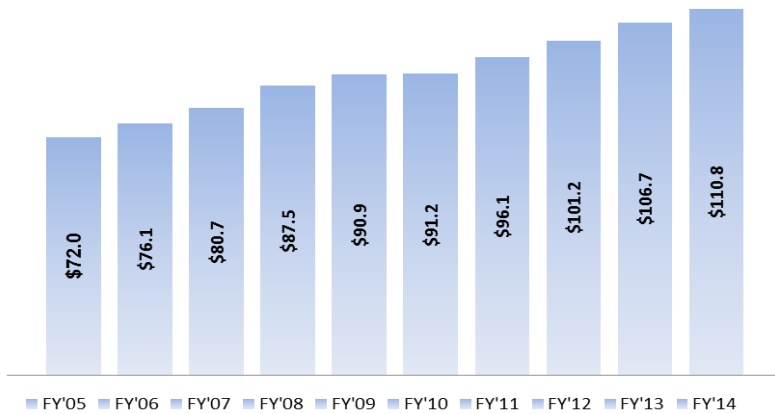
Making comparisons with other states in this area is difficult. Unlike most other states, in Oklahoma the annual registration fees are in lieu of property taxes on motor vehicles. Many other states impose sales taxes instead of special motor vehicle excise taxes, so these revenues are not considered as motor vehicle revenue. For these reasons, interstate comparisons do not provide an accurate representation.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAXES

Oklahoma levies taxes on various categories of alcoholic beverages, cigarettes and tobacco products. The beverage taxes are split into three separate categories:

- “Beverage” tax: All low point beer ($\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 3.2% alcohol) is taxed at \$11.25 per 31-gallon barrel and is paid by the wholesaler. All revenue from the beverage tax is apportioned to the General Revenue Fund.
- “Alcoholic beverages”: All spirits (\$1.47 per liter), wine (\$0.19 per liter), sparkling wine (\$0.55 per liter) and higher-point beer (\$12.50 per 31-gallon barrel) are subject to tax at the rates indicated. It is paid by the first licensee in the state who imports or handles the beverages and is passed on to, and levied upon, the ultimate consumer. That revenue is apportioned as follows:
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ of 97% to the General Revenue Fund, except for up to \$350,000 collected annually from the sale of wine and sparkling wine to the Oklahoma Viticulture and Enology Center Development Revolving Fund;
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of 97% to counties on the basis of area and population; and
 - 3% to the Tax Commission Revolving Fund.
- “Mixed beverage” tax: Any beverage sold by the individual drink for on-premises consumption is subject to an excise tax of 13.5%, levied on the license-holder serving the drink. All revenue from the mixed beverage tax is apportioned to the General Revenue Fund. Unlike the other two taxes listed, the mixed beverage tax is relatively “new”. It was first levied in 1985, in the year after Oklahoma voters approved the sale of liquor by the drink.

History of Alcoholic Beverage-Related* Tax Collections FY'05 Through FY'14 (In Millions)



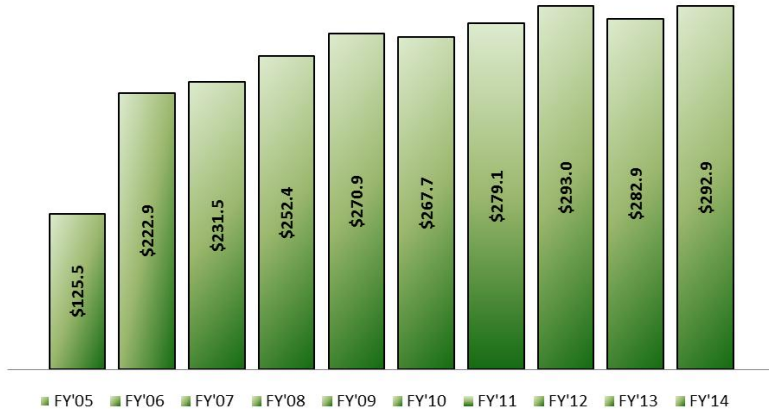
**Includes taxes and fees associated with alcoholic beverages, low-point beer and mixed beverages*

Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission

Cigarettes and tobacco products are taxed separately from alcoholic beverages and from each other. It is also important to note that some tax disparities exist between tribal and non-tribal sales, and that those rates are separate from the tax outlined below.

- Cigarettes: A tax of \$1.03 is levied on each 20-cigarette pack. The tax is paid by wholesalers and passed on the consumer. This tax rate became effective in January of 2005, when Oklahoma voters approved a change in the taxation of cigarettes. Cigarettes were exempted from sales tax and the excise tax rate was increased by \$0.80 per pack. The first \$0.23 on each pack is used to repay state bonds. Of the additional \$0.80, over 60% is apportioned to a variety of eight health-related funds. In addition, the following amounts are apportioned:
 - 16.83% to the General Revenue fund
 - 14.23 % to counties and cities to replace lost sales tax
 - 2.07% to the Education Reform Revolving Fund; and
 - 1% to the Teachers' Retirement System.
- Tobacco products: Tax rates depend upon the size of the cigar or the type of tobacco. Little cigars are taxed at \$0.72 per pack of 20 and large cigars at \$0.12 each. Smoking tobacco is taxed at 80% of the factory list price and chewing tobacco at 60% of the factory list price. Revenue generated by tobacco products after January of 2005 is apportioned exactly as the "additional \$.80" for cigarettes, as noted above.

History of Cigarette and Tobacco Products* Tax Collections FY'05 Through FY'14 (In Millions)



**Includes taxes and fees associated with cigarettes and tobacco products.*

Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission

Since the taxation structures for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages can vary greatly from state to state, comparisons are difficult and may not provide an accurate picture. For that reason, data for Oklahoma's surrounding states have not been included.

MOTOR FUELS TAXES

One of the ways the state generates revenue for state highways and county roads is through an excise tax levied on motor fuels. The taxes are apportioned according to formulas established by the Legislature. The two major taxes levied are the gasoline tax and the diesel fuel tax. The gasoline tax of 17¢ per gallon and diesel fuel tax of 14¢ per gallon are used to fund work on roads and bridges.

History of Motor Fuels Taxes

The fuel tax was first enacted in 1923 at a rate of 1¢ per gallon. The tax on diesel fuel was initiated in 1939. Throughout the state's history, motor fuel taxes have been increased 19 times, most recently in 1990.

Oklahoma's Motor Fuel Tax Rate History

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gasoline</u>	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Gasoline</u>	<u>Diesel</u>
March 1923	\$.01		January 1947	\$.0558	\$.055
March 1924	.025		June 1949	.0658	.065
March 1925	.03		June 1953	.0658	.065
June 1929	.04		June 1957	.0758	.065
February 1931	.05		December 1957	.0658	.065
December 1931	.04		April 1984	.09	.09
April 1939	.04	\$.04	July 1985	.10	.10
July 1939	.0408	.04	May 1987	.16	.13
June 1941	.0558	.055	July 1990	.17	.14
April 1945	.0758	.055			

In 1996, the Legislature revised the motor fuel tax code in response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that affected the state's ability to tax sales made in Indian country. Although the tax rate was not changed, the point of taxation was moved "upstream" to the terminal rack. Also, provisions were made for apportionment of some motor fuel tax revenue to Indian tribes that enter into agreements with the state on fuel tax issues.

Revenues from Fuel Taxes

Oklahoma state and local governments received approximately \$409 million in motor fuel tax revenues in FY'12. Among the 50 states, Oklahoma ranked 34th in per capita state revenue collections in 2010. The average Oklahoman pays \$3 less annually in motor fuel taxes than the average American citizen.

Motor Fuel Tax (Gas) 2014 Rates, 2012 Revenues and Rankings

State	Gasoline Tax Rate	Per Capita Revenue	Ranking
Arizona	19.0¢	\$137	21
Arkansas	21.8¢	\$158	12
Colorado	22.0¢	\$122	29
Kansas	25.03¢	\$151	15
Louisiana	20.1¢	\$125	26
Missouri	17.3¢	\$118	32
Nebraska	27.3¢	\$162	10
New Mexico	18.9¢	\$113	36
Oklahoma	17.0¢	\$117	34
Texas	20.0¢	\$122	29
U.S. Median		\$127	

Source: Ibid, pp. 339 and 2014 web page of Federation of Tax Administrators (www.taxadmin.org).

Gasoline Tax

The 17¢ per gallon gasoline tax is a combination of: (1) a 16¢ per gallon excise tax levied on every gallon of gasoline that is either sold, stored and distributed, or withdrawn from storage in Oklahoma; and (2) a 1¢ per gallon assessment which is separately levied and apportioned.

The 1¢ is apportioned to the Petroleum Storage Tank Release Environmental Cleanup Indemnity Fund for cleaning up leaking underground storage tanks or to the State Transportation Fund.

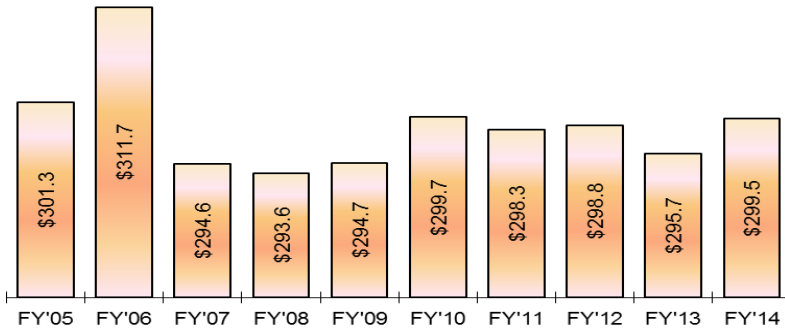
The other 16¢ of gasoline tax revenue is distributed as follows:

- 63.75% to the State Transportation Fund;*
- 27.0% to the counties for county roads and highways;
- 3.125% to the counties for construction, maintenance and repair of county roads as provided in the County Bridge and Road Improvement Act;
- 2.297% to the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund for construction, maintenance and repair of county roads and bridges;
- 1.875% to cities and towns for maintenance of streets;
- 1.625% to the High Priority State Bridge Revolving Fund; and
- 0.328% to the Statewide Circuit Engineering District Revolving Fund.

* In addition, the first \$250,000 collected each month goes to the credit of the State Transportation Fund prior to apportionment.

Gasoline tax exemptions are allowed for the federal government, political subdivisions of the state, school districts, FFA or 4-H.

Gasoline Tax Revenue (16 cents)
FY'05 Through FY'14 (In Millions)



Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission

Only five states have a gas tax rate equal to or lower than Oklahoma's 17¢ per gallon rate.

Diesel Fuel Tax

The 14¢ per gallon diesel fuel tax is a combination of: (1) a 13¢ per gallon excise tax levied on every gallon of diesel fuel that is either sold, stored and distributed, or withdrawn from storage in Oklahoma; and (2) a 1¢ per gallon assessment which is separately levied and apportioned.

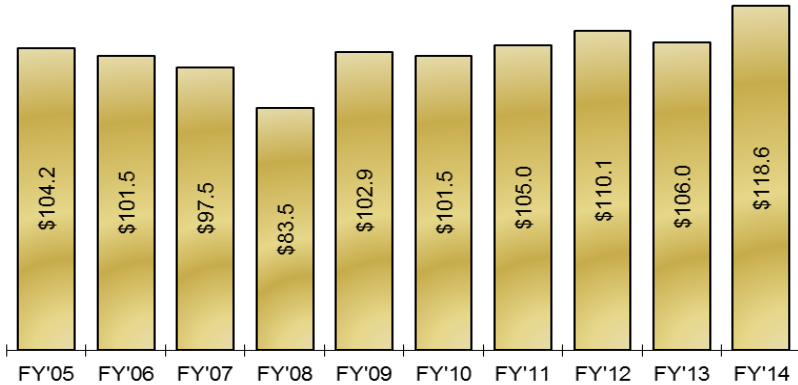
The 1¢ assessment is apportioned to the Petroleum Storage Tank Release Environmental Cleanup Indemnity Fund for cleaning up leaking underground storage tanks or to the State Transportation Fund.

The remaining 13¢ of diesel fuel tax revenue is distributed as follows:

- 64.34% to the State Transportation Fund;
- 26.58% to counties for county roads and highways;
- 3.36% to the counties for construction, maintenance and repair of county roads as provided for in the County Bridge and Road Improvement Act;
- 3.84% to the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund for construction, maintenance and repair of county roads and bridges;
- 1.39% to the High Priority State Bridge Revolving Fund; and
- 0.488% to the Statewide Circuit Engineering District Revolving Fund.

Diesel tax exemptions are allowed for the federal government, political subdivisions of the state, school districts, limited agriculture uses, FFA or 4-H.

Diesel Fuel Tax Revenue FY'05 Through FY'14 (In Millions)



Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission

Only one state has a lower diesel tax rate than Oklahoma's 14¢ per gallon rate.

PROPERTY TAXES IN OKLAHOMA

Property taxes, also known as ad valorem taxes, are the primary source of funding for county government operations and in fact, the Oklahoma Constitution specifically prohibits the use of ad valorem taxes for state government purposes. This revenue source also provided 21.8 percent of the statewide public school budget (FY'13) and 63.8 percent of career technology (vo-tech) center funding (FY'14).

Decisions about property taxes in Oklahoma are made at three levels: (1) the Oklahoma Constitution authorizes property taxes to be imposed; (2) the Legislature has enacted statutes to implement constitutional provisions; and (3) the State Board of Equalization and the courts have interpreted these constitutional and statutory provisions. Property taxes can only be imposed if the people vote for them, a provision that has been in place since statehood and is not related to SQ 640 (a constitutional limit on other taxes). Property tax levies are based on the value of a taxpayer's property.

Property Tax Comparison with Other States

Oklahoma's per capita property tax average of \$588 per person in 2011 was about 41% of the national average of \$1,423. Oklahoma ranks 49th out of the 50 states in per-capita property taxes. Only Alabama ranks lower.

The Oklahoma Constitution provides that property tax revenue may not be used by state government. In many other states, a state property tax is charged in addition to local property taxes.

Per Capita State and Local Property Tax Revenue 2011

State	Per Capita Revenue	Ranking
Arizona	\$1,099	31
Arkansas	\$617	48
Colorado	\$1,626	13
Kansas	\$1,364	22
Louisiana	\$773	43
Missouri	\$978	35
Nebraska	\$1,560	14
New Mexico	\$657	47
Oklahoma	\$588	49
Texas	\$1,545	15
U.S.	\$1,423	

Source: Ibid, p. 307

Valuation of Property for Tax Purposes

Property taxes are paid based on the value of a taxpayer's property. The county assessor, a locally-elected officeholder, determines the value of most property in the county for tax purposes.

Real Property: The value of real property (land and structures) is determined by computer-assisted calculation (see Computerization Appraisals) but are subject to certain constitutional limits (see Limits on Property Valuations).

Personal Property: The value of personal property – furnishings, equipment, clothes, etc. – is assessed separately from real property. Motor vehicles are subject to registration fees in lieu of property taxes. The county assessor by law may use one of two methods to assess the value of personal property: (1) assume that a taxpayer's personal property is valued at 10 percent of the value of his/her real property, or (2) have a taxpayer file a list of his/her personal property for assessment of value. Most calculations are based on the assumed value. Some counties have voted to exempt personal property from taxation. A special class of personal property is known as intangible personal property. In November of 2012, Oklahoma voters voted to exempt all intangible personal property.

Centrally Assessed Property: Property of certain companies (public service corporations, railroads and airlines) is centrally assessed – its value is determined by the State Board of Equalization rather than the local assessors.

Computerizing Appraisals

A system called "computer-assisted mass appraisal" (CAMA) was implemented in Oklahoma to allow counties to systematically update property values based on recent sales of comparable properties. The goals of this program are (1) to have property values more accurately reflect fair market value for tax purposes, and (2) to make property valuation more uniform throughout the county.

Limits on Property Valuations

Real property is valued at its "fair cash value" – the price a willing buyer would pay a willing seller in an "arm's-length" transaction. Real property may also be valued at its "use value" – its fair cash value for the highest and best use for which the property was actually used (or classified for use) during the previous calendar year. This "use value" provision is most often applied to agricultural land.

In 1996, 2004 and 2011, the Legislature proposed, and the voters approved, Constitutional amendments that affected the valuation process.

- One amendment provided that the fair cash value of locally-assessed real property (i.e., all real property except that of public service corporations, airlines and railroads) cannot be increased by more than a specified percentage in any year, unless title to the property is transferred or improvements are made to the property. The cap was originally set at 5 percent in 1996, then in November of 2012, voters reduced this percentage to three percent for homestead property and agricultural property.
- Another amendment provided that valuation would be frozen, beginning January 1, 1997, for taxpayers with gross household income of \$25,000 or less if the head of household is 65 years of age or older. State Question 714 (2004) replaced the \$25,000 income threshold with a county- or metropolitan area-specific amount determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development each year. For calendar year 2014, county median incomes ranged from \$22,000 to \$31,500.
- Another amendment enacted in 2004 provided those with 100 percent military disability with a property tax exemption for the full fair cash value of their homestead. The benefit is also extended to a surviving spouse. In November of 2014, Oklahoma voters will be given the opportunity to expand this provision. One proposed change would make it possible for a veteran who sells one exempt property and acquires a new one in the same year to claim an exemption for each during the appropriate time period (under current law only one may be claimed per year, resulting in a gap period

under these circumstances). Another change would allow a surviving spouse to continue to claim the full amount of the exemption after the qualified veteran has died.

Homestead Exemptions

A taxpayer may apply for a homestead exemption that reduces by \$1,000 the assessed value of a taxpayer's actual residence. Taxpayers whose gross household income from all sources does not exceed \$20,000 may receive an additional homestead exemption of \$1,000 (often referred to as the "double homestead exemption"). A taxpayer who is at least 65 years old, or who is totally disabled, and whose gross household income from all sources does not exceed \$12,000, may file a claim for property tax relief for the amount of property taxes paid over one percent of his/her income, up to a maximum of \$200.

Assessment Ratios

Once a property's value is computed by the county assessor, the "assessment ratio" or "assessment percentage" is applied. For locally-assessed property, the county assessor sets the ratio, but any increase must be approved by local voters. Personal property must be assessed at an amount between 10 percent and 15 percent of its fair cash value; real property must be assessed at an amount between 11 percent and 13.5 percent of its fair cash value; and other property (public service corporation, airline and railroad property) must be assessed at the ratio it was assessed on January 1, 1997 (22.85 percent for public service corporation property and 12.08 percent for railroads and airlines).

The value of the property is multiplied by the assessment ratio to get the "assessed valuation". The assessed valuation is then multiplied by the number of mills which local voters have approved in their area to compute the amount of tax due.

Millages Allowed under the State Constitution

Votes on property tax levies address the number of mills to be assessed (a mill is \$0.001 or one-tenth of a cent). The Oklahoma Constitution allows the following maximum levies:

- 10 mills for counties;
- 39 mills for schools;
- 2.5 mills for county health departments;
- 10 mills for vo-tech schools;
- 3 mills for ambulance service districts;
- 3 mills for solid waste management services;
- 5 mills for county building fund;

- 5 mills for city building fund;
- 5 mills for school building fund; and
- 4 mills for libraries.

The Constitution allows counties to abolish taxes on household personal property and livestock upon a vote of the people. If these taxes are abolished, the millage rates are automatically adjusted upward by an amount necessary to offset the lost revenue.

Millage Elections

Boards of county commissioners or local boards of education generally are the entities that call millage elections. Those bodies also determine how many mills will be voted on, although in some cases an initiative petition can propose a millage amount. Some of these levies must be voted on each year, such as 15 of the 39 mills allowed for schools. Other levies, once approved by voters, remain in effect until changed or repealed.

The Constitution also allows counties, cities, school districts, career technology (vo-tech) districts, ambulance service districts, and solid waste districts to issue bonds if approved by the voters. If approved, the additional millage levy is imposed in an amount necessary to repay the bonds each year. This millage level is not necessarily the same each year. The revenue from these levies is deposited into a "sinking fund", which disperses principal and interest payments to bondholders.

Examples of Tax Computation

The complex process for computing a taxpayer's ad valorem tax is confusing to many. The following step-by-step illustration shows how the final property tax amount is computed on a specific taxpayer:

A taxpayer lives in a home valued at \$50,000 in the city of Moore, in the Moore school district, in Cleveland County. The sum of all mills that have been approved by voters in that county was 104.84 in 1997. Comprising the total are 10.28 mills for the county, 0.28 mills for the county sinking fund, 13.73 mills for the city sinking fund, 2.57 mills for the county health department, 4.11 mills for county libraries, 40.18 mills for public schools, 5.15 mills for the school building fund, 15.18 mills for the school sinking fund, 9.25 mills for the vo-tech school and 4.11 mills for the vo-tech building fund.

Real Property: The assessor would compute the real property tax on that home as follows:

- a. $\$50,000$ gross home valuation x 12 percent assessment ratio = $\$6,000$ assessed valuation
- b. $\$6,000$ assessed valuation - $\$1,000$ homestead exemption = $\$5,000$ net assessed valuation
- c. $\$5,000$ net assessed valuation x 104.84 mills = $\$524.20$ annual real property taxes

Personal Property: Household personal property taxes for this taxpayer would be computed as follows (note, however, that Cleveland County has abolished personal property taxes):

- a. $\$50,000$ gross home valuation x 10 percent = $\$5,000$ assumed personal property value (this amount could be changed if the taxpayer chose to file a list of his/her personal property)
- b. $\$5,000$ personal property value x 12 percent assessment ratio = $\$600$ assessed valuation
- c. $\$600$ assessed valuation x 104.84 mills = $\$62.90$ annual personal property taxes

Total Tax Due: $\$62.90$ for personal property + $\$524.20$ for real property = $\$587.10$.

TAX POLICY

Since the mid-1990s, tax relief legislation has largely been tied to trends in the state economy. During periods when a strong economy produced healthy growth in tax revenues, tax relief legislation has tended to be broad in scope and impact and provided without cutting essential state services. When the opposite is true, tax relief is limited and generally targeted to a few key industries or groups or, in the case of income tax changes, made conditional upon revenue growth through means such as a “trigger” mechanism.

From the mid-1990’s through 2001, the Legislature reduced the top marginal income tax rate twice, enacted numerous tax credits, exemptions and deductions (often referred to as tax expenditures), modified the gross production tax rate structure and referred to Oklahoma voters a reduction in motor vehicle taxes and fees. Then during the 2002 and 2003 sessions, when faced with declining state tax revenues, tax relief was limited to narrowly-targeted measures affecting very specific economic sectors such as energy and manufacturing.

From the 2004 through 2007 legislative sessions, bolstered by an improving state economy, the Legislature embarked on a multi-year tax relief program which included:

- Multiple reductions in the top marginal individual income tax rate;
- Property tax relief for 100% disabled veterans and senior citizens (both sent to a vote of the people);
- Increases in the standard deduction and exemptions for senior citizens and military retirees;
- Exemptions for certain capital gains;
- Elimination of the estate tax;
- Various exemptions from sales tax, particularly for specified groups or entities; and
- Various tax credits for certain classes of taxpayers or industries.

During this same time period, the Legislature sent to a vote of the people a change in the taxation of cigarettes and tobacco products. In November of 2004, voters approved a new structure which increased excise taxes and eliminated sales tax. The majority of new revenue was dedicated to health-related funds. This type of change in tax policy – an increase implemented through a statewide vote of the people – demonstrates the role of the constitutional limit on revenue measures on tax policy (Article V, Section 33, often referred to as “state question 640”).

Since 2008, economic and revenue volatility has limited the ability of the Legislature to provide tax relief. For several years, only targeted relief was enacted. For example, 2008 legislation provided gross production tax exemptions for certain deep-drilled wells and in 2009, the income tax deduction for active duty military was increased to 100%.

A sea change occurred in 2010 when the state faced an historic revenue shortfall. During that session the state budget was balanced in part by enactment of both revenue enhancement measures and a two-year moratorium on the ability to claim about thirty existing tax credits.

During the next few sessions (2011 and 2012), some targeted tax relief legislation was enacted but policymakers were unable to agree on the single best approach for further reducing income tax rates. Interim studies by both the House and Senate focused on the existing tax structure and on the impact and relative effectiveness of the numerous existing tax expenditures. This broad, analytical approach ultimately resulted in the passage of several important measures during the 2013 session, including:

- A two-step reduction in the top marginal income tax rate, with each reduction subject to a trigger based on certain revenue targets (HB 2032). NOTE: Because the bill also apportioned income tax revenue for Capitol repair and restoration, it was later found by the State Supreme Court to be unconstitutional as a violation of the “single subject” rule;
- Elimination of over twenty credits and deductions in existing law (HB 2308);
- Conversion of several transferrable tax credit provisions into refundable credits (SB 343); and
- Making tax relief provisions for victims of natural disasters permanent (SB 330).

At the top of the legislative priority list for the 2014 session was a new measure to address the invalidation of the 2013 income tax cut. SB 1246 provided for the same two-step rate reduction, with the earliest possible cut to occur for tax year 2016.

In 2014, if the State Board of Equalization (SBOE) finds that the required revenue growth is adequate to trigger a change, the top marginal rate will fall from 5.25% to 5% in the 2016 tax year. Specifically, this change requires that the General Revenue Fund estimate for FY’16 be equal to or greater than the estimated certified for that fund in February of 2013 (when the rate cut was originally enacted).

Then, in order for the second rate cut to occur, another different type of target must be met in a subsequent year. This time, the SBOE must find that the estimated growth in General Revenue Fund collections for the upcoming fiscal year is equal to or greater than (will “cover”) the estimated revenue reduction from the rate drop. If this happens, the rate will drop again to 4.85% (tax year 2018 at the earliest).

It is worth mentioning here that triggers have been used several times in the past (as far back as the 1990s). While each has been based on unique criteria, fiscal years and funds, they share the same essential goal – to determine if estimates of future revenue meet (or in some cases, do not meet) a specified level which will allow implementation of a proposed tax change. This provides a hedge against unforeseen revenue or budget problems, allowing changes to be delayed if necessary. It also makes a successful revenue estimating process even more vital.

During the 2014 session, the Legislature also modified existing tax credits, exemptions and deductions related to the aerospace industry, donations to certain scholarship-granting organizations, compressed natural gas property, expenses for foster care providers and natural disasters. A new credit program was established to incentivize development of low income housing. Like the prior year, a handful of bills also eliminated or placed sunsets on certain credit provisions.

Finally, the 2014 session also included a major change to the gross production tax levy. HB 2562 modified the gross production tax rate for all new oil and gas production from wells spudded on or after July 1, 2015 to 2% for the 36 months and 7% thereafter. Existing incentives for certain specific types of drilling will sunset either on July 1, 2015 (deep well, new discovery, and 3-D seismic) or on July 1, 2020 (enhanced recovery, inactive well, production enhancement incentives and economically-at-risk). The process of claiming an incentive through a rebate process will phase out as the incentives reach the sunset date.

AGRICULTURE

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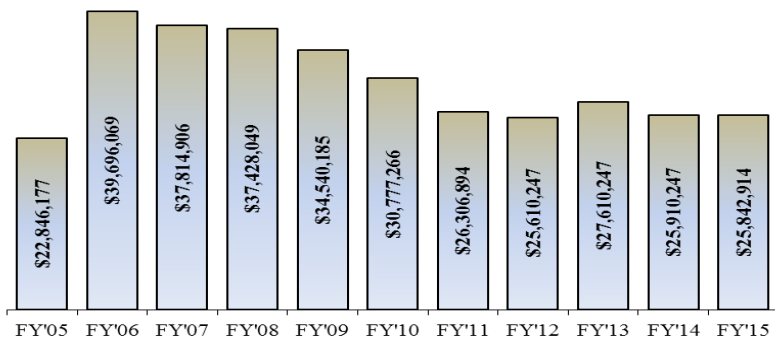


AGRICULTURE

Although it is sometimes perceived as strictly a rural concern, agricultural production touches every legislative district. As a product of its geography and topography, Oklahoma maintains a diverse agricultural sector: from the heavily irrigated southwest section mostly devoted to cotton, wheat, and cattle, to the semi-arid high plains of the Panhandle with its heavy concentration of cattle feedlots and large-scale hog farms. The central section of the state is dominated by wheat and dairy farming, as well as diversified crops such as peanuts, pecans and hay. The wetter eastern region adds timber and poultry operations to the state's agricultural sector.

Oklahoma ranks third in the U.S. in the production of winter wheat, fifth in cattle and calf production, fifth in pecans, ninth in peanuts, seventh in hog production, and 16th in poultry production.

Department of Agriculture Appropriations Budget History FY'05 Through FY'15



During FY'06, Oklahoma suffered an extreme drought which caused large wildfires throughout the state. Most of the burden of fighting those fires was put on rural fire departments which are mostly funded by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF). ODAFF is also responsible for coordinating resources statewide in order to fight widespread wildfires by setting up, staffing, and managing an Incident Command Post. The high appropriation amount to the agency during FY'06 was due to one-time supplementals to cover costs associated with the wildfires and to increase funding to rural fire departments, almost doubling their yearly operational grants.

For all of the diversity and agricultural bounty in the state, the agricultural economic sector is in transition. Drastic price fluctuations and the structure of agricultural production have changed the face of Oklahoma's farming economy. Agriculture comprises 2.2 percent of Oklahoma's Gross State Product.

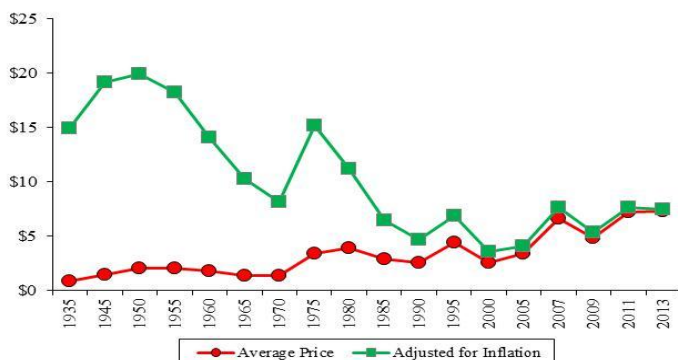
AGRICULTURAL PRICES

A review of agricultural prices provides some historical trends for Oklahoma's major agricultural commodities.

Wheat

The price of wheat has generally seen an upward trend since the Great Depression; however, adjusted for inflation, there has been a dramatic decrease in the real value of wheat during the same period. Prices for wheat have steadily increased for almost a decade, mostly due to increasing demand from developing nations.

Average Annual Price of Wheat
1935 Through 2013 (Dollars per Bushel)



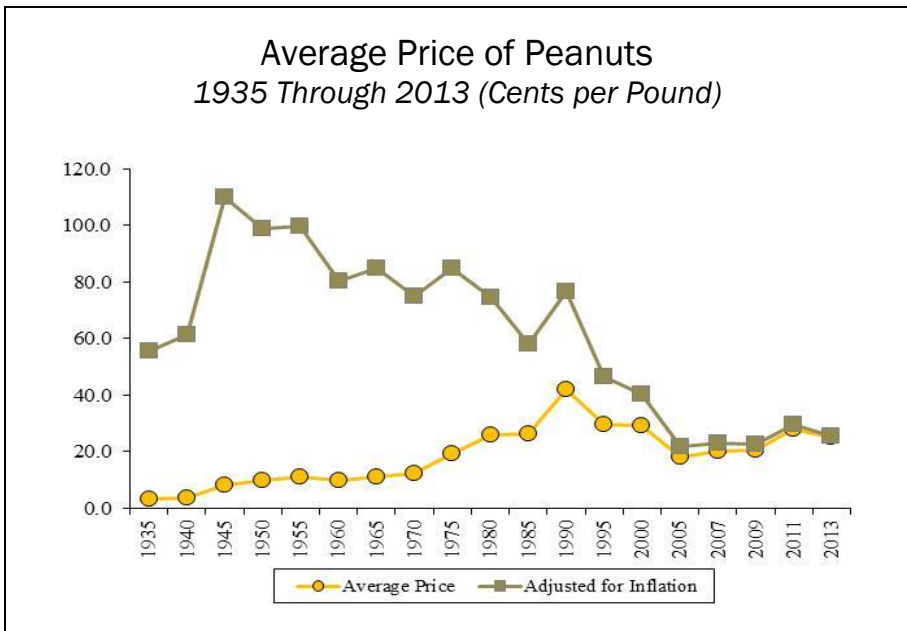
Source: Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics Service

Although the price of wheat has increased from \$1.45 per bushel in 1945 to \$7.32 per bushel in 2013 (a 405 percent increase in actual price), adjusted for inflation, the value of wheat per bushel has actually declined 61 percent.

Peanuts

The price of peanuts has generally seen an upward trend since the Great Depression. However, adjusted for inflation, there has been a significant decrease in the real value of peanuts during the same period.

The price of peanuts has increased from 8.3 cents per pound in 1945 to 25 cents per pound in 2013 (a 201 percent increase in actual price). Adjusted for inflation, however, the value of peanuts per pound has declined dramatically since 1945. Since 2005, the price of peanuts has increased 39 percent (an increase of 16 percent adjusted for inflation).



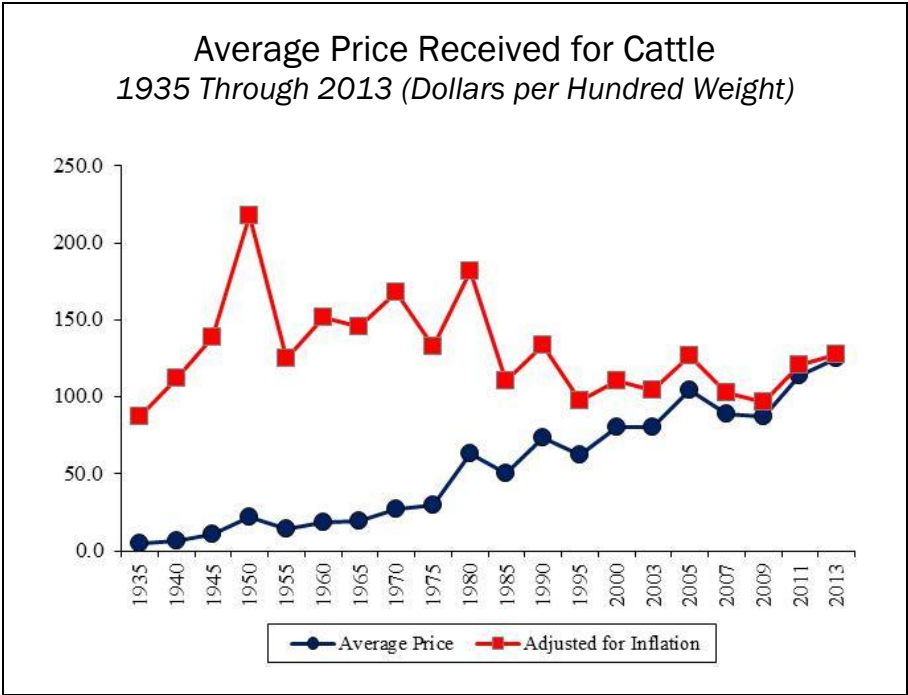
Source: Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics Service

Cattle

The price of cattle has generally seen an upward trend since the Great Depression. Adjusted for inflation, there has also been an increase in the real value of cattle during the same period.

Cattle is one of the few commodities in Oklahoma that has retained its value since the Great Depression. In 2013, the average price received for cattle was \$125 dollars per hundred weight.

Due to the recent drought, cattle inventories are at their lowest level in decades. The nationwide cattle inventory was 95 million in July 2014, the lowest count since the series began in 1973.



Source: Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics Service

RURAL OKLAHOMA

U.S. Census data confirms that fewer Oklahomans are living in rural communities than ever before. In 2013, almost 60% of Oklahoma's population resided within the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas. Only 34.7% of Oklahoma's population lives in rural areas. The dominant occupation for rural Oklahomans continues to be related to agriculture, and, as the industry evolves and continues utilization of economies of scale, it is projected that small rural towns will continue to decline in population, while larger rural towns will modestly increase in size. Overall, the population of rural Oklahoma, especially of young adults, will continue its decline as labor productivity in the agricultural industry increases.

Age of Farmers

The average age of farmers has been rising. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the average age of farm operators in Oklahoma was 58.3 years of age. Thirty-seven years ago, the average age for the Oklahoma farmer was 51. Fewer Oklahomans under 35 years of age are choosing to engage in agricultural activities.

Farming as an Occupation

Only 42 percent of Oklahoma's principal farm operators consider farming their primary occupation. Forty-six percent of the total number of principal farm operators work 200 days or more per year off the farm in other jobs.

The average net income of an Oklahoma farm in 2012 was \$11,899. According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture the number of farms and acreage of farmland in Oklahoma is decreasing. In 2012, there were 80,245 farms in Oklahoma, a decrease of 6,320 from the 2007 census. While the number of family and individual farms is down, the numbers of corporate farms are increasing. Many crops produced in Oklahoma tend to have large scale economies, which lower per unit costs as the size of the operation grows. It is projected that corporate farms will continue to increase, as a share, of overall farms in the state, and the average size of the farm will continue to grow.

<h2>LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES RELATING TO AGRICULTURE</h2>

The Legislature addresses agricultural issues mainly through the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Recent legislative spending initiatives include:

- programs that assist farmers in developing best management practices;
- rural fire suppression expansions to save farm structures and land;
- international marketing efforts that assist foreign sales of Oklahoma commodities and products;
- agricultural diversification and a value-added program that allocates grants and loans to individuals, cooperatives, and other agricultural groups;
- efforts to create a safe, competitive environment for producers in agriculture;
- working with the USDA and United States Environmental Protection Agency to encourage sustainable growth;

- the Farm-to-School Program that links Oklahoma agricultural producers to Oklahoma school cafeterias;
- an AgriTourism program to support agricultural businesses who also contribute to tourism;
- appropriations to address the aging flood control infrastructure; and
- creation of drought relief fund to be used when the governor declares a drought emergency.

EDUCATION

Common Education

Career and Technology Education

Postsecondary Education

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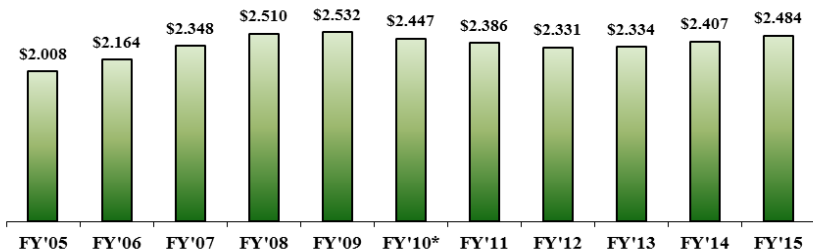


COMMON EDUCATION

Over the past several years, the Legislature has implemented a number of reforms in education to improve student achievement and educational outcomes in Oklahoma. These initiatives involve every aspect of education – from early elementary education to rigorous high school standards to a new teacher and leader evaluation system. This chapter provides an overview of the Oklahoma common education system and highlights reform initiatives implemented to improve student outcomes across the pre-kindergarten through twelfth-grade years.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Common Education Appropriation History
FY'05 Through FY'15 (In Billions)



*Due to a statewide revenue shortfall the agency's appropriations were reduced by 4.9 percent

The largest single appropriation made by the Legislature supports the state's public school systems. For FY'15, 34.9 percent of all appropriations were for common education. If funding for higher education and career and technology education is added, the education share increases to 50.7 percent.

Funding Sources for Local School Districts

Public funding for Oklahoma's public schools comes from four sources:

- state appropriated revenue;
- local and county revenue;
- state dedicated revenue; and
- federal funds.

State Appropriations: Annual legislative appropriations rose steadily from FY'89 to FY'01, when they comprised more than 59 percent of all common school funding. Since FY'01, this percentage has fallen as low as 45 percent, mostly due to an increase in local funds and a decrease in state revenue collections due to the recent recession. Additional funding comes from dedicated sources outlined below.

Local and County Funds: Local governments assess ad valorem taxes on property owners to support schools. The Oklahoma Constitution provides parameters for local millage assessments. For general fund use, each district is allowed to charge a maximum of 35 mills (a mill is 1/1000 of a dollar) on the assessed value of the district's real, personal and public service property. For the current school year, all 520 districts levied the maximum millage. There is also an automatic four-mill county levy for each district. In addition to these operational funds, all districts make use of the five-mill building-fund levy, and 393 of the districts utilize a sinking-fund levy. The sinking-fund levy is used to pay for local bond issues for capital improvements and maintenance. Bond issues must be approved by a 60 percent majority of a district's voters.

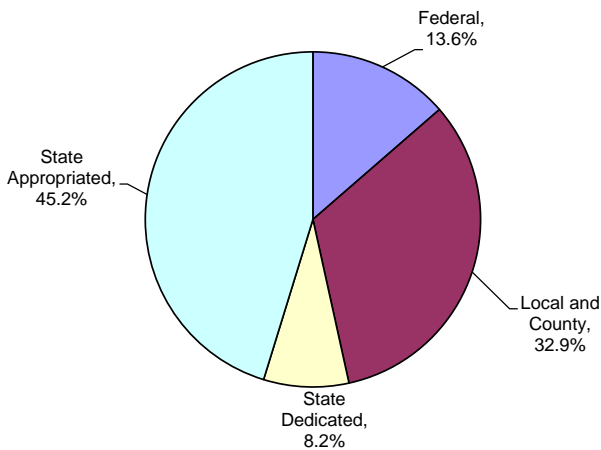
State Dedicated Revenue: For 2012-13, statutory and constitutional dedication of state revenue accounts for 8 percent of total common school revenue and comes from the following sources:

- Gross Production Tax – 7.14 percent of gross production taxes on extraction and production of certain raw materials from each county is allocated back to that county for the support of schools.
- Vehicle License and Registration – 36.2 percent of tag and registration fees are apportioned to local schools.
- Rural Electric Association Cooperative Tax – An assessment on rural electric cooperatives, paid in lieu of property taxes, generates revenues for schools.

- **School Land Earnings** – Rental earnings from state-held school lands and interest from investments are distributed to school districts statewide based on average daily attendance. These funds are managed and distributed by the Commissioners of the Land Office.

Federal Funds: Until recently federal funds comprised the smallest share of total revenue, ranging from 7 percent to 9 percent between FY'89 and FY'01. Federal funding has increased since FY'01 to allow states to implement requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. It has also increased due to an influx of federal stimulus dollars for the purposes of Title I, IDEA, and Education Jobs funding. All federal funds are dedicated to specific programs for target populations (e.g., school lunch programs, special education, economically disadvantaged, etc.).

Revenue Sources for School Districts 2012-2013 School Year

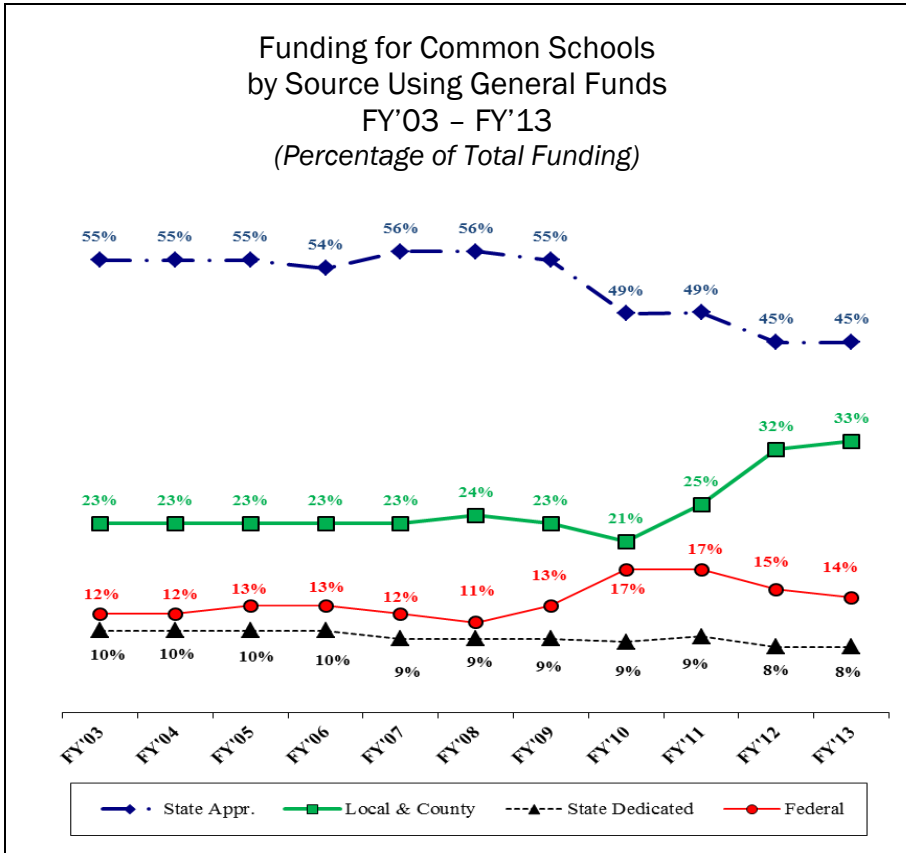


Distribution of Appropriated Funds

For FY'15, over 75 percent of the annual appropriation for common education will be distributed to local districts based on the statutory State Aid Funding Formula, which is designed to equalize funding among districts. 30 percent of these funds are for special funding items such as textbooks, alternative education programs, advanced placement programs, etc. Less than 1 percent is for operations of the State Department of Education. Comparatively, in FY'01, 80.2 percent of state common education funds were distributed through the State Aid Funding Formula, 18.8 percent of the funds were targeted for specific items such as textbooks and alternative education, and 1 percent was appropriated to the State Department of Education for administration.

Historical Changes in Funding Sources for Schools

General funding which currently comprises 67 percent of all expenditures for schools has changed radically during the state's history. Local revenues from property taxes, which in 1976 accounted for 40 percent of general school funding, now contribute about one-third of revenue. Legislative appropriations from state revenue sources are the principal source of total general funding growth, currently comprising 45 percent of the funding mix.



Source: State Department of Education reports

State Aid Funding Formula (Section 18-200.1 of O.S. 70)

The State Aid Funding Formula is set in statute and distributes funds through three categories: Foundation Aid, Incentive Aid, and Transportation Aid.

- **Foundation Aid** is calculated on the basis of the highest weighted average daily membership (ADM) of students in each district for the preceding two years or the first nine weeks of the current school year, although the count for virtual students is only based on the current school year. Weighting recognizes that educational costs vary by district and by student. Students with special educational needs (impaired vision, learning disabilities, physical handicaps, etc.) are given additional weighting because additional costs will be incurred in providing these students an opportunity to learn. Grade-level weightings are used to account for variations in the cost of teaching different grade levels. To compensate for higher costs associated with smaller schools, weighting is also granted to isolated districts or districts with fewer than 529 students. Weighting is also provided for economically disadvantaged students.

The weighted ADM for a district is then multiplied by the Foundation Support Level (\$1,574.00 per weighted ADM for the 2013-2014 school year). From this figure, a portion of a district's local revenues and all of its state-dedicated revenues are subtracted to arrive at the Foundation Aid amount.

- **Incentive Aid**, also called Salary Incentive Aid, guarantees each district a minimum amount of funding per weighted student for each mill up to 20 mills of local ad valorem taxes levied above 15 mills. For the 2013-2014 school year, the amount is \$72.90.

To calculate Incentive Aid, the weighted ADM is multiplied by the Incentive Aid Guarantee. A factored amount of local support is then subtracted. The number of mills the district levies over 15 is then multiplied by the resulting figure ($\$72.90 \times 20 = \$1,458.00$). The product is the district's Incentive Aid.

- **Transportation Aid** is provided to districts for transporting all students who live more than 1.5 miles from school. These students, the "average daily haul", are multiplied by the per capita transportation allowance and the transportation factor (set by statute). The per capita transportation allowance is based on the district's population and provides greater weight to sparsely populated areas.

In 1997, the State Aid Funding Formula was changed to allow school districts to receive additional funding for current year student growth. This eliminated the need for a mid-term supplemental appropriation due to student increases.

**History of Oklahoma State Aid Factor
Per Weighted ADM
FY'92 Through FY'14**

Fiscal Year	Foundation Aid	Incentive Aid Factor	Total Amount/ WADM	Dollar Change	% Change in Total Amount
FY'92	\$1,064.00	\$51.08	\$2,085.60		
FY'93	\$1,098.00	\$53.14	\$2,160.80	\$75.20	3.6%
FY'94	\$1,139.00	\$55.12	\$2,241.40	\$80.60	3.7%
FY'95	\$1,149.00	\$56.01	\$2,269.20	\$27.80	1.2%
FY'96	\$1,165.00	\$56.51	\$2,295.20	\$26.00	1.1%
FY'97	\$1,195.00	\$58.17	\$2,358.40	\$63.20	2.8%
FY'98	\$1,216.00	\$58.47	\$2,385.40	\$27.00	1.1%
FY'99	\$1,239.00	\$59.93	\$2,437.60	\$52.20	2.2%
FY'00	\$1,271.00	\$61.69	\$2,504.80	\$67.20	2.8%
FY'01	\$1,320.00	\$62.92	\$2,578.40	\$73.60	2.9%
FY'02*	\$1,377.00	\$64.81	\$2,673.20	\$94.80	3.7%
FY'03	\$1,359.00	\$64.02	\$2,639.40	-\$33.80	-1.3%
FY'04	\$1,354.00	\$63.42	\$2,622.40	-\$17.00	-0.6%
FY'05	\$1,365.00	\$63.71	\$2,639.20	\$16.80	0.6%
FY'06	\$1,463.00	\$70.06	\$2,864.20	\$225.00	8.5%
FY'07	\$1,501.00	\$70.93	\$2,919.60	\$55.40	1.9%
FY'08	\$1,616.00	\$78.65	\$3,189.00	\$269.40	9.2%
FY'09	\$1,642.00	\$78.97	\$3,221.40	\$32.40	1.0%
FY'10**	\$1,643.05	\$78.35	\$3,210.05	-\$11.35	-0.4%
FY'11	\$1,601.00	\$75.62	\$3,113.40	-\$96.65	-3.0%
FY'12	\$1,578.00	\$73.11	\$3,040.20	-\$73.20	-2.4%
FY'13	\$1,583.00	\$72.60	\$3,035.00	\$5.00	0.17%
FY'14	\$1,574.00	\$72.90	\$3,032.00	-\$9.00	-0.6%

* Due to a revenue shortfall in FY'02, each district's total state aid was reduced by 3.8%.

** Due to a revenue shortfall in FY'10, each district's total state aid was reduced by 7.6%.

Much of the state's focus on common education funding is aimed at reducing inequities in general funding available to various school districts. This number is reflected in the average per pupil expenditures per fall enrollment. For FY'12, the average Oklahoma per pupil expenditure, except for funds used for capital expenses, nontraditional expenses, etc, was \$7,466, according to data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau for their Public Education Finances Report.

LOTTERY AND GAMING

Two additional sources of revenue were approved by Oklahoma voters in November 2004. The first was the Oklahoma Education Lottery Act; the second was the State-Tribal Gaming Act. The Oklahoma Education Lottery Act was approved as a ballot measure by the 2003 Legislature for the 2004 general election. The State-Tribal Gaming Act was referred to a vote of the people by the 2004 Legislature.

Oklahoma Education Lottery

HB 1278, which provided an outline for the Education Lottery, was approved during the 2003 Legislative Session. According to the rules of distribution that were set forth in the bill, 45 percent serves as prize money, 20 percent is used for administrative costs, and 35 percent is allocated to education. In the first two full years of its existence, only 30 percent of the net proceeds were allocated to benefit education since funding was needed to pay off the \$10 million bond issue for start-up costs. Of the portion allocated for education, 45 percent can be used to fund K-12th grade public education and early childhood development programs; 45 percent can be used to fund higher education and career and technology education tuition assistance programs, capital projects, endowed chairs, technology improvements, as well as the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; 5 percent is deposited in the School Consolidation Assistance Fund; and 5 percent is deposited into the Teachers' Retirement System Dedicated Revenue Revolving Fund. The Oklahoma Education Lottery Commission, also authorized by HB 1278, oversees all lottery operations.

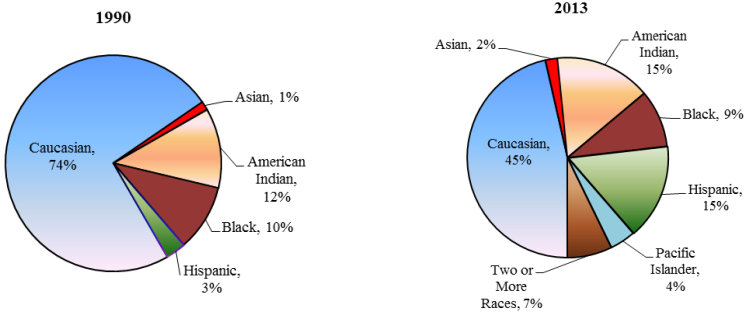
State-Tribal Gaming Act

Another Legislative initiative from the 2004 Legislative Session was the passage of SB 1252, also known as the State-Tribal Gaming Act. This Act provides revenues for two areas of funding. The first is the Education Reform Revolving Fund (1017 Fund), in which 88% of generated gaming revenues are placed. The Education Reform Revolving Fund helps provide financial support for public schools through the State Aid Formula. The second beneficiary is the General Revenue Fund, in which the remaining 12% of generated gaming revenues are placed. Originally, this 12% amount was apportioned to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP), also known as Oklahoma's Promise, which funds scholarships for students who would like to attend an in-state public college or university. However, SB 820 from the 2007 Legislative Session redirected these funds to the General Revenue Fund. This bill provides that the State Board of Equalization will each year make a determination of the needed amount for OHLAP and automatically subtract it from the amount it certifies as available for appropriation from the General Revenue Fund.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Over the past two decades Oklahoma's student population has experienced a number of changes. While the total number of students enrolling in school has increased by 1.7 percent from FY'90 through FY'13 (from 579,167 to 681,578), there have been some relatively significant changes in student enrollment by race and ethnicity. The number of Hispanic children enrolled in Oklahoma schools has increased by more than 70,000 students since 1990.

Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity 1990 and 2013



Source: State Department of Education Annual Report

During the 2012-13 school year, 99,229 students qualified for special education programs, which represented 15 percent of all students. Special education participation is near its peak of 15.1 percent during the 2004-05 school year.

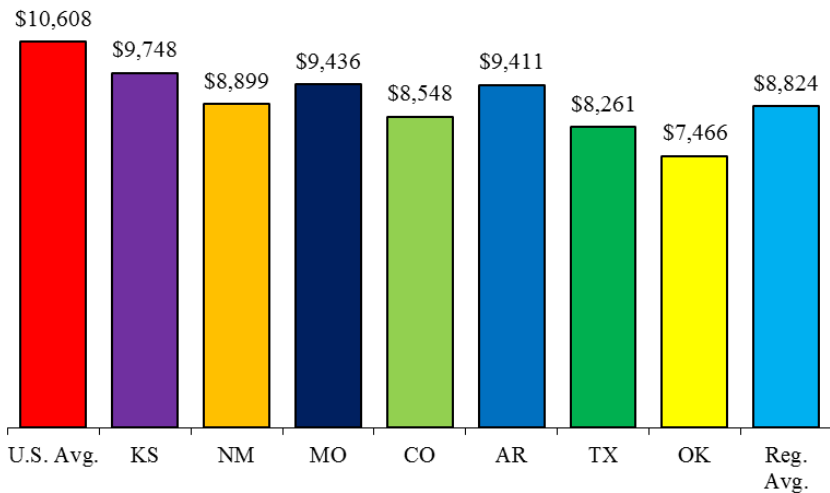
Oklahoma has 520 school districts with 1,003 elementary schools, 300 middle schools/junior high schools and 460 senior high schools. There are also 24 charter schools and four virtual charter schools.

EXPENDITURES

Per-Pupil Expenditures

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) provides per-pupil expenditure comparisons for all states. Since NCES is a branch of the federal education department, per-pupil expenditure statistics from the NCES are widely used to compare state funding efforts for common education. Each state's number is calculated by dividing the total amount of funds expended for education, excluding expenditures on capital outlay, other programs, and interest on long-term debt, by the fall membership of public school students in the state. The analysis includes all funding sources – local, state and federal. Historically, Oklahoma has spent below the national and regional averages on education.

Per-Pupil Spending for Oklahoma and the Region FY'12



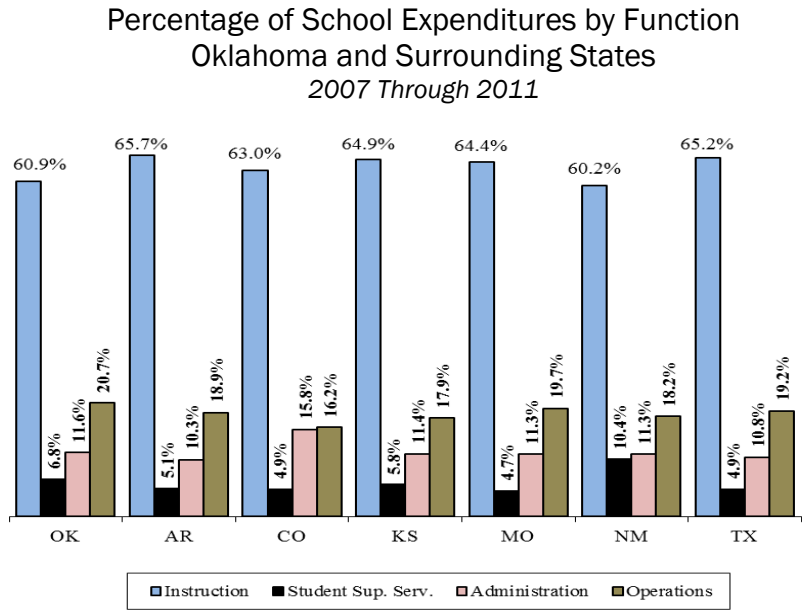
Source: Public Education Finances 2012 – U. S. Census

Oklahoma is at 84.6 percent of the regional average. Nationally, Oklahoma ranks 49 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in annual per-pupil expenditures. New York ranks first with \$19,552 in annual per-pupil expenditures and Utah ranks last with \$6,206 in annual per-pupil expenditures for FY'12.

Expenditures by Function

When looking at expenditures by function for the 2010-2011 school year, Oklahoma spent 56.8 percent of its money on instruction. This is 4.3 percent less than the national average and 1.6 percent less than the regional average. The category of instruction includes expenditures for staff and services that work directly with students, such as teachers, teaching assistants, and librarians. Student support services include guidance counselors, school nurses, social workers, and attendance staff. Administration includes administrators and administrative staff of schools and school districts. Operations include the operating expenditures for keeping schools and other school district facilities operating, as well as student transportation and food services.

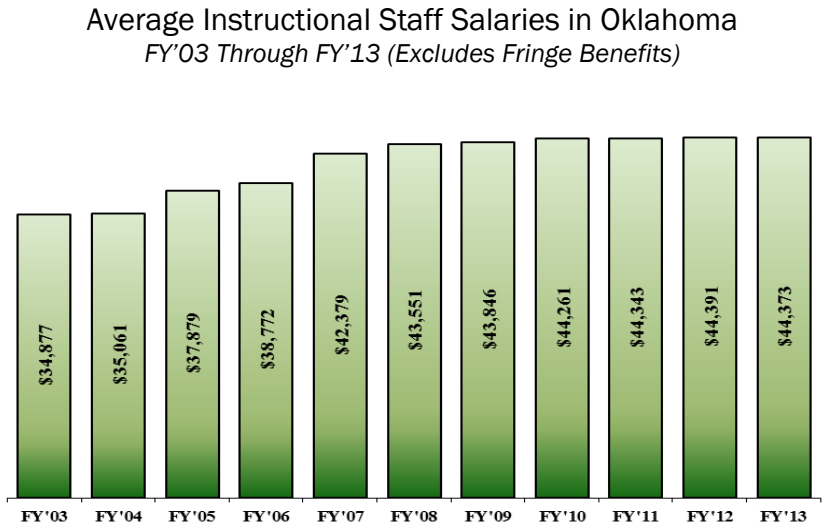
Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Teacher Salaries and Benefits

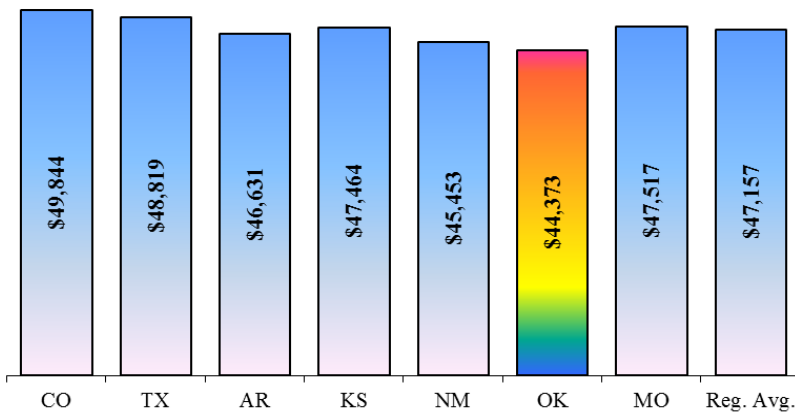
Since FY'90, legislators have focused on raising the salaries of classroom teachers. Between FY'03 and FY'13, the average salary for instructional staff has increased 28.5 percent, an average annual increase of 2.3 percent.



Source: Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

While school districts ultimately set teacher salaries, lawmakers have chosen to mandate minimum salaries in statute (70 O.S. 18-114.13). This policy has resulted in significant gains for beginning teachers, bringing Oklahoma's first-year teacher salary to parity with regional states. The minimum teacher salary for a first-year teacher has increased from \$17,000 in FY'90 to \$31,600 currently, for teachers with at least a bachelor's degree.

Average Teacher Salaries for Oklahoma and the Region 2012 - 2013 School Year



Source: Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

In recent years, lawmakers have made several efforts to improve teacher salaries and health benefits across the state. Since the 2004 Legislative Session, almost \$529 million in new funding has been appropriated for this purpose.

HB 2662, from the 2004 Legislative Session, raised the benefit allowance for all teachers from 58 percent to 100 percent and excluded certain fringe benefits from being counted toward the teachers' minimum salary schedule. These two provisions of the bill yielded an average salary increase of between \$850 and \$1,050 per year for approximately 30 percent of all Oklahoma teachers. For the 2005 fiscal year, the Legislature appropriated \$76.3 million to cover health insurance for all certified personnel within Common Education, \$2.2 million for support personnel.

During the 2005 Legislative Session, the teachers' minimum salary schedule was changed to provide teachers with a salary increase that averaged \$1,300 per teacher throughout the state. For the 2006 fiscal year the Legislature appropriated \$57.8 million to Common Education in order to fund this increase through the State Aid Formula. Additional increases for health benefits were also included totaling approximately \$32.9 million for certified personnel and \$9.9 million for support personnel. For FY'15, an additional \$39 million was appropriated for health insurance for certified and support personnel.

SB 2XX from the 2006 Special Session provided a \$3,000 across-the-board salary increase for all teachers, modified the 2006-07 salary schedule to reflect this increase and modified the 2007-08 salary schedule to include another \$600 across-the-board salary increase. For the 2007 fiscal year, the Legislature appropriated \$161.5 million to Common Education and \$5.9 million to CareerTech in order to fund this increase. Additional amounts of \$10 million and \$6 million were also appropriated to cover increased costs for certified and support personnel health benefits respectively. CareerTech received a \$1.6 million appropriation for health benefit cost increases as well.

HB 1134 from the 2007 Legislative Session helped Oklahoma's teachers receive an average annual salary increase of \$1,000 during the 2007-08 school year. The breakdown for this average increase is as follows:

- The 2007-08 minimum salary schedule already contained a \$600 salary increase when compared to the 2006-07 minimum salary schedule. This increase was put in place for all years of experience and degree levels. \$32.2 million was appropriated inside the State Aid Formula to cover the associated costs of this increase, including the employers' share of taxes and Teachers' Retirement contributions. The Department of Career and Technology Education also received \$1.5 million to fully fund this increase.
- In addition to this original \$600 increase, other increases were added to the 2007-08 minimum salary schedule as follows:
 - ✓ \$425 for teachers with at least 10 years of experience who have earned bachelor's degrees,
 - ✓ \$850 for teachers with at least 10 years of experience who have earned master's degrees, and
 - ✓ \$1,700 for teachers with at least 10 years of experience who have earned doctorate degrees.

\$20 million was appropriated to the Department of Education to cover the associated costs of these additional increases. Funding for these increases was appropriated through the State Aid Formula and again

included the employers' share of taxes and Teachers' Retirement contributions. The Department of Career and Technology Education also received an additional \$845,778 to fully fund this increase.

- Although this salary increase was fully funded for every teacher, school districts are only required to pay their teachers at the 2013-14 Minimum Salary Schedule level. In other words, if a school district already pays its teachers above the 2013-14 Minimum Salary Schedule, it will be up to their discretion whether or not to pay teachers any additional money.

Additional funding was again provided to address health care benefit cost increases for certified and support personnel. As a result, school districts received additional amounts of \$8.5 million in FY'13, \$23 million in FY'14 and \$39 million in FY'15.

PUBLIC SCHOOL REFORM INITIATIVES

Oklahoma's public schools have undergone significant changes since FY'89. Many of these changes are the direct result of the enactment of the landmark educational reform act of 1990, House Bill 1017. The Legislature originally appropriated more than \$565 million over five years to implement a wide range of reform policies as follows:

- **Reduced class sizes:** The Legislature appropriated \$30 million for districts to hire more teachers to comply with reductions in class size requirements. For kindergarten through sixth grades, a student teacher ratio of 20:1 is mandated. For students in grades seventh through twelfth, the maximum number of students allowed per teacher is 140 per day. Failure to comply with class size limits results in sanctions, which are authorized by statute.
- **Exemptions:** Some classrooms are exempted from calculations of class size limits:
 - ✓ If the class taught is a physical education or music class;
 - ✓ If the classroom exceeds the limit after the first nine weeks of school;
 - ✓ If the creation of an additional class will cause a class to have fewer than 10 students in kindergarten through grade three, and fewer than 16 for grades four through six;
 - ✓ If a teacher's assistant is employed to serve in classrooms that exceed the class size limitation;
 - ✓ If the school district has voted indebtedness through the issuance of bonds for more than 85 percent of the maximum allowable pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution;

- ✓ If the school district is voting the maximum millage allowable for the support, maintenance and construction of schools; or
- ✓ If the school district consolidates or annexes under the Oklahoma School Voluntary Consolidation and Annexation Act.
- **Funding Equity:** The Legislature achieved more equity in student funding by appropriating over \$88 million to support the state aid formula.
- **Early Childhood Programs:** HB 1017 and follow-up legislation mandated and funded half-day kindergarten for all children and provided \$8.4 million for half-day four-year-old programs.
- **School Deregulation and Consolidation:** The initiative provided limited deregulation and funding incentives for the voluntary reduction of school districts from 611 in 1988 to 520 for the 2013-2014 school year.
- **Accountability:** The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability was created to compile student achievement data by school site (see section on Office of Educational Quality and Accountability below).

Some of the more recent reform measures include the Achieving Classroom Excellence Act of 2005 (SB 982) along with a follow-up implementation bill (SB 1792) in 2006, which included several initiatives, with a major focus on high school reform. Key provisions included:

- **Full Day Kindergarten** – See discussion in Early Childhood Education section below.
- **Middle School Math Improvement** - \$2 million was provided for training of 500 teachers and awarding a \$1,000 bonus to teachers who attend the continuing education and successfully pass the intermediate math certification exam. The budget also included \$2.5 million for **Middle School Math Labs** in schools with records of low math performance.
- **7th and 8th Grade Student Remediation** - Requires remediation for students who do not score at least at the satisfactory level on the reading and math tests administered in the 7th grade in the 2006-07 school year, and in the 8th grade in the 2007-08 school year. This is intended to prepare students for the end-of-instruction tests at the high school level.
- **ACE Steering Committee** – Created to advise the State Board of Education (SBE) on curriculum alignment, assessment development, cut-score determination, alternate tests, intervention and remediation strategies, and consequences for eighth-grade students who do not meet the mandated standard.

- **High School and Testing Reform**

- ✓ Requires students entering 9th grade in 2006-07 school year to enroll in a college preparatory/work ready curriculum. Allows parents to choose to enroll their student in a non-college preparatory curriculum.
- ✓ Directs SBE to develop end-of-instruction (EOI) tests in English III, Geometry, and Algebra II during the 2006-07 school year and implement the tests during the 2007-08 school year. The FY'07 budget included \$5.7 million for new test development and implementation.
- ✓ Requires students to pass 4 out of 7 EOI tests to receive a high school diploma beginning with students entering 9th grade in the 2008-09 school year. Students must pass Algebra I and English II along with 2 of the following tests: US History, Biology I, Geometry, Algebra II, and English III.
- ✓ Provides remediation and opportunity to retake EOI tests until at least a satisfactory score is attained on Algebra I and English II and two of the other listed tests or an approved alternative test.
- ✓ Authorizes technology center schools to provide remediation in Algebra I and Biology I to students enrolled in technology center schools.
- ✓ Directs State Department of Education to provide information on best practices for remediation and intervention and requires districts to monitor results and report findings to SDE.
- ✓ Requires student individualized education programs (IEPs) to have an appropriate statement on the IEP requiring administration of assessments with or without accommodations or with alternate assessments.
- ✓ Requires students identified as English language learners (ELL) to be assessed in a valid and reliable manner with the state academic assessments with acceptable accommodations as necessary, or with alternate assessments.
- ✓ Authorizes SBE to approve alternative methods for students to demonstrate mastery of the state academic content standards.
- ✓ Directs SBE to adopt rules for necessary student exceptions and exemptions to testing requirements. Requires SBE to collect and report data on number of students provided and categories of exceptions and exemptions granted.

- ✓ Directs SBE to review, realign and recalibrate the tests in reading and mathematics in third through eighth grades and the EOI tests. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall determine the cut scores for the EOI tests and phase them in over a multi-year period. The SBE shall compare EOI tests with those of other states and adjust cut scores as necessary.
- ✓ Directs the SBE to retain services of a nationally recognized, independent organization to study the reliability and validity of the EOI tests.
- ✓ Provides tuition waivers for up to 6 credit hours per semester for high school seniors who meet eligibility requirements for concurrent enrollment.

In 2012, the Achieving Classroom Excellence Act was further amended to provide an appeals process through which a student who is denied a standard diploma may appeal to the State Board of Education.

Additional key public school reform initiatives that have been passed:

Reading Sufficiency Act

In an effort to ensure that reading skills are attained in the early grades, the Legislature in 2011 amended the Reading Sufficiency Act (70 § 1210.508C) to require that third graders demonstrate grade-level reading skills. SB 346 required that first graders, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, be assessed to determine their reading skills. If they were found not to be reading at grade level, certain supports and assistance were to be provided. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, third graders who were found not to be reading at grade level could be retained. Good-cause exemptions allow for promotion of certain students, including students with limited English proficiency, students with disabilities and students who demonstrated proficiency on an alternative test or via a portfolio.

During the 2014 legislative session, the Reading Sufficiency Act was further amended by HB 2625. For the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years only, the bill allows probationary promotion of a third grader who has not demonstrated proficiency on a screening instrument, has not demonstrated proficiency in reading on the criterion-referenced test or has not shown proficiency through a reading portfolio and does not qualify for a good-cause exemption. It directs a Reading Proficiency Team to determine whether a student should receive probationary promotion, and if probationary promotion is granted, to review the reading performance of the student until he or she demonstrates grade-level reading. The bill also directs a Reading Proficiency Team to develop an intensive remediation plan for students scoring limited knowledge on the reading portion of the criterion-referenced test and to provide the parents of such students the option of retaining the student in the third grade. It exempts from retention any

third grader who demonstrates proficiency in reading on a screening instrument at any time during the school year.

Also during the 2014 legislative session, HB 3399 provided a good-cause exemption for students granted a medical emergency.

State Subject Matter Standards

The State Board of Education is tasked with adopting subject matter standards for use in public schools across the state, while curriculum development to teach those standards is left to local school districts.

In 2010, the Legislature directed the State Board of Education to adopt the Common Core state standards in English language arts and mathematics. The standards were developed as part of an initiative led by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The State Board of Education developed a timeline for implementation, with testing on the new standards set to begin during the 2014-15 school year.

During the 2014 session, the Legislature approved HB 3399, which repealed adoption of the Common Core state standards. It directed the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Regents for Higher Education, the State Board of Career and Technology and the Department of Commerce, to develop and adopt new standards by Aug. 1, 2016. During the two-year standard adoption process, schools are to use the Priority Academic Student Skills, which were in place prior to June 2010. Students are to be tested on those skills until the new standards and assessments are implemented in the 2017-18 school year.

The bill also prohibits the State Board of Education from ceding authority over its standards or assessments. It creates a legislative review process for all subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education, allowing the Legislature to approve the standards, disapprove the standards in whole or in part, amend the standards in whole or in part or disapprove the standards in whole or in part with instructions to the State Board of Education. The bill also allows the Department of Education to cancel online or computer-based testing if there is or will be a disruption or delay.

2010 Legislation

SB 2033 authorizes several reform initiatives in support of Oklahoma's application for federal Race to the Top funds including a statewide teacher evaluation system, performance pay initiatives based upon the evaluation system, and other pay initiatives for teachers in hard-to-staff areas and low-performing schools. This bill also provides a process for dismissing teachers who do not achieve certain ratings under the evaluation system and limits compensation and benefits for career teachers who file a petition for trial de novo. (HB 1380 from 2011 eliminated trial de novo.) Moreover, it required the State Board of Education to adopt the K-12 Common Core State Standards for English/language arts and mathematics. (See section on State Subject Matter Standards.) Finally,

this bill requires school district boards to implement one of four intervention models in the event that a school site in their district is persistently identified as being among the low-achieving schools in the state. These intervention models include the turnaround model, the restart model, the transformation model, and school closure. (Oklahoma was unsuccessful in receiving Race to the Top funds, so in HB 1267 from 2011 the Race to the Top Commission was renamed the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Commission.)

2011 Legislation

SB 346 requires students who score at a level of unsatisfactory on the reading portion of the 3rd grade criterion-referenced test to be retained. It requires schools to provide programs and additional help to struggling students beginning in the first grade to prevent retention. The retention requirement is subject to several good cause exemptions including students with an IEP, limited English-proficient students, and alternative assessment or portfolio demonstration of proficiency. It also requires each school district to establish a Reading Enhancement and Acceleration Development (READ) initiative focused on preventing retention.

HB 1456 establishes a system to give schools a letter grade and deliver that information to parents. The grades of schools will be based 33% upon test scores, 17% learning gains in reading and mathematics, 17% on improvement of the lowest 25th percentile of students in the school in reading and mathematics on CRT's and EOI tests, and 33% on whole school improvement. For middle and elementary school grades, total school improvement will be based on the drop-out rate, the percentage of students taking higher level coursework at a satisfactory or higher level and any other factors selected by the State Superintendent.

2012 Legislation

SB 1816 creates the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board. The Board may be an applicant for a full-time statewide virtual charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act and consist of five members.

SB 1797 (Refer to the section titled "Office of Educational Quality and Accountability")

2013 Legislation

SB 267 grants the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board the sole authority to authorize and sponsor statewide virtual charter schools in the state. It also provides for calculation of state aid for full-time virtual charter school students.

SB 426 delays implementation of the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System and provides for gradual implementation with the system in full effect in the 2015-16 school year. It directs first-year teachers to be evaluated solely on qualitative components.

HB 1622 allows conceal carry onto private school property or in any bus used by the private school if the private school's governing body has adopted an authorizing policy and the person is licensed to carry.

HB 1658 modifies the A-F grading system, directing 50 percent of the grade to be based on whole school performance, 25 percent on whole school growth and 25 percent on growth in the bottom quartile of students, with bonus points available for certain items.

HB 1660 directs the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to select not more than 100 applicants to receive half of the National Board application processing charge and assessment fee. It requires the award recipient to repay the award amount if National Board certification is not achieved within three years. It states that teachers certified or in the process of certification before June 30, 2013, will receive the \$5,000 annual bonus for 10 years, while teachers certified after June 30, 2013, will receive a salary increment. It provides a new minimum salary schedule effective beginning the 2013-14 school year.

HB 1998 creates the Student Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act of 2013, directing the State Board of Education to publish a data inventory of individual student-level unit data elements and comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). It prohibits the Department of Education from transferring student or de-identified data deemed confidential to any federal, state or local agency or other organization outside of Oklahoma, except under certain circumstances.

HB 2131 creates the School District Empowerment Program, allowing schools to apply to the State Board of education to operate like charter schools for three-year terms, with three-year renewal options. It requires schools approved for the program to comply with certain requirements, including the minimum salary schedule, Teachers' Retirement System, due process and employee negotiations.

2014 Legislation

SB 1902 allows the Board of Juvenile Affairs to serve as the governing body of a charter school. It directs the executive director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs to provide administration and operation of any charter school OJA operates.

HB 2497 directs the State Board of Education to promulgate rules for limited exemptions from mandated tests for students facing exceptional emergency circumstances that would prevent students from being assessed during the testing window.

HB 2730 creates the Oklahoma Extracurricular Activities Accountability Act, prohibiting a public school or district from being a member of a school athletic association unless the association has adopted a written policy requiring openness of records and meetings. It also requires a financial audit of the association to be conducted every five years.

HB 2885 directs the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to work with the State Regents for Higher Education and higher education institutions to develop guidelines for a paid teacher internship program that can be offered to prospective teachers. It allows school districts beginning in 2014-15 to participate in a residency program, with required participation in 2015-16. It directs the State Board of Education, the State Regents, the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability and higher education institutions to conduct an educator supply-and-demand study every three years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Legislature has supported a range of early childhood developmental programs covering such areas as health care, developmental disabilities, child abuse prevention, parent education and early childhood education. These programs provide valuable developmental, health and educational services designed to ensure children under the age of 5 will be healthy and ready to learn once they enter kindergarten.

SoonerStart (Early Intervention)

Funded through the State Department of Education, SoonerStart is a collaborative program which provides nursing, nutrition and case management services as well as physical, occupational and speech-language therapy to children who are disabled or developmentally delayed from birth to 36 months. For FY '15, the program is expected to serve around 11,795 children with a combined state and federal budget of \$19.8 million.

Head Start

Head Start is a state and federally-funded program which provides developmental, health and parent educational services to low-income children ages 0 through 5 and their families. Oklahoma is one of the few states that provide state supplements for Head Start. For FY'13, the Legislature appropriated approximately \$2.2 million, an increase of almost 500 percent since FY'92 when the Legislature initiated state funding of the program with a \$423,000 appropriation. Oklahoma's program also received over \$127 million in federal funds for FY'13. State funds are appropriated to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for administration and management of the program.

During FY'13, Head Start served 20,779 children and 266 women through 412 centers state wide.

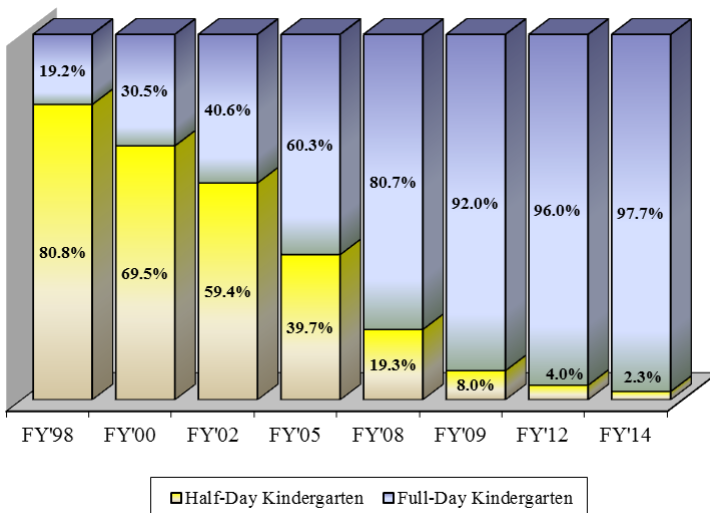
Programs for Four-Year-Olds

Free half-day and full-day programs for four-year-olds are offered by school districts across the state. These programs provide developmentally appropriate activities to prepare children for kindergarten. In 1998, the Legislature increased funding available to schools to provide these programs. Enrollment in this program has increased dramatically since then. During FY'98, 2,493 four-year-olds in Oklahoma attended half-day public school pre-kindergarten, while in 2013-2014, 42,755 children were enrolled in Oklahoma Pre-Kindergarten programs. 78% of those children participated in a full-day program. 70% of Oklahoma's 4 year-olds attend public schools.

Full-Day Kindergarten

Students five-years of age must attend at least a half-day of kindergarten; full-day attendance is optional. Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, all school districts must offer full-day kindergarten. Districts receive an increased weight in the State Aid formula for full-day kindergarten as an incentive to implement the program. Districts are exempt from the requirement if their bonded indebtedness exceeds 85 percent of the maximum allowable at any time in the previous five years.

Growth in Full-Day Kindergarten
FY'98 Through FY'14



Oklahoma Parents as Teachers

OPAT is a home visitation program serving families with children birth to age three. Monthly home visits, developmental screenings, and referrals are completed by parent educators employed by the school district. Enrollment is voluntary, but an emphasis is placed upon recruiting high needs families. In FY'13, 2,340 families within 74 school districts were served through OPAT at an average cost of \$427 per family. Total funding for the program in FY'15 was \$998,781.

Rural Infant Stimulation Environment (RISE)

During the 2007 Legislative Session, \$550,000 was appropriated to establish a RISE School Program that is designed to serve young children with physical disabilities from birth to five years of age. Funding for this program was later increased to \$600,000. However, due to the recent recession, the funding for this program has been reduced to \$529,297 in FY '15.

Educare (Early Childhood Initiative)

During the 2006 Legislative Session, \$5 million was appropriated for an early childhood public/private match pilot program. During the 2007 Legislative session, funding for this program was increased to \$10 million. For FY'14, services were provided to 2,558 low-income children and their families by 11 providers at more than 20 sites at a state cost of \$10,500,000. The required private match is \$15,750,000. The average cost per child for year-round services is \$17,618.

STUDENT TESTING

Oklahoma requires a number of state and national tests from third grade through high school.

In 1985, the Legislature laid the foundation for a comprehensive testing system with the Oklahoma School Testing Program. Since that time the program has undergone a number of changes.

All state-mandated tests are now criterion-referenced assessments, meaning they measure student attainment of skills established in Oklahoma's core curriculum, known as the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS). At the secondary level, students are administered assessments at the completion of the subject matter instruction, rather than at specific grade levels. These tests are referred to as End-of-Instruction (EOI) tests. Currently, students attending public schools are required to participate in the following tests:

3 rd	Reading and Mathematics
4 th	Reading and Mathematics
5 th	Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
6 th	Reading and Mathematics
7 th	Reading, Mathematics, and Geography
8 th	Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and U.S. History
Secondary	Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, English II, English III, Biology I and U.S. History

Students with significant cognitive disabilities who are on an individualized education program (IEP) may qualify for the Oklahoma Alternative Assessment Program (OAAP) Portfolio assessment, an alternative way to assess progress according to alternate grade-level standards.

Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests, Grades 3-8
Percentage of all Oklahoma Students Tested
Scoring at the Proficient Level

2013-14 School Year Compared to 2012-13 School Year

Grade Level	Content Area	Percent Proficient	Increase/Decrease
3	Reading	69	-3
	Math	67	-3
4	Reading	65	-3
	Math	65	-8
5	Reading	65	-4
	Math	66	-4
	Writing	47	-9
	Science	51	0
	Social Studies	77	N/A*
6	Reading	64	-2
	Math	66	-6
7	Reading	70	-2
	Math	64	-5
	Geography	N/A*	N/A
8	Reading	71	-6
	Math	53	-14
	Science	50	-2
	U.S. History	65	N/A*
	Writing	56	+1

Source: State Department of Education.

*5th grade Social Studies and 8th grade U. S. History were field tested in 2012-2013; therefore, the increase/decrease in proficiency levels could not be calculated. The 7th grade Geography test was field tested in 2012-13 and 2013-14; therefore, proficiency levels were not available.

Oklahoma EOI Tests Summary
2013-2014 School Year
Percentage of Regular Education
Students Who Scored at the Proficient Level

Content Area	Percent Proficient Regular*	Increase/ Decrease from 2012-13
English II	81	-7
ACE Algebra I	75	-9
Biology I	50	-4
U.S. History	77	N/A **
Algebra II	76	-1
Geometry	81	-2
English III	87	-3

Source: State Department of Education

* Regular education does not include English language learners (ELLs) nor students with disabilities who are served on an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

** The 2013-14 U. S. History test was aligned to new standards.

In addition to the state tests, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a standardized national test, is administered every two years to a sample of approximately 2,500 4th and 8th grade students in schools selected by the NAEP governing board as being demographically representative of the state as a whole. The NAEP is used to compare students' educational achievement across the nation as an external check of the rigor of states' standards and assessments. Oklahoma has been required to participate in NAEP testing since passage of a state law in 1997. The federal No Child Left Behind Act has required all states to participate in NAEP beginning in 2003.

On the following page are results reflect the 2013 NAEP test for students:

Oklahoma's Performance
on the National Assessment of Educational Progress
(NAEP) Tests
as Compared to the U.S. Average Scale Score

READING				MATHEMATICS			
Grade	Year	State Avg.	U.S. Avg.	Grade	Year	State Avg.	U.S. Avg.
4	1992	220	215	4	1992	220	219
	2003	214	216		2003	229	234
	2005	214	217		2005	234	237
	2007	217	220		2007	237	239
	2009	217	220		2009	237	239
	2011	215	220		2011	237	240
	2013	217	221		2013	239	241
8	1998	265	261	8	1992	268	267
	2003	262	261		2003	272	276
	2005	260	260		2005	271	278
	2007	260	261		2007	275	280
	2009	259	262		2009	276	282
	2011	260	264		2011	279	283
	2013	262	266		2013	276	284

Source: Oklahoma's State Profile from "The Nation's Report Card," National Assessment of Educational Progress

Office of Educational Quality and Accountability

Originally created as the Office of Accountability in 1990 via HB 1017, the office was placed under the purview of the Education Oversight Board. In 2012, the Legislature passed SB 1797, which combined the Office of Accountability with the Commission for Teacher Preparation to create the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability. The Education Oversight Board was replaced with the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability. The consolidation was complete effective July 1, 2014.

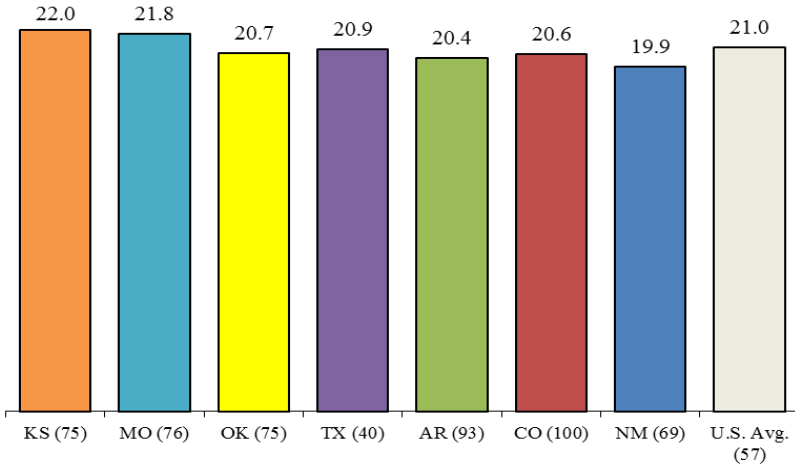
The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability provides annual reports on public school performance at the state, district and school levels. These "Profiles" report cards provide school performance information that is comparable and in context with various indicators. The report cards may be viewed online at www.schoolreportcards.org.

The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability is tasked with overseeing implementation of the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act and setting performance levels and corresponding cut scores pursuant to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act.

ACT College Entrance Exam

Approximately 75 percent of high school seniors in Oklahoma participated in the ACT assessment for college admission in 2014. This compares to 57 percent of seniors nationally. Between 2005 and 2014, Oklahoma's average composite score increased from 20.4 to 20.7, an increase of 1.5 percent. A total of 28,682 students tested in 2014.

Oklahoma Students' ACT Score Comparison 2014



Note: The number in parenthesis represents the percentage of seniors taking the ACT in the state.
Source: National and State ACT Profile Reports

FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL REFORM EFFORTS

In January of 2002 the U.S. Congress enacted House Resolution 1, known as the “No Child Left Behind Act”. This bill re-authorized the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding for states and expands state testing and accountability program requirements. The main goal of the act is to ensure that by the 2013-2014 school year, all students will attain a minimum standard of proficiency or better in reading/language arts and mathematics. A number of new components are required of states and school districts to ensure progress. Congress is considering reauthorization of the ESEA once again. However, due to the division in Congress, the extent of the reauthorization and when or if that will actually happen, is unknown.

In 2012, the State Department of Education applied for and was granted a flexibility waiver from certain NCLB requirements. Under the terms of the waiver, Oklahoma was required to raise education standards, create accountability systems and improve systems for teacher and principal evaluation and support. To meet these terms, the state adopted the Common Core standards in English language arts and mathematics, the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System and the A-F performance grading system.

After the Common Core standards were repealed during the 2014 legislative session, the Department of Education requested an extension of the NCLB waiver. In August 2014, the U.S. Department of Education denied that request, and Oklahoma lost its flexibility waiver. This means Oklahoma schools are subject to the requirements of NCLB, including restrictions on certain Title I federal funds and adequate yearly progress goals.

Over the last several years Oklahoma has been working to comply with the following provisions:

- Adopt state academic content standards in mathematics, reading/language arts and science. As a result of HB 1017, Oklahoma developed content standards in each of the four core academic areas in 1991. These standards are revised every six years at a minimum and have been reviewed by a number of state and national organizations;
- Develop and implement tests aligned to the state academic standards in grades three through eight in the areas of reading/language arts and math. In July of 2006, the United States Department of Education announced that Oklahoma was one of only four states in the nation to receive full federal approval of our student testing program;
- Develop and implement a single statewide accountability system for defining adequate yearly progress that meets federal guidelines;
- Ensure schools make adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward the goal of proficiency for all students in reading and mathematics by the 2013-14 school year. For schools and districts to make AYP, improvement must be demonstrated by all students along with each of the following subgroups of students: economically disadvantaged students, major racial or ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English language learners (AYP may not be required in the reauthorization);
- Develop and implement school improvement sanctions for schools and districts that fail to make AYP. The number of schools identified as in need of improvement has been on a steady decline in recent years;

- Participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Participation in this program is also required under state law; and
- Ensure all teachers of core academic subjects are highly qualified by the end of the 2005-06 school year. More than 99 percent of Oklahoma teachers were reported to have met the benchmark.

While some additional funds are being provided to meet some of these requirements, federal funds for developing the accountability system and reporting system are not provided. Oklahoma has been working over the last several years to successfully implement this legislation and as we continue toward the intent of NCLB, final direction from the federal Department of Education will be necessary along with time to implement any new reforms.

SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND AND THE DEAF

The Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur provide day and residential services to students from across the state. Operated by the Department of Rehabilitation Services, both schools provide comprehensive educational and therapeutic services on their campus. The schools also provide a satellite pre-school, outreach and educational services to surrounding schools to allow even more students and families to have access to specialized programs.

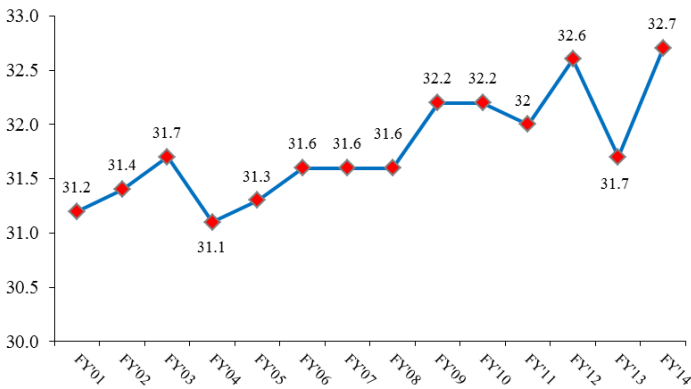
For FY'15, the Oklahoma School for the Blind received over \$7.1 million in state funds and is projected to serve 52 children in the residential program, 36 children in the day program, five children in preschool and 65 children in summer school. For FY'15, the Oklahoma School for the Deaf received over \$8.8 million in state funds and is projected to serve 80 students in the residential program, 100 in the day program, 35 in the preschool and 100 in summer school.

As part of the schools' residential education programs, students have opportunities to participate in activities similar to a typical public school, including student organizations and interscholastic athletics. Course work mirrors classes at any public school but is enhanced with specialized instruction such as Braille, sign language, adaptive technology and equipment, orientation and mobility, etc. Both residential programs serve pre-kindergarten through twelve grades. Both schools transport resident's home for weekends and holidays.

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Created in 1983 through legislative action, the mission of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics is to foster the educational development of Oklahoma high school students who are talented in science and mathematics and show promise of exceptional development through participation in a residential educational setting emphasizing instruction in science and mathematics. This two-year residential school is located in Oklahoma City and provides advanced science and math courses to students in grades 11 and 12. With possible capacity for nearly 300 students, the school currently serves approximately 146 students on a 32-acre campus.

Average ACT Score of Residential Seniors
FY'01 Through FY'14

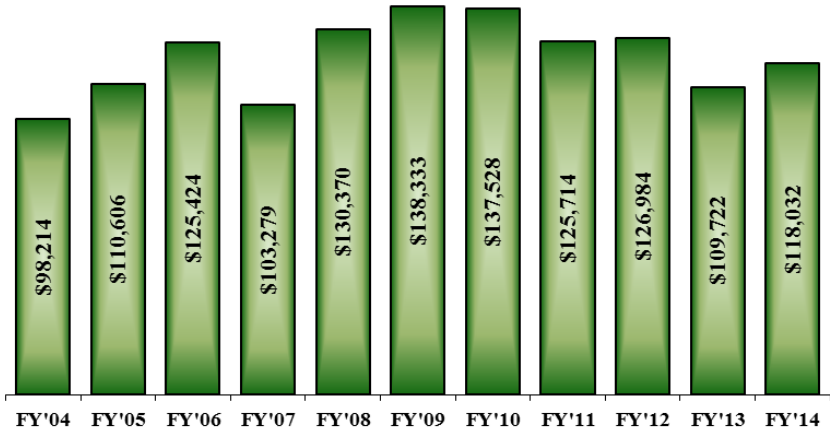


In the National Competition of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAM+S), sponsored each year by the Junior Engineering Technical Society, OSSM teams have placed first regionally for 15 consecutive years. In addition, the school has produced 186 National Merit Commended Scholars.

To replicate the success of the residential school, the Legislature has provided funding to establish 9 regional math and science centers across the state to provide advanced science and math courses to students living in districts that did not offer these courses. All regional centers are housed in career and technology centers and are taught by people having a Ph.D. in the subject area.

In 2014, OSSM began a virtual regional center with the goal of serving more rural students.

Average Scholarship Amount/Residential Students
FY'04 Through FY'14





CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Career and technology education got its start in 1904 when teacher H. F. Rusch, with the support of Oklahoma City Schools Superintendent Edgar Vaught, initiated the first manual training program. Schools in Lawton, Comanche, Ardmore and Muskogee followed Oklahoma City's lead. In all, 90 state schools offered vocational training prior to the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, which established guidelines and funding for vocational education throughout the U.S.

In the 20th century, career and technology education advanced in both ideology and technology. Today, it is a comprehensive system that significantly contributes to the state's economic development and quality of life.

The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education provides leadership and resources to ensure standards of excellence throughout the statewide system. The system offers its programs and services through 391 public school districts, 29 technology center districts with 59 campuses, and 15 skills centers located in correctional facilities. Currently, there are more than 2,500 instructors working in all areas of CareerTech education. Each of the technology centers works closely with advisors from local industry to ensure that Oklahoma's students learn the skills needed to be valued members of the workforce.

In FY 2013, enrollments in CareerTech training totaled 522,188. CareerTech provides nationally recognized competency-based curriculum, education, and training in the following broad categories. Each category offers a myriad of specialized and customized courses and training opportunities.

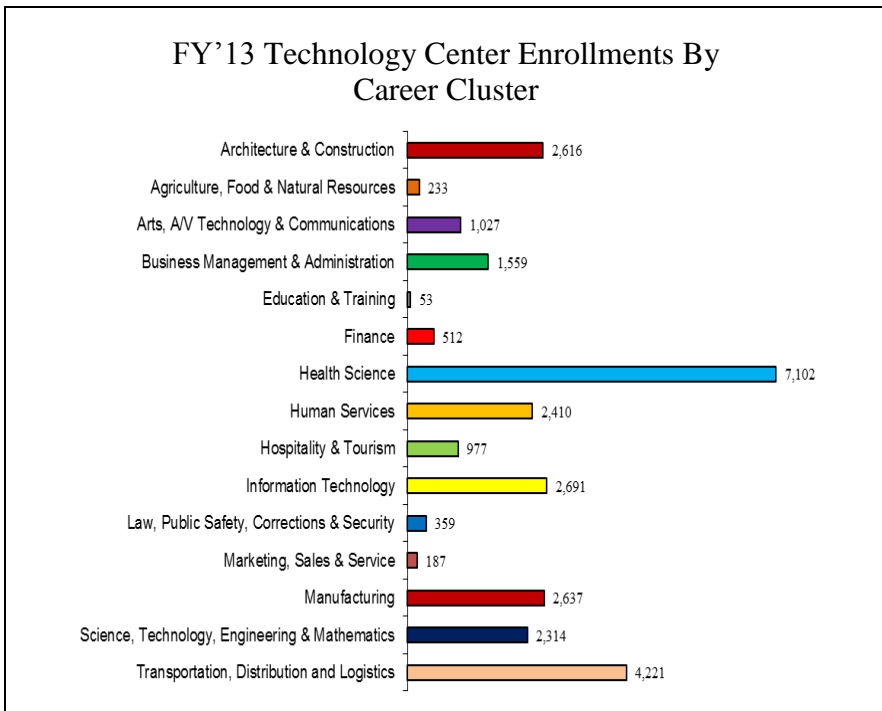
- Agricultural Education
- Business and Industry Training
- Business and Information Technology Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- Health Careers Education

- Marketing Education
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Technology Engineering
- Trade and Industrial Education

Oklahoma's CareerTech system uses competency-based curriculum. This curriculum is developed with the input of industry professionals, using skills standards to identify the knowledge and abilities needed to master an occupation.

Competency-based education enables CareerTech to provide students with the skills employers are seeking in the workplace.

CareerTech has developed 15 Career Clusters, which group occupations together based on commonalities. Schools will use these Career Clusters as an organizational tool to help students identify pathways from secondary schools to career technical schools, colleges, graduate schools, and the workplace. The Career Clusters show students how what they are learning in school links to the knowledge and skills needed for their success in postsecondary education/training and future careers.

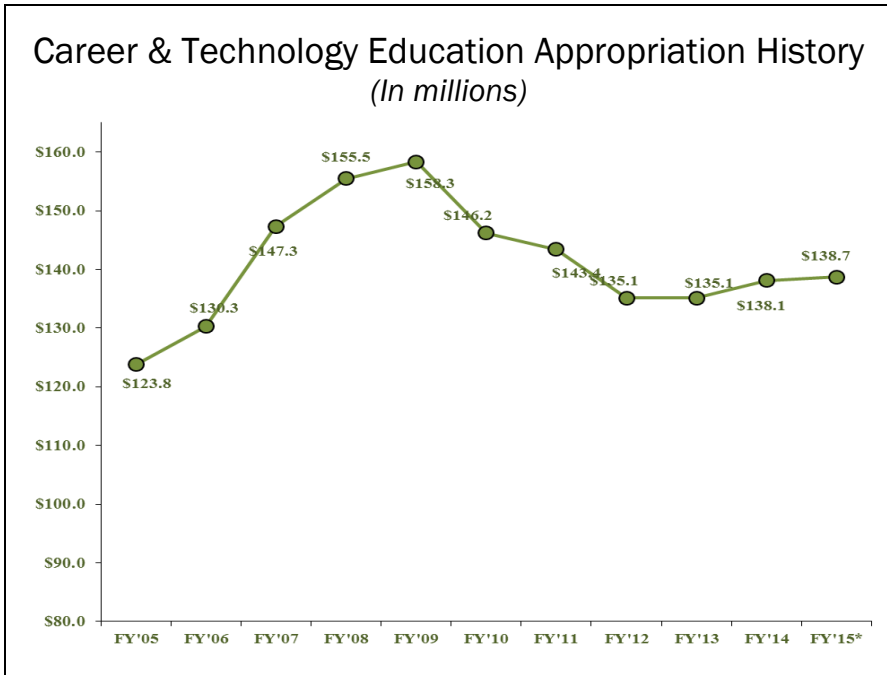


Source: State Department of Career and Technology Education Annual Report

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY FUNDING

Appropriation History

State appropriations for career and technology education funding grew by 14.7 percent from FY'05 to FY'15.



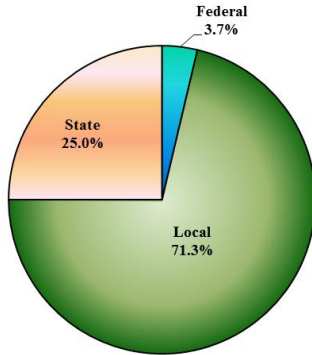
*Includes an additional \$750,000 for adult education, which was transferred from the Department of Education in 2014.

Technology Center Funding

Technology centers are funded through dedicated ad valorem millages, state appropriated revenues and tuition fees paid by students. Millages are assessed on real property within a technology center district. The Oklahoma Constitution restricts technology center districts to a maximum of 10 operating mills and five building-fund mills. Changes in technology center millages are enacted by a majority vote in a district-wide election.

Most technology centers depend more on local ad valorem receipts than state appropriations. Local property wealth varies widely from district to district, causing discrepancies in the amount of ad valorem revenue available to support each technology center. To address the discrepancies, the Legislature instituted a state equalization formula that allocates most state funds using local wealth as an inverse factor.

FY'14 Funding Sources for Career-Technology Centers



Source: State Department of Career and Technology Education

For FY'14, technology center ad valorem revenue collections were 63.8 percent of all reported technology center revenue collected from all funding sources.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Comprehensive Schools

In FY'13, enrollments totaled 132,478. Programs in seven occupational areas are offered at 542 elementary, junior and senior high schools in Oklahoma. Some 37 percent of students in grades 6-12 are enrolled in CareerTech offerings ranging from exploration programs to programs that provide specific knowledge and skills in career fields. Forty-seven percent of students in grades 9-12 are enrolled in Career Tech offerings.

These students learn valuable skills that prepare them for life and work in our ever-changing world. The hands-on experience in high-tech classrooms helps students increase technological proficiency and develop entrepreneurial skills. All career and technology education programs meet academic standards and prepare students to work in the “real” world.

Student Organizations

Nearly 71,000 secondary and postsecondary students are members of CareerTech program-related student organizations, which help develop teamwork and leadership skills. These organizations include BPA, Business Professionals of America; DECA, marketing education; FCCLA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; FFA, agricultural education; HOSA, Health Occupations Students of America; SkillsUSA, trade and industrial education; and TSA, technology engineering. Oklahoma has more than 2,550 students who are members of the National Technical Honor Society.

Technology Centers

Oklahoma's technology centers provide high school students and adults opportunities to receive high-quality career and technology education through various options. While high school students who live in technology center districts attend tuition-free, adult students are charged nominal tuition.

Currently, 29 technology center districts operated on 59 campuses through the state, making services easily accessible to most Oklahomans. In FY'13, high school student enrollments in technology centers equaled 17,023. Adult enrollments in full-time programs, Industry-Specific Training, Adult and Career Development and Training for Industry totaled 372,687.

Technology centers work with business and industry partners to ensure that curriculum meets the needs of the workplace. Many students participate in clinicals, internships and on-the-job training to experience the world of work.

Students frequently are able to earn college credit for classes taken at technology centers through agreements with colleges.

Skill Centers

CareerTech Skills Centers offer specialized, occupational training to adult and juvenile incarcerated individuals. Services have grown from just a few training programs in one center to a complete school system that provides services at 15 campuses. In FY'13, more than 1,400 individuals participated in Skills Center programs. In FY'13, 84.7 percent of those completing Skills Centers programs were placed in training-related jobs.

In a 2008 study of those who completed Skill Center training and were matched with training-related jobs, 82.6% did not return to incarceration within 52 months, compared to a rate of 65.5% for those who did not complete a Skill Center program.

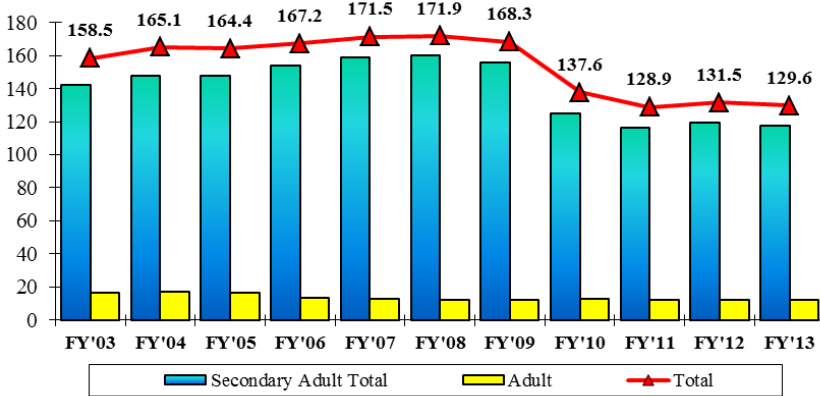
Dropout Recovery

The students served through this initiative are out-of-school youth who are 15 to 19 years of age. These youth are given opportunities to gain academic credit and participate in career-specific training. In FY'12 dropout recovery programs were available at nine technology centers which helped 388 students attain a high school diploma and 44 completed a GED. The program also helped 260 students obtain employment, 26 entered the military and 79 enrolled in postsecondary education.

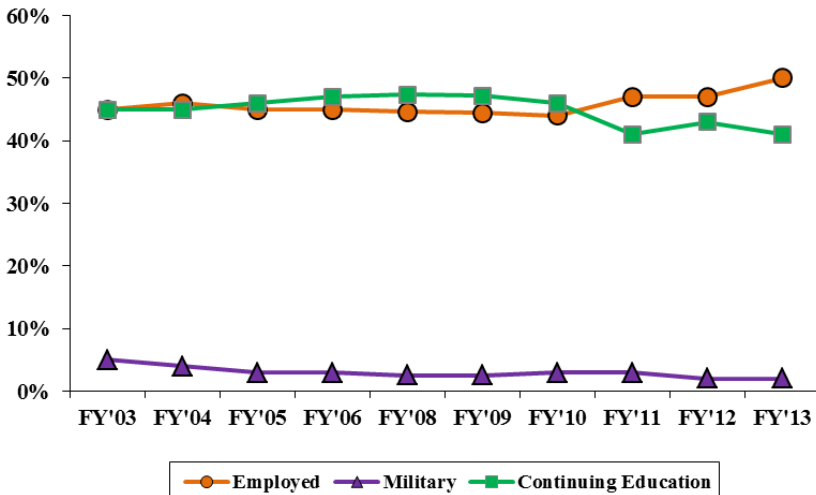
ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Between FY'03 and FY'13, total enrollment in career-technology programs decreased by 18.2 percent.

Career Technology Enrollment Trends by Student Type (In Thousands)



Student Outcomes for Career-Tech Programs FY'03 Through FY'13



Source: State Department of Career and Technology Education

Career Tech Business and Industry Development

Oklahoma's CareerTech offers customized programs and services for new companies, existing companies, small businesses wanting to expand and entrepreneurs just getting started. Often these services are incentives for companies to relocate in our state. These programs are designed to ramp-up very quickly to meet the critical issues facing employers and are focused in three primary areas: Business and Industry Development, Adult and Career Development, and Business and Entrepreneurial Services.

- **Business and Industry Development:** Customized training for companies.

Training for Industry Program (TIP): This program meets specific training needs of new and expanding industries in conjunction with the Quality Jobs Act.

Industry Specific/Training for Existing Industry (TEI): These offerings are designed to help existing companies stay competitive through incumbent worker training programs.

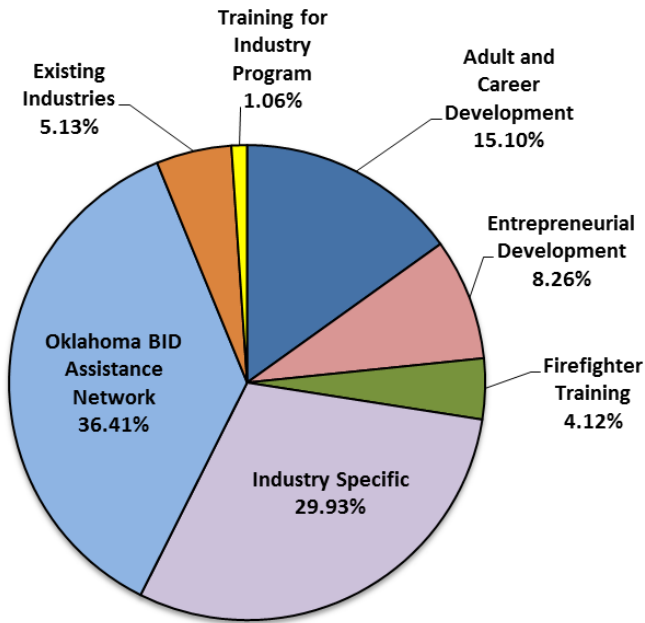
Safety and Health Training: These offerings are designed to help companies plan and implement safety processes, procedures and ongoing training to assure safe workplaces.

Firefighting Training Initiative: These offerings are designed to accommodate the increased demands for training and testing of volunteer firefighters across the state.

Oklahoma Bid Assistance Network: This program is designed to assist companies in obtaining state and government contracts.

- **Adult and Career Development:** Adults wishing to expand their expertise or who are looking to change career paths are provided job-training workshops, seminars, and short courses.
- **Business and Entrepreneurial Services:** Services are to provide professional assistance and guidance to persons interested in starting a new business or one currently successfully operating.

FY'13 Enrollment by Career-Technology Economic Development Offerings



Source: Department of Career and Technology Education FY'13 Fast Facts.



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Providing high quality, affordable post-secondary educational programs to develop a skilled and educated workforce has become a priority with the Legislature. These programs are seen as an important key to improving the state's economy and per-capita income. Oklahoma's universities, colleges and career and technology centers (formerly called vo-tech centers) play an integral role in educating and preparing adults to compete in the state, national and global marketplace.

Since 1990, the Legislature has passed and implemented a number of funding and program initiatives to increase the caliber of our state's post-secondary institutions and expand opportunities for students to attain a post-secondary degree.

This chapter provides an overview of higher education.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Oklahoma higher education began before Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory combined to become a state in 1907. As early as 1890, the first territorial legislature created three institutions of higher learning. By 1901, four additional institutions of higher education were established across the state.

The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education was created in 1941 by a constitutional amendment, Article XIII-A, which provides that "all institutions of higher education supported in whole or in part by direct legislative appropriation shall be integral parts of a unified system." The amendment also created the State Regents for Higher Education as the "coordinating board of control of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education." Currently, there are 25 colleges and universities, 10 regional universities, 12 community colleges, 11 constituent agencies, two higher education centers and one public liberal arts university offering courses and degree programs across the state.

Higher Education Governance

The State Regents for Higher Education serve as the coordinating board for all state institutions. However, most agree that the Legislature has sole power to establish and/or close institutions (Attorney General Opinion 80-204). The primary responsibilities of the state regents are to:

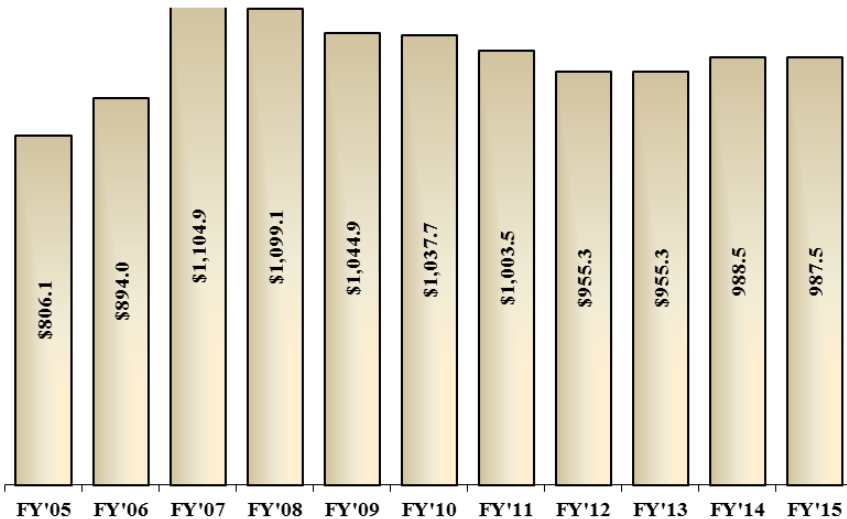
- prescribe standards of higher education;
- determine functions and courses of study at state institutions;
- grant degrees and other forms of academic recognition;
- recommend to the Legislature budget needs for state institutions; and
- determine fees within the limits set by the Legislature.

In addition to the state regents, there are three constitutional governing boards and 12 statutory governing boards. These boards have responsibility for the operational governance of the state's higher education institutions. Membership on all governance and coordinating boards is by appointment of the Governor and confirmation of the Senate.

Funding Trends for Higher Education

In FY'15, 13.9 percent of the state's appropriated budget went to the State Regents for Higher Education, which has sole authority for allocating state funds among colleges and universities.

History of Appropriations to Higher Education
FY'05 Through FY'15
(In Millions)



For FY'15 the Legislature appropriated over \$987 million to the State Regents for Higher Education, which represents an increase of over \$181 million or 22.4 percent from the FY'05 level.

Since FY'89, the state regents' office has been funded through a line-item appropriation in the higher education funding bill. Prior to that year, the state office was funded through an assessment made on each of the institutions under the regents' control. The FY'15 appropriation for administrative operations in the state regents' office is \$4.9 million, which represents less than 1 percent of total appropriations to higher education.

Endowed Chairs: Oklahoma has been making an effort to establish itself as a research hub in the Midwest. Higher Education plays an important role in this endeavor; state higher education institutions perform a great deal of research that can benefit the state and the nation. To draw better researchers to Oklahoma, the State Regents have requested private donations, to be matched by the state, to fund many new Endowed Chairs and professorships at the institutions. Until 2004, the State Regents could only match up to \$7.5 million annually in private funds for this purpose. Private donations were being offered, but the Regents lacked the State funds to match them.

In 2004, HB 1904 authorized a \$50 million bond issue for the Endowed Chairs program in order to eliminate the backlog. The Regents office used their annual \$7.5 million appropriation for Endowed Chairs to fund the debt service on the bond. However, the backlog of unmatched private funds continued to grow past this \$50 million amount.

As a result, HB 1137 from the 2007 Legislative Session was passed in order to increase the bonding authority for the Endowed Chairs program from \$50 million to \$100 million in an attempt to address the new backlog of private funds. At this time, appropriated funding was not provided to fund the debt service on the new bonds.

HB 1373 from the 2008 Legislative Session further increased the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority's authority to issue bonds for the State's matching contribution for Endowed Chairs to \$150 million.

This bill also amended the Trust Fund provisions to provide that after July 1, 2008, state matching monies must be used to match the current backlog of endowment contributions before they may be used to match endowment accounts created after that date. After the backlog of state matching requirements are completed, expenditure of state matching monies is limited to a total of \$5 million per year; \$4 million for the comprehensive universities and \$1 million for other eligible institutions. Trust Fund endowment accounts of \$250,000 or less will be matched dollar for dollar with state matching monies and those exceeding \$250,000 will be matched with \$1 of state match for every \$4 received in contributions.

Although the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority had been given authority to issue bonds up to \$150 million for the Endowed Chairs program, they had been unable to sell \$100 million of those bonds. Therefore, HB 3031 from the 2010 Legislature authorized OCIA to refinance or restructure outstanding obligations for the endowed chairs program. In FY'14, the Legislature appropriated \$23,950,000 to service this debt.

Even after the multiple bond issues to reduce the backlog of endowed chairs, there was still a backlog of \$270 million in unmatched endowed chair funds at the beginning of 2012. The 2012 Legislature passed SB 1969 which abolished the EDGE fund and deposited the principal of the fund into the Endowment Trust Fund. The amount to be deposited was approximately at \$146.9 million.

Oklahoma Promise of Excellence Act: During the 2005 session, the Legislature passed HB 1191 which created the Oklahoma Promise of Excellence Act of 2005 to authorize bonds for \$475 million for The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. Bonds were issued by the Oklahoma Capital Improvement Authority, with revenues from the Oklahoma Education Lottery Trust Fund and any other source necessary designated for debt retirement. The scope of the Master Lease Program was expanded to include financing of acquisitions of or improvements to real property as well as personal property. An additional \$25 million in bonds were authorized to establish a permanent revolving lease fund within the Master Lease program, to be paid for with lottery revenues. Lease payments made for projects financed with money from this fund will go back into the fund for master leases.

In 2007, the Legislature amended both the personal property and real property portions of the Master Lease program. The use of the Master Lease program to finance the acquisition of personal property is now limited to a total of \$50 million in a calendar year. For real property, the Regents are required to submit an itemized list of proposed projects to the Legislature at the beginning of each legislative session, and the Legislature may disapprove all or part of the proposal. If the Legislature takes no action to disapprove, the proposal is deemed to be approved. SB 1332 from 2010 allows bonds issued under the Master Lease program to be refinanced.

The governing boards for OU, OSU and the State Regents (for all other institutions) have been authorized to issue bonds for capital projects at the institutions that may be paid for with any monies lawfully available other than revenues appropriated by the Legislature from tax receipts. The bonds issued under this act are tax exempt, and the Legislature is given the power to disapprove them.

Institutional Budgets

For FY'14, state appropriations represent 35.2 percent of total operating revenue for higher education; tuition and fee revenue comprise another 36.4 percent of the total higher education budget, federal funds comprise 18.2 percent while other funds comprise 10.2 percent.

The allocation of appropriations by the State Regents to Institutions is based upon achieving two goals – funding parity within each tier and peer funding parity.

Funding parity within each tier is achieved by the development of a budget need for each institution as well as the entire system. To arrive at the budget need, the State Regents use “program budgeting” to focus on the costs of offering courses for each academic program. The cost base incorporates the actual expenditures of appropriations, tuition and fees that are allocated to all courses.

Through the accumulation of the course data, a standard cost for each program is developed for each institution and each tier. The standard cost is then multiplied by the number of students enrolled in each program, a peer factor, and the percentage of cost attributable to state appropriations. Again, this data is aggregated for each institution as well as the entire system to arrive at a budget need.

The second part of the funding mechanism uses per student funding data from peer institutions.

Post-Secondary Education

State Fiscal Support for Higher Education, by State, Fiscal Years 2008-09 (FY09), 2011-12 (FY12), 2012-13 (FY13), 2013-14 (FY14)^a

State Fiscal Support (\$)										
	FY09				FY12				FY13	FY14
	Federal Stimulus Monies: ^b	Federal Stimulus Monies: ^b	Federal Stimulus Monies: ^b	Federal Stimulus Monies: ^b	Federal Stimulus Monies: ^b	Federal Stimulus Monies: ^b	Federal Stimulus Monies: ^b	Federal Stimulus Monies: ^b		
	State Monies ^b	Stabilization Funds ^c	Services Funds ^d	Total Support	State Monies ^b	Stabilization Funds ^c	Services Funds ^d	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support
Alabama	1,581,208,946	0	0	1,581,208,946	1,494,583,181	0	0	1,494,583,181	1,406,898,493	1,440,862,304
Alaska	318,806,500	0	0	318,806,500	357,025,101	0	0	357,025,101	369,797,900	383,128,100
Arizona	1,154,957,900	153,367,600	0	1,308,325,500	824,491,900	0	0	824,491,900	843,251,300	873,005,600
Arkansas	887,321,221	0	0	887,321,221	1,015,466,242	0	0	1,015,466,242	866,653,625	851,971,705
California	9,749,592,000	1,433,000,000	0	11,182,592,000	9,473,052,000	0	0	9,473,052,000	9,577,505,000	10,535,904,000
Colorado	682,248,254	150,676,055	288,000	833,212,309	647,496,274	0	0	647,496,274	640,628,978	679,462,447
Connecticut	1,045,313,922	0	0	1,045,313,922	949,946,216	0	0	949,946,216	957,255,150	1,010,125,722
Delaware	243,840,165	0	0	243,840,165	213,193,700	0	0	213,193,700	216,492,700	227,606,200
Florida	4,107,485,788	0	0	4,107,485,788	3,631,070,101	0	0	3,631,070,101	3,338,709,070	3,927,204,407
Georgia	2,871,238,599	19,304,452	0	2,890,543,051	2,635,156,774	0	742,329,912	2,709,389,686	2,624,294,316	2,787,682,234
Hawaii	604,878,507	0	0	604,878,507	512,327,897	0	0	512,327,897	513,516,613	517,818,637
Idaho	416,493,100	0	0	416,493,100	333,669,600	0	0	333,669,600	360,070,800	374,642,100
Illinois ^a	3,021,929,135	0	0	3,021,929,135	3,594,470,100	0	0	3,594,470,100	3,566,692,200	4,082,978,500
Indiana	1,594,847,020	44,260,193	0	1,639,107,213	1,549,460,261	0	0	1,549,460,261	1,555,282,625	1,701,417,328
Iowa	914,194,605	0	0	914,194,605	740,351,670	0	0	740,351,670	787,419,692	823,333,019
Kansas	806,010,141	9,599,299	0	815,609,440	782,992,878	0	0	782,992,878	795,346,375	771,121,325
Kentucky	1,284,097,566	0	0	1,284,097,566	1,237,557,571	0	0	1,237,557,571	1,187,656,103	1,180,322,100
Louisiana	1,706,364,806	0	0	1,706,364,806	1,237,070,397	0	0	1,237,070,397	1,174,061,988	1,119,337,996
Maine	263,426,271	6,566,113	0	269,992,384	269,152,608	1731508	0	270,884,116	265,872,234	271,053,573
Maryland	1,613,101,952	0	0	1,613,101,952	1,606,876,744	0	0	1,606,876,744	1,599,092,116	1,742,661,563
Massachusetts	1,188,841,129	53,759,414	0	1,242,600,543	933,036,935	0	6841643.47	939,878,579	985,123,807	1,091,894,342
Michigan	2,046,065,700	0	0	2,046,065,700	1,549,732,500	0	0	1,549,732,500	1,608,824,500	1,669,524,000
Minnesota	1,526,416,532	0	30,546,000	1,556,962,532	1,285,041,000	0	0	1,285,041,000	1,285,247,000	1,394,503,000
Mississippi	978,760,459	0	0	978,760,459	954,183,795	0	0	954,183,795	924,952,654	973,846,876
Missouri	1,108,459,017	0	0	1,108,459,017	933,329,405	0	0	933,329,405	942,816,225	967,122,534
Montana	207,471,410	0	0	207,471,410	202,105,316	0	0	202,105,316	202,187,817	226,961,354
Nebraska	651,703,765	0	0	651,703,765	650,437,323	0	0	650,437,323	659,571,367	688,173,035
Nevada	623,227,269	0	0	623,227,269	473,148,326	0	0	473,148,326	472,368,017	487,184,042
New Hampshire	138,531,000	0	0	138,531,000	82,697,778	0	0	82,697,778	85,622,352	109,000,000
New Jersey	1,984,924,000	0	0	1,984,924,000	1,998,300,000	0	0	1,998,300,000	1,888,439,000	1,990,469,000
New Mexico	952,987,632	0	0	952,987,632	804,674,067	0	0	804,674,067	831,998,223	871,115,913
New York	4,967,332,909	0	0	4,967,332,909	4,738,027,040	0	14349474	4,752,376,514	4,992,730,621	5,192,935,373
North Carolina	3,582,774,279	126,962,971	0	3,709,737,250	3,578,659,248	0	0	3,578,659,248	3,751,478,952	3,630,334,843
North Dakota	253,901,000	0	0	253,901,000	343,964,303	0	0	343,964,303	343,805,783	409,693,640
Ohio	2,474,062,613	0	0	2,474,062,613	2,013,731,126	0	0	2,013,731,126	2,050,123,177	2,096,295,591
Oklahoma	1,078,158,766	0	0	1,078,158,766	997,857,169	0	0	997,857,169	1,032,204,863	1,042,049,007
Oregon	687,421,772	55,636,352	0	743,058,124	566,031,614	0	0	566,031,614	580,701,607	631,121,950
Pennsylvania	2,165,882,000	62,852,000	0	2,228,734,000	1,799,540,000	0	0	1,799,540,000	1,792,655,000	1,770,967,000
Rhode Island	165,149,649	0	0	165,149,649	160,767,311	20036870	0	180,804,181	160,539,277	169,813,064
South Carolina	980,754,273	0	0	980,754,273	859,408,982	0	0	859,408,982	910,383,821	905,324,455
South Dakota	189,301,229	10,262,056	0	199,563,285	181,016,376	0	0	181,016,376	196,229,662	198,267,076
Tennessee	1,581,260,700	82,334,800	0	1,663,595,500	1,414,996,174	0	0	1,414,996,174	1,455,168,883	1,587,796,604
Texas	6,107,243,700	0	0	6,107,243,700	6,464,046,632	0	0	6,464,046,632	6,341,327,744	6,617,330,169
Utah	748,957,500	28,800,000	0	777,757,500	728,922,600	0	0	728,922,600	748,759,000	798,346,200
Vermont	87,189,483	0	0	87,189,483	90,025,655	0	84006	90,109,661	89,340,755	92,315,902
Virginia	1,899,464,085	0	0	1,899,464,085	1,624,026,722	0	0	1,624,026,722	1,712,075,324	1,771,251,361
Washington	1,809,447,000	0	0	1,809,447,000	1,361,782,000	0	0	1,361,782,000	1,372,858,000	1,570,807,000
West Virginia	518,293,576	0	0	518,293,576	543,308,703	0	158781	543,467,484	546,188,678	515,656,320
Wisconsin	1,292,041,167	0	0	1,292,041,167	1,107,423,602	0	0	1,107,423,602	1,163,226,571	1,114,018,800
Wyoming	327,329,344	0	0	327,329,344	337,988,717	0	0	337,988,717	383,533,411	352,419,041
Totals (State Support)	77,190,709,356	2,237,381,305	30,834,000	79,458,924,661	71,883,621,635	21,768,378	95,666,816	72,001,056,829	72,156,979,373	76,238,167,052

^aFY2014 figures on state support for higher education represent initial allocations and estimates reported by the states from September through December 2013 and are subject to change. ^bState monies include state tax appropriations and other state funds allocated to higher education. ^cIncludes education stabilization funds used to restore the level of state support for public higher education. ^dExcludes government services funds used for modernization, renovation, or repair. ^eIncludes rapidly increasing appropriations made to the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) to address the historical underfunding of pension programs. These SURS appropriations do not go to individual institutions or agencies and are not available to be used for educational purposes.

The peer group concept involves first selecting institutions from across the nation with missions that are comparable to Oklahoma institutions for the three tiers (comprehensive, four-year regional and two-year institutions). Once peer institutions are selected, the per-student average revenue from appropriations and tuition and fees is determined at each peer institution. The average revenue per student of all peer institutions is multiplied by the student counts at each Oklahoma college and university to arrive at budget needs.

At a state college or university, the principal operating budget is called the educational and general (E&G) budget. It contains funds for the primary functions – instruction, research and public service – and activities supporting the main functions. The E&G budget is divided into Part I, which comprises mostly state funds, and Part II (the “sponsored budget”), which derives funding from external sources such as federal grants and training contracts. The E&G budget is distinct from the capital budget, which pays for new construction, major repairs or renovations, and major equipment purchases. Auxiliary enterprises – tangential services such as housing, food services and the college store – are also excluded from the E&G budget.

There are two primary sources of funds for the Part I E&G budget – state appropriations and revolving funds. Appropriations by the Legislature are made to the State Regents who, in turn, allocate directly to each facility in the state system. Appropriations constitute about 35.2 percent of the institutions’ core educational budgets. Revolving funds are collected by the institution and consist primarily of student fees, sales and services of educational departments, and indirect cost reimbursements from grants and contracts. These funds constitute approximately 64.8 percent of the core educational budget, with student tuition/fees being the largest component.

Revolving Funds

Among the State Regents’ constitutional powers is:

“...[t]o recommend to the Legislature proposed fees for all of such institutions and any such fees shall be effective only within the limits prescribed by the Legislature.”

Since 1890, it has been public policy in Oklahoma to provide comprehensive, low-cost public higher education. Thus, residents of Oklahoma are afforded subsidies covering a majority of their educational costs at all colleges and universities of the state system. Oklahoma’s institutions are above peer institutions in percentage of total higher education costs paid by tuition.

Tuition

In Oklahoma, determining tuition limits is a constitutional power of the Legislature. During the 2001 legislative session, the Legislature passed SB 596 and for the first time since the mid 1980's delegated this authority, within certain limits, to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. From the 2001-2002 through the 2005-2006 school years, the State Regents were authorized to increase tuition a maximum of 7 percent per year for Oklahoma residents, and 9 percent per year for nonresidents. Tuition rates at the professional schools (law, medicine, dental, veterinary medicine, etc.) could increase by 10 percent per year for residents and 15 percent per year for nonresidents during that time.

In the 2003 Legislative Session, the Legislature extended even more authority to the State Regents by allowing them to raise tuition by more than the seven and nine percent for residents and non-residents, respectively. The State Regents are now allowed to raise tuition at state higher education institutions to no more than the combined average of resident tuition and fees at the state-supported institutions of higher education that are members of the Big Twelve Conference. This change amounted to significant tuition and fee increases for the state's schools; in the 2004 school year, students at the University of Oklahoma saw residential tuition and fees increase nearly 28 percent, and at OSU, by nearly 27 percent.

All revenue derived from enrollment fees, nonresident tuition, and special fees for instruction and academic services are deposited in the institution's revolving fund for allocation for support of Part I of the institutions' educational and general budget.

HB 2103 from 2007 Legislative Session directs each institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to offer to resident students enrolling for the first time as a fulltime undergraduate beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, a tuition rate that will be guaranteed for a period of not less than four consecutive academic years at the comprehensive and regional universities at a rate not exceeding 115 percent of the institution's nonguaranteed resident tuition rate. Each institution shall provide students with the following information prior to enrollment:

- a. the annual tuition rate charged and the percentage increase for the previous four (4) academic years, and
- b. the annual tuition and percentage increase that the nonguaranteed tuition rate would have to increase to equal or exceed the guaranteed tuition rate for the succeeding four (4) academic years.

Undergraduate Tuition and Mandatory Fees Research Peer Public Universities

University	2011-2012	Nonresident	2013-2014	Nonresident
	Resident		Resident	
Texas	\$9,816	\$32,594	\$9,939	\$34,489
Texas Tech	\$9,064	\$18,454	\$9,243	\$19,863
Kansas	\$8,470	\$19,124	\$10,107	\$24,873
Kansas State	\$7,658	\$19,124	\$8,586	\$21,531
Iowa State	\$7,486	\$19,358	\$7,726	\$20,278
Oklahoma	\$7,125	\$18,078	\$7,341	\$19,530
Oklahoma State	\$7,107	\$18,455	\$7,442	\$20,027

Source: FY'12 – "FY 2011-12 Tuition Impact Analysis Report," Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Source: "FY'2013-14 Tuition Impact Analysis Report" Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

**Average Annual Cost of Attendance
Oklahoma Colleges and Universities
Full Time Undergraduate Students, FY'15**

<i>Average Cost of Attendance Full-Time Undergraduate Resident and Nonresident Students FY2015</i>						
Resident Students						
Tier	Research Universities	Regional Universities	Community Colleges	Technical Branches	OSU - Tulsa (Note 1)	OU Health Science Center (Note 1)
Tuition	4,276.50	4,311.02	2,573.13	3,174.75	4,425.00	4,128.00
Mandatory Fees	3,291.50	1,330.77	965.85	960.50	3,016.50	2,190.00
Average Academic Service Fees	1,098.47	392.68	144.69	247.53	805.15	1,168.21
Books & Supplies	875.00	1,234.59	1,150.58	1,450.00	1,030.00	7,095.00
Total Costs for Commuter Students	9,541.47	7,269.07	4,834.25	5,832.78	9,276.65	14,581.21
Room & Board	7,733.00	5,162.22	5,043.75	5,336.00	0.00	0.00
Total Costs for Students Living on Campus	17,274.47	12,431.29	9,878.00	11,168.78	N/A	N/A

Nonresident Students						
Tier	Research Universities	Regional Universities	Community Colleges	Technical Branches	OSU - Tulsa (Note 1)	OU Health Science Center (Note 1)
Tuition	16,956.00	11,721.28	7,198.30	9,017.25	17,010.00	16,902.00
Mandatory Fees	3,291.50	1,330.77	965.85	960.50	3,016.50	2,190.00
Average Academic Service Fees	1,098.47	392.68	144.69	247.53	805.15	1,168.21
Books & Supplies	875.00	1,234.59	1,150.58	1,450.00	1,030.00	7,095.00
Total Costs for Commuter Students	22,220.97	14,679.32	9,459.43	11,675.28	21,861.65	27,355.21
Room & Board	7,733.00	5,162.22	5,043.75	5,336.00	0.00	0.00
Total Costs for Students Living on Campus	29,953.97	19,841.54	14,503.18	17,011.28	N/A	N/A

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Full-time student costs are based on 30 credit hours per academic year

See Appendix 1 for institutional details

Note 1: These institutions do not have traditional dormitory facilities with board plans

Source: "FY 2014-15 Tuition and Fee Rates" Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

College Graduates in Oklahoma

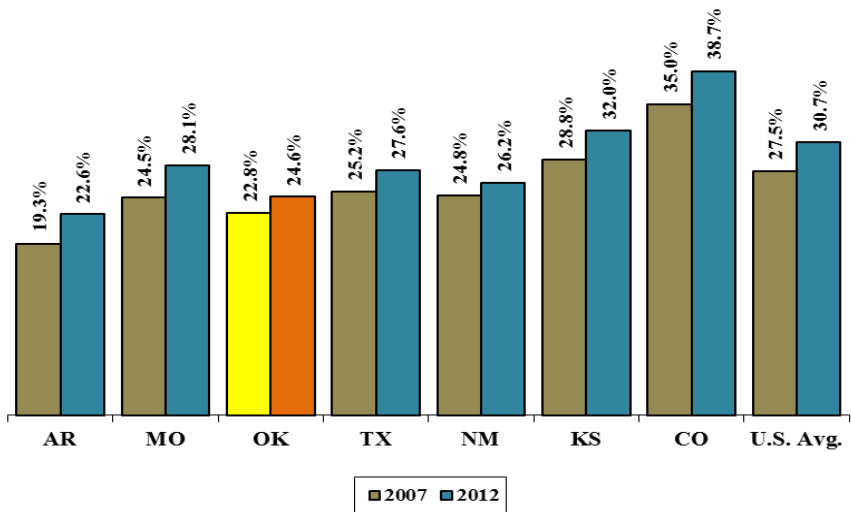
Over the past ten years, legislators and state regents have implemented a number of initiatives designed to increase the number of Oklahoma high school students ready for college level work, going to college, and graduating with a higher education degree. Increasing the number of adults with higher education degrees in Oklahoma is an important step in improving Oklahoma's economic future.

Increasing the number of college graduates in Oklahoma can be achieved one of two ways. First, the state may import more college graduates through increased higher wage jobs and economic development. Legislators have created and funded a number of programs through the Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology to improve higher-wage economic development opportunities in the state.

Another strategy the state regents are employing to increase the number of college graduates in Oklahoma is to increase the number of high school students entering college and college students remaining and matriculating with a higher education degree. Some programs are focused on encouraging more middle and high school students to take a college-preparatory curriculum and attend college while others are focused on college students.

Percentage of Population 25 Years of Age and Older With a College Degree

Oklahoma vs. Regional States and U.S., 2007 vs. 2012

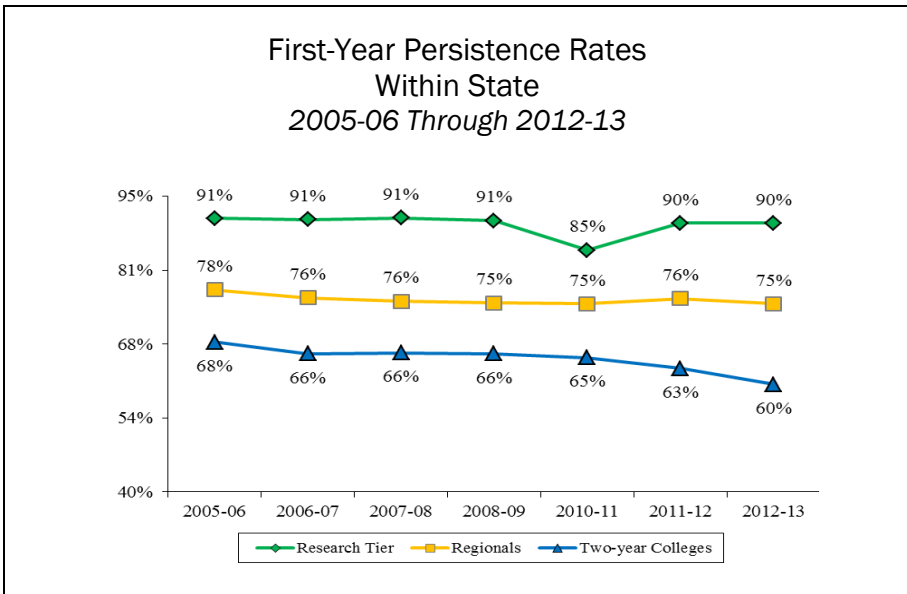


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

SB 1792 from the 2006 Legislative Session requires students beginning with those entering the ninth grade in the 2006-07 school year to complete a college preparatory/work ready curriculum to graduate from high school. However, it allows students to complete the current core curriculum in lieu of the college preparatory/work ready curriculum upon written parental approval.

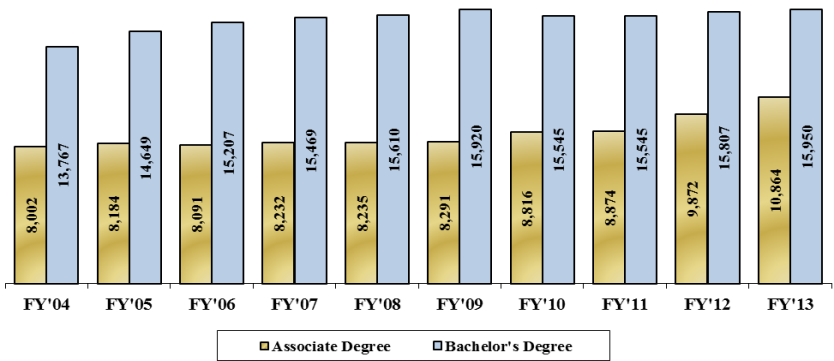
Recognizing the importance of retaining and graduating more students, institutions have worked over the past several years to increase retention and graduation rates. In 1999, the state regents launched the “Brain Gain 2010” campaign to increase the number of Oklahomans graduating with a college degree in Oklahoma. Task forces were formed at the state and institutional level to identify challenges and solutions to ensure more students and adults entered college and more students in college graduated with a higher education degree.

The most recent endeavor to increase the number of college graduates is called “Complete College America”. Oklahoma is one of twenty-nine states accepted to participate in the project due to the commitment to significantly increase the number of students successfully completing college and closing educational attainment gaps for traditionally underserved populations. Oklahoma will try to increase the number of degrees or certificates earned per year by 1,700 so that by 2023 there will be a 67% increase in the number earned. Five national foundations are providing multi-year support to CCA: the Carnegie Corporation, the Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, and the Lumina Foundation for Education.



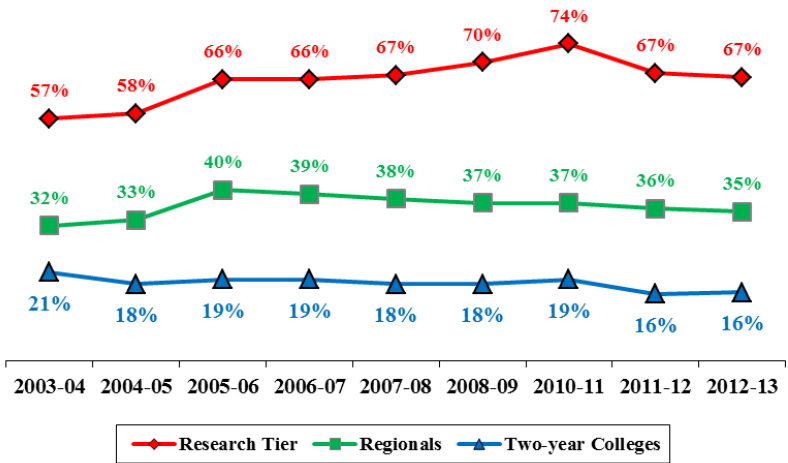
Source: State Regents for Higher Education

Degrees Conferred in Oklahoma
2004 Through 2013



Source: State Regents for Higher Education

Graduation Rates by Tier Within State
2003-04 Through 2012-13



Source: State Regents for Higher Education

In addition to the initiatives mentioned above, the Legislature has created a number of other programs designed to increase the number of graduates and help students and families finance the cost of higher education. These include the Oklahoma College Savings Plan Act and the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program which not only help families pay for college but help students complete college.

Oklahoma College Savings Plan Act

Established in 1998 and implemented in 2000, the Oklahoma College Savings Plan Act provides parents and others an opportunity to save for college costs by creating a trust fund for prospective students. Any person may open an account on behalf of a beneficiary with as little as \$100 and contribute as little as \$15 per pay period to the savings plan. A maximum of \$300,000 may be invested for each beneficiary. Among the plan's benefits:

- Contributions up to \$10,000/year per taxpayer and \$20,000/year per married couple can be deducted from Oklahoma taxable income;
- Funds are invested in a specific mix of securities, bonds and money market funds depending on the beneficiary's age;
- Withdrawals are exempt from state and federal taxes.
- Funds invested can be used to pay for almost all costs of attending an accredited or approved college, whether public or private, in-state or out-of-state; funds can also be used for approved business, trade, technical or other occupational schools such as Career-Tech;
- If the beneficiary decides not to attend college, account holders may switch the beneficiary or save the funds for a later date; and
- A person may open an account at any time irrespective of the beneficiary's age.

This is the state's only qualified tuition savings plan. As of January 2014, nearly 53,000 accounts have been opened with current assets totaling over \$594 million.

State Financial Aid and Scholarships

A number of programs are available to help students pay for college expenses. Some programs are based on financial need, and others are merit-based.

Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program (OTAG): OTAG provides a maximum annual award of 75 percent of enrollment costs or \$1,000, whichever is less, to low-income students residing in Oklahoma who are attending a public higher education institution at least part time. Students attending a private higher education institution in Oklahoma are eligible to receive a maximum \$1,300 award. For FY'14 an estimated 23,650 students were awarded \$19 million.

Academic Scholars Program: Ensuring Oklahoma's best students stay in Oklahoma to attain a higher education degree is the mission of this scholarship program. Students qualify for the program in one of three ways: (1) scoring among the top 0.5 percent of Oklahoma students on the ACT or SAT test; (2) receiving one of three official national designations, or (3) be nominated by a higher education institution (institutional nominee). The program provides \$5,500/year to students attending OU, OSU or University of Tulsa; \$4,000/year to students attending an Oklahoma four-year public or private college or university; or \$3,500 for students attending Oklahoma two-year colleges if they are eligible under the first two criteria. In the of Fall of 2003, awards provided under the institutional nominee designation became half of all amounts listed above. In order to remain eligible for these awards, students must maintain a 3.25 GPA and complete 24 hours of courses a year. For FY'13, nearly 2,300 students were enrolled in the program.

Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP) – Oklahoma's Promise: This program's mission is to provide tuition assistance to students who might not otherwise attend or complete college. Qualifying students in families who earn less than \$50,000 annually upon application and less than \$100,000 annually when the student begins college receive free tuition assistance to any public or private higher education institution in Oklahoma for up to five years. In order to qualify, students must enroll in the program by the 10th grade, must agree to take a college preparatory curriculum, must have a grade point average of at least 2.5 in high school and must refrain from unlawful behavior. OHLAP eligibility requirements for students were modified by adding a requirement for students to be U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the United States as well as by allowing access to students who are both home schooled and achieve an ACT composite score of at least 22.

To retain OHLAP eligibility, students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.0 through their sophomore year and a minimum GPA of 2.5 during their junior year and thereafter. Students will also lose their program benefits if they are expelled or suspended for more than one semester from an institution of higher education.

OHLAP was further modified to extend the time period during which high school graduates must enroll in postsecondary studies to receive the OHLAP benefit if they are members of the Armed Forces and ordered to active duty. Also, financial aid eligibility requirements to qualify for OHLAP were modified for any student who was adopted while in permanent custody of DHS, in court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency or federally recognized Indian tribe.

SB 820 from the 2007 legislative session created a permanent funding source for OHLAP. Each year, the State Regents for Higher Education will provide the State Board of Equalization with an estimate of the amount of revenue necessary to fund OHLAP awards. The Board will make a determination of that amount and subtract it from the amount it certifies as available for appropriation from the

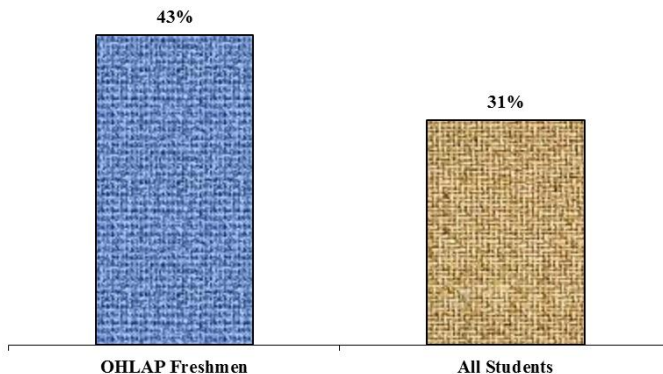
General Revenue Fund. The Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services will transfer this amount to the OHLAP Trust Fund on a periodic basis as needed. Revenues from horse racing and the State-Tribal Gaming Act that had been deposited to the OHLAP Trust Fund were directed to the General Revenue Fund beginning July 1, 2008.

There were multiple bills from the 2011 Legislature that amended the OHLAP program:

- SB 610 requires the second income check for families of OHLAP students to be based on the federal adjusted gross income. It also delayed until the 2012-2013 school year the GPA requirements for students receiving OHLAP.
- HB 1343 allows a student to participate in OHLAP if the student is a child of any person killed in the line of duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces after January 1, 2000.
- HB 1421 requires that for OHLAP students to retain eligibility, they must maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for eligibility for federal Title IV financial aid programs.

In FY'13, there were 19,619 students receiving an award in college. Of the 2014 graduating class, 9,663 students have enrolled in the program. Studies show that OHLAP students are much less likely to require remediation classes to prepare them for college-level work and are more likely to remain in college through the third year.

Degree Completion Rates Five-year Degree Completion Rate for *OHLAP Students vs. All Students*



Source: State Regents for Higher Education

Regional University Baccalaureate Scholarship: This program provides \$3,000 and a tuition waiver to students who have received an official national designation, such as National Merit Finalist, or have achieved an ACT composite score of at least 30. Scholarships are available only to students attending one of the Oklahoma public four-year regional universities. For FY'14 there were 314 scholarship recipients.

Teacher Shortage Employment Incentive Program: The Teacher Shortage Employment Incentive Program (TSEIP) was created in 2000 by SB 1393 to recruit and retain mathematics and science teachers in Oklahoma public schools. The incentive is the reimbursement of student loan expenses upon teaching five consecutive years in Oklahoma public schools. If there are no remaining student loans, the teacher will receive the same amount in a stipend. As of January 2014, 347 teachers were enrolled in the program. Thirty-seven of the first 44 teachers that enrolled in 2001 received a benefit of \$10,347 at the end of the 2006 school year. 2006 was the first year that teachers were eligible for the benefit. The most recent benefit paid totaled \$16,936.

Future Teachers Scholarship: Up to \$1,500/year is awarded to full-time upperclassmen and graduate students who intend to teach a subject in which there is a critical need of teachers. In order to qualify, students must have graduated in the top 15 percent of their high school graduating class, scored at or above the 85th percentile on the ACT or similar test, or have been accepted for admission to a professional accredited education program in Oklahoma. Lesser amounts are available to underclassmen and part-time students. There were 102 people participating in this program in 2013-14.

National Guard Tuition Waiver: Members of the Army or Air National Guard who are pursuing an associate or baccalaureate degree at a state system institution receive an award amount equal to the cost of resident tuition. For FY'14 there were over 2,200 students participating in this program.

Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant: This program was established in 2003 to assist Oklahoma college students in meeting the cost of attendance at non-public post-secondary institutions within the state. To qualify, a student must be an Oklahoma resident; be a full-time undergraduate; attend a qualified Oklahoma not-for-profit, private, or independent institution of higher education located in Oklahoma; have a family income of \$50,000 or less; and meet their institution's policy on satisfactory academic progress for financial aid recipients. Recipients can receive the \$2,000 award for up to five years after their first semester of post-secondary enrollment, not to exceed the requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program. In FY'14, approximately 2,135 students received a grant.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Energy and Environment Agencies

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Most legislation relating to protection of our state's natural resources and regulation of the industries utilizing those resources is assigned to the Senate Energy Committee. These issues include regulation and management of: water resources; protection of land, air and water quality; exploration of oil and gas including pipelines, refineries, royalty and mineral owner concerns and surface damages; generation and distribution of electric power, including wind energy; telecommunications; and mining of coal, aggregates and other minerals as well as monitoring and working with the regulatory agencies responsible for governing these areas such as the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Corporation Commission.

Legislative and regulatory authority over these issues and the agencies assigned to protect our state's natural resources is of great importance to our citizens and the industries which invest billions of dollars in our state's infrastructure to provide the energy resources and utility services on which our citizens depend.

Following are brief highlights of the major issue areas and recent legislative efforts in those areas.

WATER

Any legislation dealing with water can easily become the biggest and most emotional issue in a legislative session. No citizen, industry, tribal or governmental entity is without a vital interest in even the slightest amendment to laws governing the ownership, regulation and permitting of the quantity and quality of our state's waters.

In the last decade there have been several moratoriums enacted in an attempt to prevent large transfers of water out of state. Of particular concern was the State of Texas seeking water from Southeastern Oklahoma to serve the growing population in the north Dallas area. These various moratoriums have been amended over the years, but based on federal court decisions resulting from

lawsuits brought by Tarrant County, Texas, at least two of the moratorium statutes are now determined to be void. Ultimately Texas lost their legal battle in the U.S. Supreme Court but it is likely they will continue to pursue water resources from Oklahoma in the future.

There are two other important and ongoing legal battles: One is over the City of Oklahoma City seeking a permit to transfer water from the Sardis Reservoir in Southeast Oklahoma. The Chickasaw and Choctaw Tribes strongly opposed this permit and reject the State of Oklahoma's legal authority and ownership of this water. The tribes filed a lawsuit in federal court to object and the issue is currently in mediation under the supervision of the Western District of the federal District Court. This mediation process alone, which is only the first step in granting OKC an actual permit, is likely to continue for at least one to two more years.

There is also an appeal of the Oklahoma Water Resource Board's order setting the Maximum Annual Yield for the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer. This lawsuit was filed by a large group of industry and landowner representatives in the Oklahoma County District Court. Once that court makes a decision, expected sometime in 2015, it is almost certain to be challenged by the losing party and appealed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

OIL AND GAS

While legislation affecting oil and gas tax credits is critically important and receives a great deal of attention by the Legislature due to the impact on our state budget, regulatory issues affecting day-to-day operations of both large and small producers, royalty owners and surface owners often attract much attention at the Capitol. One example of this is the increasing public concern over recent earthquake swarms and their possible connection to oil and gas activity. Even though the Corporation Commission, a constitutional entity, is charged with permitting and regulation of oil and gas activities, many of the requirements governing those activities are statutorily enacted or amended by the Legislature. Considering such activities are a vital part of the economy in this state, there will always be great interest in legislation affecting all aspects of the industry, from initial drilling through distribution of refined products to consumers.

In recent sessions (2013-2014) there have been a few bills filed and much discussion about increasing the number of acres included in well spacing permits. Gas well spacing is based on one square mile (640 acre) increments, and due to modern drilling methods such as deep-well and horizontal drilling that statute may be outdated. However, to date there has been no firm agreement among the various stakeholders on new well spacing measurements.

ELECTRIC GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The financial investment in electric power generation and distribution facilities and infrastructure is unparalleled in comparison to all other major industries in this state; and regulation of this industry, by statute and the authority vested in the Corporation Commission, is of great importance to both the industry and all Oklahoma consumers.

Currently, the electric service providers and consumer watch organizations are greatly concerned about the requirement for Oklahoma utility providers to come into compliance with new air-quality standards issued by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Meeting the new requirements will force our state utility providers to make costly modifications to aging coal-fired generation units. Like all costs of service, ratepayers will ultimately pay for these modifications and the Corporation Commission is in the process of authorizing rate increases to recoup these costs.

Wind power generation has continued to increase, and according to the American Wind Energy Association, as of April, 2014, our state ranks 6th nationally in total megawatts (MW) installed and 8th in highest number of utility-scale wind turbines. During the 2014 session, there were several important pieces of legislation relating to wind energy due to citizen complaints. At least one lawsuit filed in federal court against large wind generation facilities moving closer to populated areas concerning the lack of state regulation or permitting of siting such facilities. Legislation was enacted in 2014 directing the Corporation Commission to conduct a Notice of Inquiry and begin a rulemaking process to address these concerns.

In anticipation of future technological advances in electric generation technology, a measure was enacted in 2014 at the request of electric service providers to establish a separate tariff for consumers who choose to install “distributed generation” facilities in their homes. With currently available technology this would only apply to some 700 homes throughout the state but more importantly, it sets a policy that consumers choosing to install any type of self-generating electric service and remain connected to the traditional electric grid shall not be subsidized by other ratepayers who are purchasing electric power from the provider. That is a simplified explanation of a rather complicated rate-setting process whereby certain distribution costs are mingled with electric rates and these costs are applied to various classes of consumers. The Corporation Commission is charged with establishing all these rates including the amount of the tariff established by this act. The amount of which will probably not be significant enough to deter any customer interested in installing such equipment in their home.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

While issues relating to telephone, internet and cable television are largely federally regulated, there are certain state regulated activities that often receive much attention when they occur. Nearly every session there are bills attempting to modify the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund. The OUSF was created in 1997 to provide basic local toll-free calling service to rural customers at reasonable and affordable rates comparable to the access in urban areas and internet access for all public schools, libraries, not-for-profit hospitals, certain qualified health centers and mental health facilities (added in 2014). Based on the number of customers and facilities eligible to receive funding from the OUSF, the Corporation Commission determines the level of funding necessary and sets a tariff which in turn is added to the bills of Oklahoma telephone customers. There is a separate, Oklahoma Lifeline Fund, created to provide low-income Oklahomans assistance in maintaining basic local exchange telephone service.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Department of Environmental Quality was created in 1993 to streamline environmental regulation previously provided haphazardly by nine different state agencies into a smaller and more organized system of state environmental agencies that cooperate to protect the water, land and air of our state. Each state environmental agency, which in addition to DEQ include, the Corporation Commission, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the State Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Department of Mines, work in coordination to enforce the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Act under their jurisdictional area and also operate under the coordination of the Secretary of Energy and Environment.

From its inception in 1993, DEQ was organized differently than most other state agencies in that under the governance of a thirteen member Environmental Quality Board, there are eight smaller advisory councils made up of representatives of the industries they represent for the purpose of actually drafting rules, which are later adopted by the Environmental Quality Board, and working with the agency staff to govern these issues: Air Quality, Hazardous Waste, Laboratory Services, Radiation Management, Small Business Compliance, Solid Waste Management, Water Quality Management and Waterworks and Wastewater Works. These smaller councils, with direct knowledge and experience in these various industries are involved partners working closely with agency staff and are highly regarded by the regulated industries.

The major tasks of the environmental regulatory agencies are outlined by the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Act (27A O.S. 1-3-101). There are six state agencies responsible for environmental regulations:

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

Oklahoma Conservation Commission

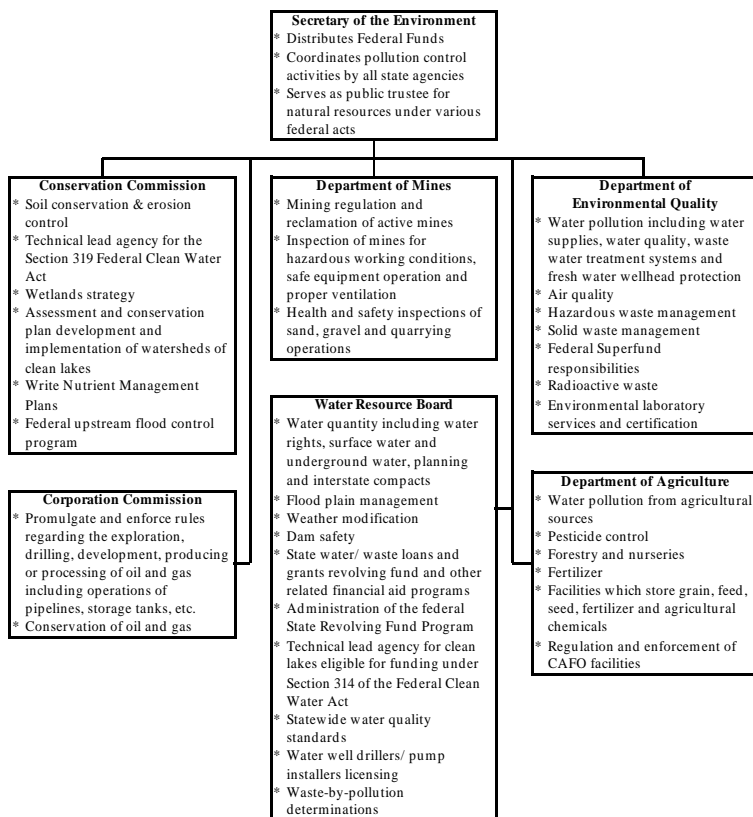
The Conservation Commission's primary responsibilities lie in the preservation and development of Oklahoma's natural resources. The commission has the responsibility for providing assistance to all 88 conservation districts in the areas of erosion prevention and control, prevention of flood and sediment damage, development of water resources, environmental education coordination, administration of the state Cost-Share Program, maintenance of small upstream flood control structures, abandoned mine land reclamation and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

State Department of Agriculture

The State Department of Agriculture was created to protect, improve and develop all of the state's agricultural resources, and to increase the contribution of agriculture to the state's economy. The department forms educational and economic partnerships, encourages value-added processing of Oklahoma's raw agricultural resources, and develops domestic and international markets for the state's agricultural commodities and products. The agency enforces laws and rules pertaining to food safety, water quality, and agricultural-related product or service quality along with monitoring concentrated animal feeding operations.

Department of Environmental Quality

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provides comprehensive environmental protection and program management. DEQ is responsible for the principal environmental regulatory functions of air quality, water quality, and solid waste and hazardous waste management.



Oklahoma Water Resources Board

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) manages the waters of the state and plans for Oklahoma's long-range water needs to ensure an adequate supply of quality water. The primary function of the agency has been to administer the state's water rights program, both from ground water and stream water. The OWRB also administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which provide loans to qualified entities needing financial assistance to construct water and sewer projects. The OWRB completed the updated version of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan in 2011.

Corporation Commission

Established in 1907 by the Oklahoma Constitution, the mission of the Corporation Commission is to regulate the activities of public utilities, oil and gas drilling, production and waste disposal; motor carriers, the storage, quality and dispensing of petroleum products, and other hazardous liquid handlers. The commission also monitors Oklahoma compliance with a number of federal programs.

The Commission is comprised of three statewide elected officials. They serve six-year terms that are staggered so that a vacancy occurs every two years.

Department of Mines

The Department of Mines protects the environment through the enforcement of state and federal laws related to surface and sub-surface mining. Additionally, the department inspects mines for hazardous conditions, directs special consideration towards working conditions, verifies the safety of equipment operation, ensures proper ventilation, and regulates blasting activities.

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

The Legislature has supported various programs designed to monitor and remediate the state's natural resources. The following programs highlight the state's commitment to a sound environment.

Water Quality Monitoring (BUMP)

During the 1998 session, the OWRB was authorized and provided funding to implement a coordinated and comprehensive state water quality monitoring effort, known as the Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP).

Oklahoma's water resources are regulated through the promulgation of water quality standards, required by the federal government and developed by the OWRB. Beneficial uses are assigned to every water segment in Oklahoma. By statute, each state environmental agency is tasked with ensuring the maintenance of these beneficial uses. BUMP is designed to gather scientifically and legally defensible baseline water quality trend data. The data will be used to assess and identify sources of water quality impairment, detect water quality trends, provide needed information for the development of water quality standards, and facilitate the prioritization of pollution control activities.

BUMP is composed of five key elements or tasks, one of which has not been implemented due to funding constraints:

- **River and Stream Monitoring:** 103 sites are sampled monthly for water quality. These sites are segregated into two distinct types of monitoring activities: fixed sites and rotating sites;
- **Fixed Station Load Monitoring:** Collection of water quantity flow data is used to track long-term trends. This component is currently unfunded;
- **Fixed Station Lakes Monitoring:** Currently 34 lakes are being sampled. The effort involves the sampling of about three stations per reservoir, but varies due to size;

- Fixed Station Groundwater Monitoring: Focusing on groundwater will involve monitoring existing wells. Funding was provided in the 2012 legislative session and this component will be implemented in the coming year; and
- Intensive Investigation Sampling: This element attempts to document the source of water impairment and recommend restorative actions. This component is currently unfunded.

Superfund Remediation

The Superfund Program is administered by DEQ in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which provides almost all the funding. Superfund is the federal program to monitor and remediate the nation's uncontrolled hazardous waste sites as well as the sites that pose the greatest threat to human health and the environment. Nationwide, EPA has identified 1,348 sites on the National Priorities List (NPL). In Oklahoma, there are eight NPL sites, five deleted sites and one proposed site. The current eight sites are:

- Oklahoma Refining (Cyril);
- Imperial Refining (Ardmore);
- Tulsa Fuels and Manufacturing (Collinsville);
- Tar Creek (Ottawa County);
- Hudson Refining (Cushing);
- Tinker Air Force (Midwest City);
- Mosley Road Sanitary Landfill (Oklahoma City); and
- Hardage/Criner (McClain County).

Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP)

The Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) was established in 1996 to stimulate the economic development of the infrastructure in rural Oklahoma. For FY'13, the appropriations to REAP totaled about \$11.5 million.

The appropriation is given to the REAP fund and divided equally among 10 Substate Planning Districts resulting in two of the districts receiving half of a portion for rural economic development planning and implementation of projects. Provisions of REAP restrict grants to cities or towns with a population of less than 7,000. Also, the selection process gives priority to cities or towns with a population of less than 1,700.

Other REAP funds were derived from the apportionment of gross production revenues. During the 2006 legislative session, legislation was passed that divided the oil and gas gross production REAP funds three ways until 2014, between the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB), the Conservation Commission, and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD). OWRB will use their portion of the funds to continue dealing with water infrastructure needs and also to conduct the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. The Conservation Commission will use their portion for the rehabilitation of watershed dams and for the Conservation Cost Share Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. OTRD will use their portion for the purpose of one-time capital expenditures for capital assets owned, managed or controlled by the department. The department plans on using the funds to focus on environmental issues as identified by DEQ.

The current three-way division of the oil and gas gross production REAP funds was extended to the year 2016 during the 2012 legislative session.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

State Department of Health

Medicaid

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) protects and promotes health, prevents disease and injury, and helps to create conditions by which Oklahomans can be healthy. This is achieved through statewide programs that range from rapid identification and response to disease outbreaks, medical and public health emergency response, protection of the population through inspection (e.g. restaurants, medical facilities) and implementing statewide evidence based initiatives that improve health (e.g. Preparing for a Lifetime). Local public health efforts through most county health departments are also coordinated by the OSDH.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

The public health effort has evolved over the state's history as new health problems, and new ideas for combating them, have emerged. Services that fall within OSDH's mandate include:

- Providing free immunizations for children who lack resources in order to prevent contagious illnesses;
- Providing prenatal and infant care, including access to nutritious foods and nurse home visitation services, to improve infant health outcomes among low-income women;
- Providing perinatal and reproductive health services to ensure readiness to parents and improved children's health;
- Providing food establishment inspections to prevent food-borne diseases.

Health departments offer direct services that protect the community or derive a greater community benefit. Many clients are charged a fee based on their ability to pay for these services, however, some traditional infectious disease services are provided free of charge to ensure prevention of the spread of disease to the community and unnecessary cost to the healthcare system and businesses. Primary care, treating diseases and medical conditions after their onset, is not the agency's mission however ensuring the availability of care is one of the ten

essential public health services and is provided through data collection, designation of shortage areas and coordination with health workforce entities. Health department clinics provide preventive services and education to avert the onset of illness and disease; for example, by providing vaccines to children, running educational anti-smoking or healthy infant campaigns. Treatment is only provided as a means of community prevention or, in rare cases, extreme healthcare shortages. (e.g., tuberculosis and sexually-transmitted diseases).

OSDH serves as the statewide coordinator of public health services. The central office provides administrative, laboratory and program services to support local agencies and also provides state level programs in order to be effective, create efficiency and achieve an economy of scale. Seventy counties are served by county-supported health departments. The other seven counties – Alfalfa, Cimmaron, Dewey, Ellis, Nowata, Roger Mills and Washita – do not contribute local funding to support a health department location. These seven counties receive only state-mandated services (i.e., environmental inspections, outbreak investigation, public health and medical emergency response and immunization). Non-state mandated services, such as early intervention services, are available only in counties that contribute local funds to the public health effort. Oklahoma City and Tulsa are served by city-county health departments that are administratively autonomous (guided by their own boards) but must comply with policies of the State Board of Health. Counties may assess property taxes of up to 2.5 mills to fund operations of local health departments. Sixty-seven counties do so, most of them at the highest millage allowed by the Oklahoma Constitution. Three counties provide local support via sales taxes.

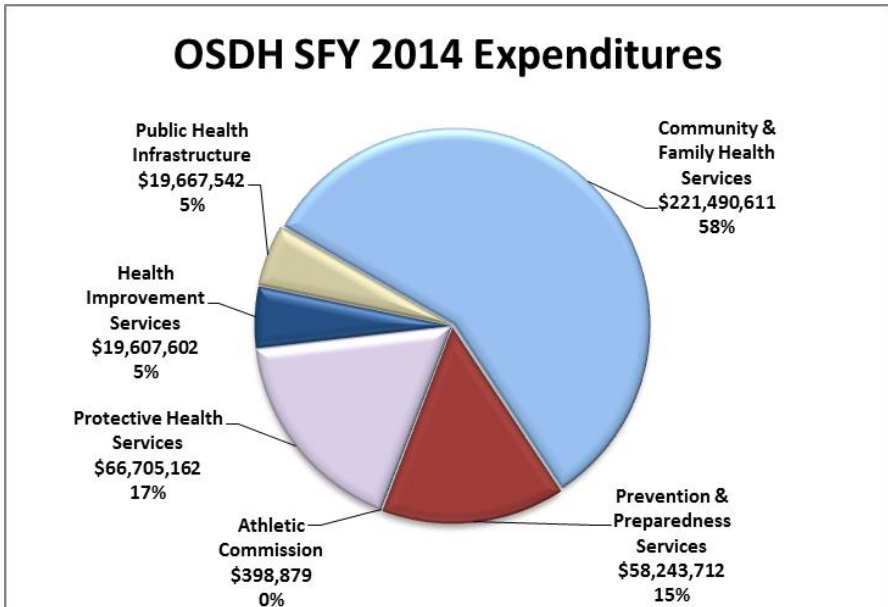
FUNDING BY REVENUE SOURCE

The majority of anticipated OSDH SFY 2014 expenditures, \$220.7 million or 57.2 percent were supported by federal funding sources (WIC, Medicaid and various categorical federal grants and cooperative agreements from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). State appropriations supported \$62.7 million or 16.3 percent, fees charged to clients (for such services as copies of birth and death certificates, and occupational and restaurant licensing) supported \$59.6 million or 15.4 percent and county millage funded \$43 million or 11.1 percent of anticipated expenditures.

SFY 2014 Expenditures	General Revenue	Revolving (Fees and other Revenues)	Federal	Millage	Total
Community & Family Health Services	37,029,873	3,345,368	138,087,525	43,027,845	221,490,611
Prevention and Preparedness Services	10,166,151	2,121,516	45,956,045	-	58,243,712
Athletic Commission	200,000	198,879		-	398,879
Protective Health Services	4,881,257	41,769,429	20,054,476	-	66,705,162
Health Improvement Services	7,621,969	8,854,474	3,131,159	-	19,607,602
Public Health Infrastructure	2,814,901	3,378,063	13,474,578	-	19,667,542
Total	62,714,151	59,667,729	220,703,783	43,027,845	386,113,508

FUNDING BY SERVICE

The sources of funding vary widely for different health department program activities. Given that state appropriations to the OSDH account for less than 1% of all appropriated dollars in the state, few activities are funded solely with state appropriations. Most programs are implemented utilizing a variety of funding streams and several function with no appropriated dollars. In some cases, each \$1 of appropriations for a particular program is used to access from \$1 to \$9 in federal funds.



SERVICES PROVIDED BY OSDH

Prevention and Preparedness Services

Prevention and Preparedness Services (PPS) is comprised of nine public health prevention and/or surveillance services: Public Health Laboratory, Acute Disease, Chronic Disease, HIV/STD, Immunization, Injury Prevention, Office of the State Epidemiologist, Emergency Preparedness and Response and Screening and Special Services.

Public Health Laboratory Service: The Public Health Laboratory is CLIA-certified and provides essential laboratory services to local county health departments, agency programs and private health providers. Such services include analytical testing, training and technical assistance as well as pharmacy services for county health departments.

Acute Disease Service: The primary responsibility of this program is to control communicable diseases through surveillance, investigation of disease outbreaks, analysis of data to plan, implement and evaluate disease prevention and control measures, dissemination of pertinent information and education of healthcare professionals and the public.

Chronic Disease Service: The mission of this program is to prevent death and disability from chronic diseases and conditions such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Activities to accomplish this mission include screening for early detection of disease and promoting healthy behaviors throughout the lifespan.

HIV/STD Service: The mission of the HIV/STD Service is to protect and promote the public's health by intervening in the transmission of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and other sexually transmitted diseases. Primarily federally funded, the Service provides statewide programs for the surveillance and prevention of HIV and other STD's. The agency also helps eligible participants pay for prescriptions under the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Immunization Service: Immunizations help to reduce and eliminate morbidity and mortality caused by vaccine preventable diseases by supplying public and private health care providers with childhood and adult vaccines, and by performing immunization quality improvement assessments at schools, public and private clinics and child care centers.

Injury Prevention Service: Injuries are the third leading cause of death in Oklahoma and the leading cause of death among children and young adults 1–44 years of age. Many, if not most, of these injuries are preventable. The mission of this service is to improve the health of Oklahomans by working in collaboration with communities and stakeholders to identify injury problems, then develop, implement and evaluate environmental modifications and educational

interventions. Some of the successful focus areas have been car seat safety, fire safety, and prevention of traumatic spinal cord injuries.

Office of the State Epidemiologist: The role of the State Epidemiologist is to serve as a medical consultant and provide epidemiologic consultation to the agency on matters relating to infectious disease, immunizations, preparedness and response; supervise the investigation of disease outbreaks; consult on the preparation and implementation of various grants and research activities; represent the agency with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); supervise the collection and analysis of disease surveillance data; oversee the publication of various educational materials; and act as the media spokesperson for the agency on epidemiologic matters.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Service: This program is intended to plan, prepare and respond to a public health disaster or adverse event using an all-hazards approach. It involves coordination with all agencies and entities that would be involved in a response including hospitals, state, local, and city, public, private and military groups. Activities include assessment, planning, exercises, detection, education, enhanced disease surveillance and a rapid notification system.

Screening and Special Services: The mission of this program is to provide statewide surveillance, screening and specialized programs to protect Oklahoma's children and their families. Programs in this service area include: Genetics, Newborn screening, Newborn Hearing Screening, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and the Oklahoma Birth Defects Registry.

Community and Family Health Services

The Community and Family Health Services provide oversight and direction to the sixty eight (68) organized county health departments in the state. Additionally, central office programs focus primarily on preserving and improving the health of women, adolescents, and babies. Community and Family Health Services acts as the liaison between the county health departments and all programs housed within the state health department. The mission of Community and Family Health Services (CFHS) is to strengthen the capacities of local Public Health Agencies through workforce education, leadership training, performance management, program research, development of strategic alliances, and community education. A primary responsibility is to enhance the capacity at the state and local levels for the development of population-based and clinical preventive services to meet community defined needs.

County Health Departments: The 68 county health departments are under the jurisdiction of OSDH and establish priorities in collaboration with communities and to implement program specific guidelines for OSDH defined goals and objectives. A basic function of county government, county health departments develop, implement and administer programs and services that are aimed at maintaining a healthy community. County residents are encouraged to participate

in assessing public health needs and in formulating a community health plan. It also works with other community organizations to assure needed services and programs are available. These units also play a primary role in the development and implementation of emergency response plans at this level.

Child Guidance and SoonerStart (Early Intervention) Services: The Child Guidance Service is administered in regional county health departments and the Childcare Warmline, which offers free telephone consultation and referrals to child care providers. These programs provide support and training to parents, childcare providers, educators, the medical community and youth. The agency also staffs the Early Intervention (SoonerStart) program, primarily funded through the State Department of Education, for infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months, who have developmental delays.

Dental Health Service: The program provides leadership in oral disease prevention, anticipates needs, and mobilizes efforts that will help protect and promote good oral health for Oklahoma citizens. Oral health screening and small-scale treatment is provided for children and nursing home residents in some areas through contracts with providers. There is also a school-based dental education program, a fluoridation program to improve the state's drinking water supply and the Dental Loan Repayment Program.

Family Support and Prevention Service: Family Support and Prevention Service promotes the health, safety and wellness of Oklahoma's children and families by administering visitation programs for low-resource mothers and provides training and assistance to organizations/agencies that service families with young children. The agency directs resources to improve health outcomes and parenting skills in an effort to avert child abuse, unplanned repeat pregnancies and other adverse outcomes.

Maternal and Child Health Service: This service area provides leadership, in partnership with key stakeholders, to county health departments and non-profit clinics to improve the physical and mental health, safety, and well-being of the Oklahoma maternal and child health population. They develop and promote best practices for women's and men's reproductive health and the health of babies. The agency also provides community-based programs aimed at lowering the state's teen birthrate through local agreements with county health departments and community-based organizations.

Nursing Service: Public health nurses comprise the largest segment of Oklahoma's public health workforce. Nursing Service is responsible for the support of Oklahoma's public health nurses by providing clinical practice guidelines and orders, continuing education and training opportunities, performance improvement activities and professional development.

Record Evaluation and Support Service: This service supports effective and efficient operations of county health department services by ensuring patient records are organized and maintained to conform to medico-legal standards. It provides on-site training and software support for agency computer application programs for data collection, billing, and patient records.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Service: This federally funded program provides nutritious foods to supplement the diets of women, infants, and children (approximately 100,000 per month). WIC foods are specifically chosen to provide the needed nutrients. The agency provides nutrition classes, interactive online education and fitness group classes, and private consultation with nutrition experts.

Protective Health Services

OSDH has responsibility for a wide range of regulatory services in areas that affect the health of citizens. Regulatory responsibilities include enforcing laws and rules, performing routine inspections, investigating complaints, and issuing, renewing and revoking licenses. The majority of expenditures for this division come from licensure fees, trauma disbursements and Federal Medicaid and Medicare funds which help support health and medical facility inspections conducted by OSDH employees.

Long-Term Care Service: Long Term Care Service oversees the health and safety of residents living in licensed long-term care facilities. Long-term care facilities include nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, residential care homes, assisted living centers, continuum of care homes and Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals who are Intellectually Disabled.

Medical Facilities Service: Medical Facilities Service is comprised of three main programs; Medical Facilities, Trauma and Emergency Medical Services. The Medical Facilities program licenses and certifies health care facilities in accordance with State and Federal Laws. It has responsibility for inspection, licensure and Medicare certification of all non-long term care medical facilities in Oklahoma. The Emergency Medical Services develops rules for administering emergency response systems in the state and performs other functions such as; developing a comprehensive plan for EMS development, EMS testing and licensure and collection of statewide EMS data. The Trauma program is responsible for facilitating and coordinating a multidisciplinary system response to severely injured patients in Oklahoma. The Trauma system continuum of care includes; EMS field intervention, emergency department care, surgical interventions, intensive and general surgical in-hospital care, rehabilitation services and support groups to enable both the patient and their family to return to society at the most productive level possible.

Consumer Health Service: This service has four programs. The Consumer Protection program is responsible for licensing, monitoring and inspecting hotels and motels, eating and drinking establishments, retail and wholesale food outlets, food manufacturers, public bathing places and all sources of ionizing radiation. The Occupational Licensing program protects life and property by licensing and inspecting the alarm and locksmith industry, barbers, hearing aid dealers, home inspectors and sanitarians. The Professional Counselor Licensing program promotes and enforces laws and regulations which govern the practices of Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marital and Family Therapists, Licensed Behavioral Practitioners and Licensed Genetic Counselors.

Health Resources Development Service: This service performs health protection and public assurance functions in the following program areas: Health Facility Systems, Managed Care Systems, Nurse Aide and Non-Technical Services Workers Registry, Home Care Administrator Registry and Jail Inspections.

Quality Improvement and Evaluation Service: The Quality Improvement and Evaluation Service is responsible for coordinating activities and database functions that fall under the umbrella of the national QualityNet System developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Data is collected from many of the facilities overseen by Long-Term Care Service and Medical Facilities Service. The collected data is used by researchers studying trends in health care and as a mechanism for Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements.

Health Improvement Services

Partnerships for Health Improvements: Focuses primarily on improving health of disparate populations and developing partnerships to improve the health of all Oklahomans by bringing coalitions and multi-sectorial groups together to solve complex health problems.

Center for Health Statistics: Provides enterprise-level support for public health programs through data collection, analytics, dissemination, quality assurance, governance, privacy and security. The Center for Health Statistics includes two divisions: Health Care Information and Public Health Informatics. The Health Care Information division is responsible for ongoing analysis and evaluation of patterns and trends in the health status of Oklahomans, the utilization and costs of health care services, and the capability of the various components of the health care industry to provide needed services. The Public Health Informatics division is responsible for promoting and practicing the science of informatics through standard data and information practices, governance and administration of enterprise information systems.

Center for the Advancement of Wellness: Focuses on state level interventions/partnerships to reduce tobacco use and obesity. This includes providing technical assistance to local communities and other partners, conducting health promotion, supporting cessation programs, and providing health education. These efforts are coordinated closely with the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and Tribal partners across the state.

Center for Health Innovation & Effectiveness: Conducts planning and implements coordinated initiatives with healthcare systems to improve population health, increase healthcare quality and create efficiencies in the healthcare. Collects data and assess and healthcare workforce and plans for improved access to care.

Vital Records: Responsible for registering every birth and death which occurs in the state as well as preserving, amending and issuing certified copies of those records in accordance with state law.

Communications: Responsible for internal and external communications through three key functions: media relations, electronic communications, and written publications.



MEDICAID

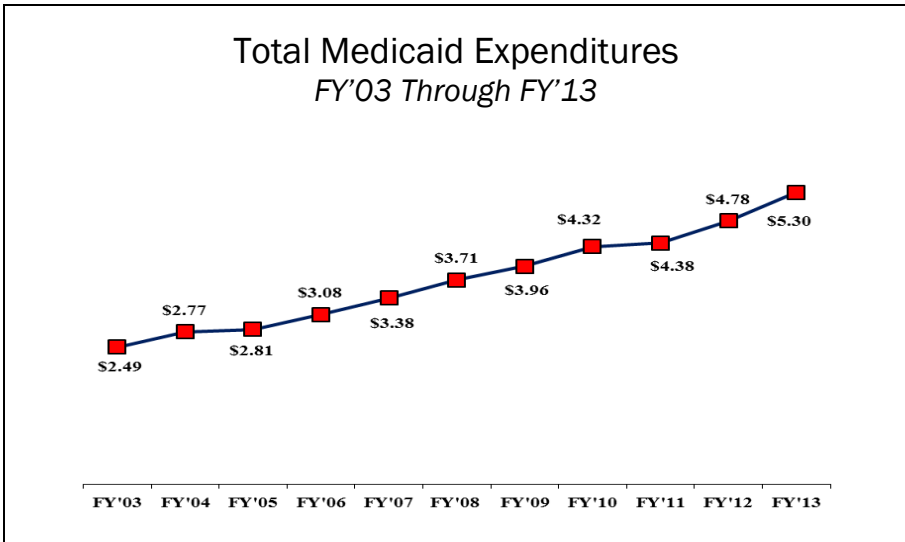
Medicaid, also known as Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act, is the primary mechanism for financing health care for low-income Americans. Unlike Medicare, which targets the elderly and is 100 percent federally funded, Medicaid is administered by state governments within certain guidelines set by the federal government.

Federal law requires every state to designate a single agency to administer its Medicaid program. Since 1993, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) has been the designated agency in Oklahoma. Prior to that time, the Medicaid program was administered by the Department of Human Services (OKDHS). OHCA contracts with DHS to determine if certain individuals qualify for SoonerCare. Individuals who are disabled, aged, in custody, qualified for cash assistance or receive State supplemental payment are processed and approved or denied by OKDHS. Applications and renewals for these programs are reviewed by each OKDHS county office for financial and/or medical qualifications. Once an individual meets the qualifications and completes the enrollment process, his or her records are sent to OHCA to coordinate medical benefits and make payments for services. All other applicants are processed through the Online Enrollment System.

FINANCING

Medicaid is funded through a federal-state partnership. The federal share of the program, also known as the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), varies by state in inverse relation to a state's per capita income. For most services, Oklahoma's FMAP for FFY'13 was 62.30%. On average, for every one state dollar that Oklahoma Medicaid spends, Oklahoma receives \$1.78 in federal money. (The federal match for administrative expenses ranges from 50 percent to 90 percent, while some program expenditures are also eligible for matching rates of approximately 79 percent to 100 percent.)

In FY'13, the state share appropriated to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority was \$907 million. Total program dollar expenditures were estimated to be in excess of \$5.3 billion.



While OHCA is the main beneficiary of state appropriations for Medicaid, other state agencies (such as the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Health, Department of Education and Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Office of Juvenile Affairs and the University Hospitals Authority, OU and OSU) pay the state match for various services and programs that are covered by Medicaid. Medicaid is also partly funded by fees on hospitals, long-term care facilities and rebates from drug manufacturers.

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

Medicaid eligibility is determined by OKDHS and the Online Enrollment program based on standards set by the state and federal government. Individuals are determined to be Medicaid-eligible for one year periods.

Covering the Uninsured

In general, Medicaid covers low-income mothers and children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Most non-disabled working-age adults are ineligible for Medicaid, even if their income falls considerably below the federal poverty level. Medicaid enrolled 1,040,322 Oklahomans throughout FY'14, or about 25 percent of the total population.

Children make up 57 percent of Oklahoma's Medicaid population while the aged, blind and disabled account for about 16 percent of the population. Enrollment patterns in the Medicaid program, however, do not correspond with expenditure breakdowns. Nationally, only 20 percent of Medicaid program dollars are spent on children, compared to 62 percent that is spent to provide services for the aged, blind and disabled populations. This discrepancy reflects the fact that the aged, blind and disabled are more likely to suffer from chronic health problems which may require ongoing medical assistance, episodes of acute care, and eventually long term care.

Medicaid Members and Expenditures Fiscal Year 2013

Percentage of SoonerCare Members		Percentage of Expenditures	
TANF	67.95%	TANF	35.73%
Aged, Blind, Disabled	16.08%	Aged, Blind, Disabled	46.53%
Other	15.97%	Other	17.74%

Low-Income Pregnant Women and Children

While most healthy adults are ineligible for Medicaid, the past decade has seen a concerted effort by Congress and the states to improve the health of children and pregnant women. In Oklahoma, children under the age of 19 are covered up to 185 percent of FPL. Pregnant women are also covered up to 185 percent of FPL. Under HB 2842, passed during the 2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006), college students up to age 23 who are full-time students are covered, provided they meet eligibility requirements. In 1994, 14.2 percent of children nationally and 20.6 percent of Oklahoma children lacked health insurance. Among low-income children, the percentage without insurance was even higher. During the early 1990s, Congress mandated a phased-in expansion of Medicaid coverage for low-income children and pregnant women. This effort was superseded in Oklahoma by the passage of SB 639 (1997) and the state's Children's Health Insurance Plan.

Concurrent with Oklahoma's initiative, the Federal government announced a \$24 billion new program known as CHIP (Children's Health Initiative Plan) to encourage and assist states in insuring low-income children. The program provided enhanced federal matching funds to insure uninsured children up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level through the CHIP program. Oklahoma is currently receiving an enhanced federal match of 74.80 percent for the Medicaid costs of children, in the State Children's Health Insurance Program. SB 639 expanded Medicaid coverage to children and pregnant women with income below 185% of FPL that didn't qualify for Medicaid because of other reasons such as being covered by other health insurance.

Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is a federal cash assistance program for persons who are 65 years of age, blind or disabled and poor, known as ABD. As of June 2013, there were 133,171 adult and 19,534 children ABD members.

Medicaid Payments for Medicare Premiums

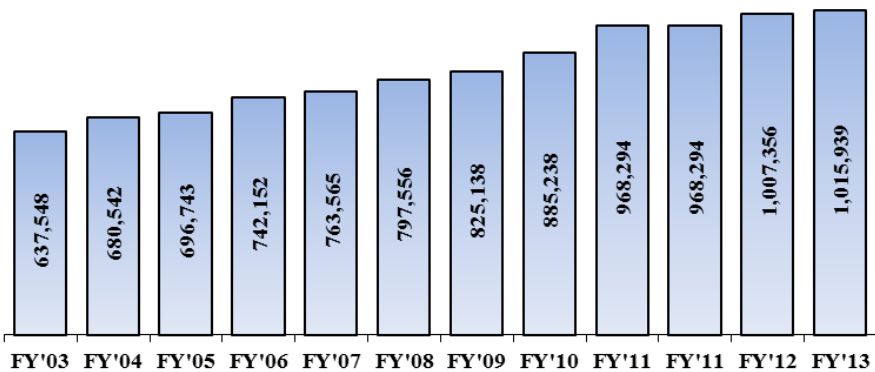
Under 1988 federal legislation, states are required to pay Medicare premiums, deductibles and coinsurance for needy elderly and disabled persons who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. This group is known as Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs). The payments are cost-effective from the state's standpoint because it is less expensive to pay such out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare eligibles than it is to have them lose their Medicare benefits and fall into Medicaid eligibility. In FY'13, an average of 2,275 Part A premiums and 91,574 Part B premiums were paid each month.

Growth in Enrollment

The Medicaid program is designed to be counter cyclical with the economy. For every one percentage point increase in unemployment that occurs, Medicaid enrollment can be expected to increase by 2.7 percent. Enrollment in the Medicaid program began to increase dramatically after the events of September 11, 2001, and the national recession that followed.

Enrollment has continued to increase throughout the recession in FY'09 and FY'11. Between July 2012 and July 2013, OHCA has seen a 2.54% increase in enrollment. That is 19,455 more enrolled in a year's time.

*Average Growth in Enrollment
FY'03 Through FY'13*



MEDICAID AND MANAGED CARE

Prior to January 1, 2004 OHCA operated two separate forms of managed care – SoonerCare Plus and SoonerCare Choice. Under the SoonerCare Plus program OHCA contracted directly with Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) to provide medically necessary services to beneficiaries residing in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lawton and the counties immediately surrounding these urban centers. In November of 2003, news of increased health care costs and a decision by a HMO to pull out of the state Medicaid program prompted the Oklahoma Health Care Authority board to approve a proposal to end its HMO contracts and expand the state’s other managed care system, SoonerCare Choice. All members from SoonerCare Plus were transitioned to SoonerCare Choice in January 2004. The entire Medicaid program is now referred to as SoonerCare.

In January 2009, the Patient-Centered Medical Home delivery system was implemented for SoonerCare Choice members.

These members have a medical home that provides basic health care, an information hub and more integrated services. SoonerCare Choice primary care providers are paid a monthly case management/care coordination fee. Visit-based services remain compensable on a fee-for-service basis.

Members enrolled in SoonerCare Choice are not “locked in” with a primary care provider/case manager (PCP/CM) and can change health care providers as necessary. This important facet to the program allows SoonerCare Choice members the opportunity to select a provider that has been added to the program. Providers contracting in this program include Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Family Practitioners, General Pediatricians, Internists, and Physician Assistants. Medical Home Providers receive a care coordination fee, visit-based fee-for-service payment and performance-based payments to providers meeting the quality of care targets (SoonerExcel).

Some member groups do not qualify to participate in SoonerCare Choice. Persons eligible for Oklahoma Medicaid who are institutionalized, dual eligible, in state or tribal custody or enrolled under a Home and Community-Based Waiver are not included in the SoonerCare Choice program at this time. Most of these members receive services under the fee-for-service delivery model, SoonerCare Traditional

Identifying the need to coordinate care for SoonerCare members with complex medical needs, the SoonerCare division created a Care Management department. This department contains nurse exceptional needs coordinators (ENCs) who support the Oklahoma Medicaid provider networks in both the SoonerCare Choice program and fee-for-service areas through research, collaboration and problem resolution as related to members’ care.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY MEDICAID

Unlike Medicare, which charges its recipients monthly premiums and includes co-pays and deductibles, Medicaid is a system of essentially free health insurance coverage for qualifying members. However, Medicaid involves some cost to members: providers can charge co-payments for certain services, and nursing home residents must “spend down” their own resources to a certain level before Medicaid begins paying their bills.

What Services are Covered?

Federally Mandated Services

Early/Periodic Screening Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT) Under Age 21
Family Planning Services & Supplies
Inpatient Hospital
Laboratory & X-ray
Non-emergency Transportation
Nurse Midwife
Nurse Practitioner
Nursing Facility/Home Health for Age 21+
Outpatient Hospital
Physician
Rural Health Clinic and Federally Qualified Health Center

Optional Covered Services

Case Management	Optometrist
Chiropractor	Personal Care
Clinic	Physical Therapy
Dental	Podiatrist
(Adult Emergency Extractions)	Prescribed Drugs
Diagnostic Services	Preventive Services
Emergency Hospital	Private Duty Nursing
Eyeglasses	Prosthetic Devices
Inpatient Hospital for Age 65+ in	Psychologist
Institutions for Mental Diseases	Rehabilitative
Inpatient Psychiatric under age 21	Respiratory Care
ICF/MR	Screening Services
Nurse Anesthetist	Speech/Hearing/Language Disorders
Nursing Facility under age 21	TB Related
Occupational Therapy	

Hospital services followed by physician and nursing facility expenditures, account for more than \$1.7 billion of the \$4.99 billion Medicaid program.

Long-Term Care

Medicaid is the nation’s primary insurer of long-term health care services for individuals with chronic, non-acute needs. In fact, more than 67 percent of all residents in Oklahoma nursing homes are Medicaid members. Long-term care services range from personal care, rehabilitative therapies, chore services, and home-delivered meals to durable medical equipment and environmental modification. With the graying of the baby-boom generation and advances in medical technology contributing to a rapidly expanding senior population, providing adequate and affordable long-term care will be one of the great challenges confronting state and federal policy makers in the new century.

Medicaid payments for long-term care falls into two general categories:

Institutional Care: This includes such facilities as nursing homes, Intermediate Care Facilities for the Intellectually Disabled (ICF/ID), or state hospitals for the intellectually disabled. The state pays private institutional providers a per diem to cover the full range of patients’ needs, including room and board. Part of the revenue for nursing homes and ICF/ID payments is raised by daily per-bed fees imposed on all licensed facilities, which are matched with federal funds.

Home- and Community-Based Programs: Through several Medicaid waivers administered by OKDHS and three by OHCA, the state contracts with private agencies to provide needed services set out in an individual care plan. The largest waiver programs are the Home-and-Community Waiver for the developmentally disabled and the ADvantage Waiver for the aged and disabled. All 50 states have developed waivers as a way to allow those who do not need 24-hour nursing care to live fuller, more independent lives outside of institutions.

Eligibility for Medicaid long-term care services is based on a combination of medical and financial criteria. Medically, individuals must be certified as needing a “nursing home level of care” to qualify either for institutional placement or participation in one of the long-term care waivers. Financially, Medicaid members’ incomes must be below 300 percent of the SSI eligibility threshold, which translates to monthly income of roughly \$2,130 per person and \$2,000 in non-exempted assets.

Premium Assistance Program: In January 2006, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) started enrolling businesses and individuals into the Insure Oklahoma program. The first component of the Insure Oklahoma program is designed to assist Oklahoma small business owners (with 99 or fewer employees) in purchasing health insurance on the private market for their income eligible employees (at or below 200 percent of Federal Poverty Level). As of July 2013, the program had 4,697 businesses and 16,502 employees. A second component to the Insure Oklahoma program is the Individual Plan. The Individual Plan is designed as a safety net for those Oklahoma individuals who cannot access private, group health insurance coverage. Those who may qualify for this plan include workers who employer does not offer health insurance and workers who are ineligible for their employer’s insurance plan. The individual component of the Insure Oklahoma program began enrollment in March 2007. As of July 2013, the program had covered 13,358 uninsured Oklahomans. Funding for this program is generated from the Tobacco Tax approved by the voters in 2004 (State Question 713).

Statewide Medicaid Information

County	Oklahoma Population Proj. July 2012*	Unduplicated SoonerCare Enrollees**	Population Enrolled in SoonerCare	SFY2013 Expenditures
ADAIR	22,286	10,401	47%	\$36,073,780
ALFALFA	5,666	1,050	19%	\$3,218,378
ATOKA	14,007	4,414	32%	\$17,864,068
BEAVER	5,591	955	17%	\$2,302,504
BECKHAM	23,081	6,155	27%	\$23,232,627
BLAINE	9,785	3,333	34%	\$11,343,588
BRYAN	43,399	15,189	35%	\$55,977,384
CADDO	29,678	10,489	35%	\$31,623,293
CANADIAN	122,560	19,664	16%	\$70,804,180
CARTER	48,085	16,401	34%	\$64,112,612
CHEROKEE	48,150	14,683	30%	\$64,616,492
CHOCTAW	15,182	6,498	43%	\$28,586,318
CIMARRON	2,385	694	29%	\$988,059
CLEVELAND	265,638	44,644	17%	\$157,178,715
COAL	5,963	2,082	35%	\$9,466,848
COMANCHE	126,390	30,245	24%	\$88,752,998
COTTON	6,155	1,703	28%	\$5,592,799
CRAIG [†]	14,748	4,967	34%	\$27,557,140
CREEK	70,651	20,844	30%	\$90,111,729
CUSTER	28,536	6,986	24%	\$24,061,192
DELAWARE	41,441	12,571	30%	\$47,586,977
DEWEY	4,783	1,030	22%	\$3,463,125
ELLIS	4,104	627	15%	\$1,413,465
GARFIELD [‡]	61,189	16,738	27%	\$95,095,423
GARVIN [‡]	27,297	8,521	31%	\$57,084,702
GRADY	53,118	11,626	22%	\$42,795,540
GRANT	4,516	895	20%	\$3,712,534
GREER	6,082	1,799	30%	\$7,346,298
HARMON	2,906	1,147	39%	\$4,847,511
HARPER	3,676	823	22%	\$2,396,700
HASKELL	12,938	4,971	38%	\$19,065,619
HUGHES	13,836	4,487	32%	\$20,453,859
JACKSON	26,237	7,799	30%	\$25,775,340
JEFFERSON	6,377	2,422	38%	\$8,499,655
JOHNSTON	11,003	4,209	38%	\$18,077,271

County	Oklahoma Population Proj. July 2012*	Unduplicated SoonerCare Enrollees**	Population Enrolled in SoonerCare	SFY2013 Expenditures
KAY	45,831	16,039	35%	\$53,808,466
KINGFISHER	15,005	3,449	23%	\$11,078,057
KIOWA	9,310	3,087	33%	\$13,561,381
LATIMER	11,019	3,769	34%	\$15,698,566
LEFLORE	49,873	17,034	34%	\$68,477,885
LINCOLN	34,189	8,947	26%	\$29,733,977
LOGAN	43,666	8,916	20%	\$37,227,093
LOVE	9,558	2,976	31%	\$9,409,655
MCCLAIN	35,613	7,956	22%	\$26,657,773
MCCURTAIN	33,203	14,317	43%	\$51,777,320
MCINTOSH	20,584	6,657	32%	\$31,159,944
MAJOR	7,683	1,636	21%	\$5,173,435
MARSHALL	15,957	5,206	33%	\$20,012,406
MAYES	41,168	13,364	32%	\$50,976,267
MURRAY	13,663	3,782	28%	\$15,545,756
MUSKOGEE	70,596	25,067	36%	\$115,357,160
NOBLE	11,522	2,761	24%	\$14,106,315
NOWATA	10,611	3,010	28%	\$15,269,283
OKFUSKEE†	12,358	4,615	37%	\$28,627,242
OKLAHOMA	741,781	207,071	28%	\$775,125,823
OKMULGEE	39,625	13,542	34%	\$62,693,962
OSAGE	47,917	7,045	15%	\$32,318,717
OTTAWA	32,236	12,914	40%	\$45,009,193
PAWNEE	16,474	5,097	31%	\$20,457,224
PAYNE	78,399	15,609	20%	\$55,790,008
PITTSBURG	45,048	12,974	29%	\$56,067,973
PONTOTOC	37,958	11,455	30%	\$57,811,893
POTTAWATOMIE	70,760	23,254	33%	\$84,763,468
PUSHMATAHA	11,205	4,216	38%	\$19,266,652
ROGER MILLS	3,774	674	18%	\$1,985,776
ROGERS	88,367	18,121	21%	\$70,871,647
SEMINOLE	25,450	9,393	37%	\$42,608,984
SEQUOYAH	41,398	15,997	39%	\$61,559,362
STEPHENS	44,779	12,085	27%	\$44,123,426
TEXAS	21,498	5,772	27%	\$9,672,263
TILLMAN	7,822	2,728	35%	\$8,901,218

County	Oklahoma Population Proj. July 2012*	Unduplicated SoonerCare Enrollees**	Population Enrolled in SoonerCare	SFY2013 Expenditures
TULSA	613,816	163,489	27%	\$592,555,682
WAGONER	75,030	15,166	20%	\$48,578,490
WASHINGTON	51,633	12,146	24%	\$49,056,006
WASHITA	11,622	2,792	24%	\$9,479,703
WOODS	8,832	1,646	19%	\$6,389,684
WOODWARD	20,548	4,811	23%	\$16,302,624
Out of State		4,630		\$1,774,329
OTHER†		4,055		\$17,512,634
TOTAL	3,814,820	1,040,332	27%	\$3,975,413,445

*Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. **Enrollees are categorized within the last county on their enrollment record to allow for unduplicated counts.

†Garfield and Garvin counties have public institutions and Okfuskee and Craig counties have private institutions for the intellectually disabled causing the average dollars per SoonerCare enrollee to be higher than the norm.

‡ Non-member specific payments include \$352,893,974 in SHOPP payments; \$228,621,903 in Hospital Supplemental payments; \$131,025,519 in Medicare Part A & B (Buy-In) payments; \$77,694,210 in Medicare Part D (clawback) payments; \$93,666,695 in GME payments to medical schools; \$50,107,558 in Insure Oklahoma ESI premiums; \$688,863 in Insure Oklahoma ESI Out-Of Pocket payments; \$38,517,566 in EHR incentive payments; \$40,133,334 in Outpatient Behavioral Health Supplemental payments; \$3,555,623 in SoonerExcel payments; \$3,885,990 in Health Access Network payments and -\$1,455,659 in non-member specific provider adjustments.

\$58,567,572 in GME payments to medical schools; \$50,957,037 in Insure Oklahoma premiums; \$209,782 in Insure Oklahoma ESI Out-Of Pocket payments; \$35,250,459 in EHR incentive payments; \$33,808,002 in Outpatient Behavioral Health Supplemental payments; \$13,441,208 in Public ICF/MR cost settlements; \$3,566,018 in SoonerExcel payments; \$1,551,618 in Health Access Network payments; \$1,288,927 in SFY2009

DMHSAS inpatient cost settlement and \$1,058,887 in non-member specific provider adjustments. Additionally, Other includes \$14,862,595 paid on behalf of custody children within the State Office county code.



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Perhaps no state government function has experienced such a profound change in its mission over the past 50 years than in the areas of mental health and substance abuse services. From its crude beginnings, the state mental health system has shifted paradigms. Hospitalization is now considered a temporary service for all but a few clients. Most mental health services are now provided in the community. Advances over the past several years have made recovery a reality for thousands of Oklahomans.

BACKGROUND ON MENTAL HEALTH CHANGES

Until the mid-1960s, the primary means to treat mental illness was institutionalization in large state hospitals. On an average day in 1960, nearly 6,400 Oklahomans were in the state's mental hospitals. In the mid-1970s, the concept of "deinstitutionalization" prompted states to increase efforts to utilize outpatient services through Community Mental Health Centers. This approach has proven to be an effective means of recovery and a less costly method to provide services as compared to long-term inpatient care in a hospital setting. The department served 192,000 in FY2014 (both indigent and Medicaid). Of those, only about 4 percent require hospital care. The vast majority take part in mental health and substance abuse outpatient programs, targeted community based services, prevention efforts and educational initiatives.

Much of the department's recent success can be attributed to an understanding that when left untreated, mental illness and substance abuse are a leading cause of disability and premature loss of life. The fiscal and economic impact of untreated, under-treated and unserved mental illness and substance abuse on Oklahoma is estimated to be \$8 billion.

DMHSAS OVERVIEW

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is responsible for providing services to Oklahomans who are affected by mental illness and substance abuse.

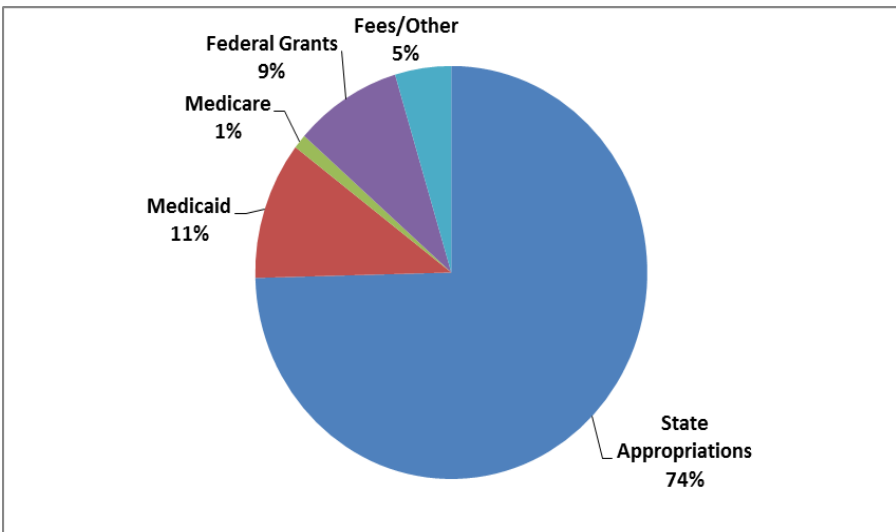
The state subsidizes services for clients with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and receives reimbursement for some services for clients who are eligible for the Medicaid program.

Funding Sources

Oklahoma's mental health system is centralized and primarily state funded (74 percent according to the FY'15 BWP).

Federal funding from various sources comprises the majority of the rest of the budget. Medicaid is the most important non-appropriated funding source for individual client services. Federal block grants and other grant funding account for approximately 9 percent of the budget.

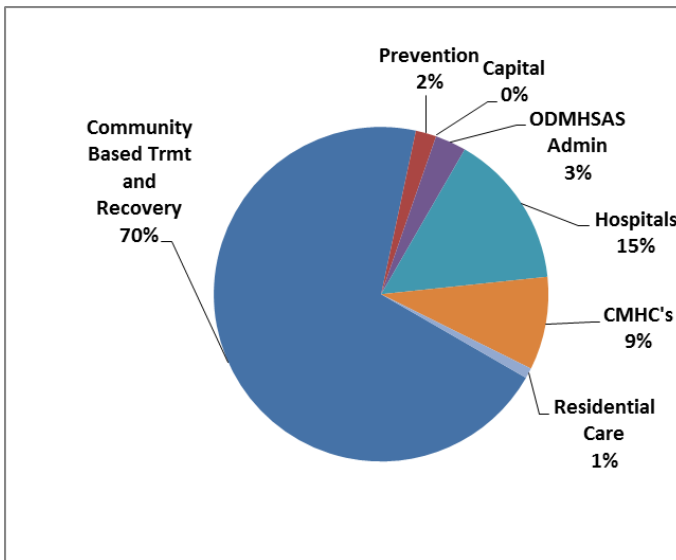
DMHSAS Budget by Source, FY'15 BWP
Total = \$454,150,505



Program Budgets

Outpatient community based treatment providers accounted for 70 percent of the budget and served 96 percent of clients. Community mental health centers accounted for 9 percent of the budget and served 40 percent of clients. Customers served exclusively at inpatient or hospital facilities represented fewer than 4 percent of patients and accounted for approximately 15 percent of the total budget. Substance abuse represented 11 percent of the outpatient budget (the 74%); 18 percent of all outpatient customers received substance abuse services. Administrative costs constituted approximately 3 percent of the budget.

DMHSAS Budget by Program, FY'15 BWP *Total = \$454,150,505*



Services Provided (non-Medicaid)

The department provides the following inpatient and community-based services in state administered or contracted programs.

Psychiatric Hospital Services

- Regional Adult Psychiatric Hospital (Griffin Memorial Hospital)
- Child Psychiatric Hospital (Children's Recovery Center)
- Forensic Psychiatric Evaluation and Treatment (Oklahoma Forensic Center)

Community Mental Health Centers

- There are four state-operated and 10-private non-profit CMHCs that provide outpatient counseling and, in some cases, short-term hospitalization and substance abuse treatment.

Crisis Intervention Centers

- ODMHSAS operates three community-based crisis intervention and emergency detention centers (Tulsa Center for Behavioral Health, Oklahoma County Crisis Intervention Center and the Oklahoma Crisis Recovery Unit); and contracts for crisis center services in Ardmore, Norman, Sapulpa and Tulsa.
- Intervention Center in Norman, which is operated by Red Rock Behavioral Health Center);

Alcohol and Drug Treatment Programs

- State-administered alcohol and drug treatment residential centers (two for adults, one for adolescents).
- Privately operated alcohol and drug prevention, outpatient and residential treatment programs (approximately 70 non-profit and for-profit contract providers);
- Residential treatment for persons with co-occurring disorders – both mental illness and substance abuse. All programs are required to be co-occurring competent.

Residential Care Homes

- 22 contracted homes.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The demand for public mental health services exceeds the capacity of the current treatment system. This has always been the case, but has been exacerbated in recent years due to a growing public awareness of mental illness and of the existence of effective treatment; rising healthcare costs; and the state's growing substance abuse problem, particularly the brain-damaging use of methamphetamine and resultant psychotic behavior, along with the state's prescription drug abuse problem.

Through the use of proven practices and expansion of community based services, the department will increase the effectiveness of services and continue to improve the efficiency of the delivery system. The department's goal is to ensure access to appropriate care for all Oklahomans and the recovery of all served.

Mental Health Services

One out of four adults will have one or more episodes of mental illness during their lifetime. People with mental illness are 10 times more likely than the general population to take their own lives.

For those who survive the illness, other health problems threaten their quality of life. Persons with mental illness are at significantly increased risk for diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and associated organ failure. At the same time, people with medical conditions such as diabetes and heart disease are at increased risk for mental illness; the combination of the two can be deadly.

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services follows a tiered delivery of services designed to serve the most severely ill first. This approach is based on key principles that stress the following:

- Crisis intervention will be available to all in need. Longer-term services will be targeted to those most in need.
- A thorough face-to-face evaluation of the need for mental health services will be conducted for anyone meeting financial need criteria.
- Persons meeting defined diagnostic criteria will receive services on a timely basis, within uniformly defined time frames.
- Continuity of care between inpatient and outpatient providers will be emphasized.

Needs are prioritized and resources carefully directed to ensure a standard of excellence for services that are delivered.

Programs for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)

The Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) is an effective, evidence-based service delivery model providing intensive, outreach-oriented mental health services to people with schizophrenia, bi-polar disease and other serious and persistent mental illnesses. Using a 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week team approach, PACT delivers comprehensive community treatment, rehabilitation and support services to consumers in their homes, at work and in community settings.

Building community supports such as PACT and other non-traditional programs of care allows an individual, who otherwise may be subjected to multiple hospital visits, or jail, the ability to address the demands of their illness while remaining in the community. The program is intended to assist clients with basic needs, increase compliance with medication regimens, address any co-occurring substance abuse, help clients train for and find employment, and improve their ability to live with independence and dignity. PACT was implemented in Tulsa and Oklahoma City in May of 2001 with \$2 million provided by the state legislature. Currently, PACT services are available in 17 counties.

With PACT assistance, comparing pre-PACT with post-PACT:

- The number of days in inpatient care decreased by 70 percent
- The number of days in jail decreased by 75 percent

Systems of Care (SOC)

In the fall of 2002, Oklahoma received a six-year, \$9.4 million “Systems of Care” grant to establish children’s behavioral health service “hubs” throughout Oklahoma. The program has since expanded to approximately 60 counties, and serves nearly 900 children and families throughout the state.

There is a tremendous need to expand children’s services throughout the state and programs such as Systems of Care, which cut through red tape and focus attention on the needs of the children and their families to provide the appropriate level of services. It is targeted to impact children, ages 6-18 years, with serious emotional and behavioral problems at home, school and in the community, and, it has been proven as a model system.

Evaluation demonstrates significant achievements in a child’s behavior when measuring outcomes following six-month client participation. Examples include:

	<u>Percent Reduction</u>
Out of Home Placements	49%
School Detentions	51%
Self-Harm Attempts	42%
Arrests	66%

Mental Health Courts

Mental health court is a highly structured, court-based program providing a treatment alternative for non-violent offenders diagnosed with a mental illness. Court structure and processes are designed to identify and address the unique needs of a non-violent person who has come in contact with the criminal justice system because of his or her mental illness. Mental health courts currently exist in 16 counties, with 640 active participants as of January 2014. An additional 17 counties have requested assistance to start mental health courts.

Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC)

One of the major challenges currently facing the department is that of equitable funding for community mental health centers. Despite this struggle, the CMHCs continue to provide core services such as medications, counseling, and case management that help many people with mental illness live a life in the community. In addition to core services, most CMHCs are able to offer best practice, evidence-based services, albeit on a limited basis.

Medications

More effective medications for people suffering from schizophrenia, severe depression, and bipolar disorder have enabled many more clients to lead normal, healthy lives in their communities. These “new generation” medications have improved quality of life for many people and have the potential to decrease hospitalization costs for states. It is important to provide appropriate medications on a consistent basis for all clients. Otherwise, persons with mental illness are stabilized in hospitals with medications, discharged, then either cannot or do not continue to take prescribed medications. Their condition deteriorates until law enforcement or loved-ones intervene, then they are re-admitted to a hospital.

Forensic Services

DMHSAS is responsible for providing several forensic services: evaluating all people charged with a crime that are believed to suffer from mental illness, treating defendants with mental illness who are waiting for trial, but are not competent to proceed because of their mental illness, and hospital-based treatment for persons adjudicated as Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI). The forensic population, served at the Oklahoma Forensic Center (OFC) in Vinita, averages approximately 160. Occasionally, there is a waiting list of individuals being held in local jails awaiting the availability of a bed at OFC.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

According to national prevalence studies, 12 percent of adult Oklahomans have a substance use disorder. While many are in need of services, many also are receiving the assistance they need through programs provided by the department. Access to treatment services – through community-based substance abuse treatment programs, drug courts, support groups, and the encouragement of family and friends – help thousands of Oklahomans each year find the road to recovery.

The benefits of treatment accrue not only to individuals and their friends and families, but to society as well. Research shows that, a year after treatment, drug use was reduced by 50 percent, criminal activity dropped by 80 percent, employment increased, and homelessness and dependence on public assistance

decreased. For every dollar spent on treatment, nearly \$7 is saved in reduced crime-related costs, a figure that rises to \$12 when health-care costs are included.

The department operates or contracts with approximately 70 substance abuse treatment programs offering a range of evidence-based outpatient, residential and aftercare services. Programs offered are based upon the needs of the individual. In addition, substance abuse treatment is available at community mental health centers. ODMHSAS also funds a network of 17 Area Prevention Resource Centers offering substance abuse prevention education and community prevention project development.

Alcohol is still Oklahoma's number one drug of choice. The top listed drugs of choice for clients during 2014 were as follows:

Alcohol	32.4 percent
Methamphetamine	23.5 percent
Marijuana	22.3 percent
Prescription Drugs	16.0 percent

Proven Substance Abuse Programs Are Making a Difference in Oklahoma

Evidence-based, "best" practices have emerged in substance abuse treatment and are being implemented in the state, providing tools that result in a recovery for many individuals previously considered untreatable; as evidenced by stable living situations, employment, and reduced contact with the criminal justice system.

Drug Courts

Coordinated through ODMHSAS, the drug court program couples the power of the court system with the benefits of substance abuse treatment. The drug court's primary purpose is to redirect certain drug offenders into a highly structured, judicially monitored treatment program rather than sending them to prison. Each participant is evaluated and assisted by a drug court "team" that includes representatives from the judicial, criminal justice, law enforcement and treatment field. No violent offenders are eligible for the program. Oklahoma has one of the top drug court programs in the nation, with more than 3,900 active participants. In 1995, Oklahoma had one drug court. In 2014, there were 60 drug courts (this includes adult drug and DUI courts, juvenile drug courts and family drug courts) serving 73 counties across the state. The average cost of drug court for one person is about \$5,000 per year, compared with \$19,000 or more per year for prison. Drug courts are a highly successful alternative to incarceration. In one study, which measured the incarceration rates of released inmates and 3,466 drug court graduates three years out since 2005, it was found that only 6.5 percent of drug court graduates had been incarcerated, compared with 23.4 percent of released inmates.

Substance Abuse Treatment for Adolescents, Women and Their Children

Pregnant women and women with dependent children are one of the department's top priorities. Gender-specific treatment programs offer comprehensive services focusing on a number of areas. Individual and group counseling covers the psychology of addiction, core values, spirituality, relationships, anger management, 12-step recovery groups, family therapy, co-dependency, relapse prevention and parenting skills, as well as a number of other healthy living-related topics.

Toward the end of the four- to six-month program, clients begin working on receiving their high-school equivalency diplomas, if needed, and undergo job testing and interviewing skills. Programs also have comprehensive services for children ranging from infants who are born with drugs or alcohol in their system to toddlers and children up to age 12.

DUI Program

Oklahoma also has become one of a small but growing number of states that has changed from an "offense-driven" DUI system to an "assessment-driven" DUI system. In the past, DUI offenders had to attend either a 10- or 24-hour DUI school, depending on whether the offense was the initial or a subsequent arrest. This type of process is simple and easy to administer, but did not consider the actual condition of the offender. Now, Oklahoma DUI offenders receive a detailed assessment, followed by treatment recommendations assigned from a grid containing five levels of intervention. The levels outlined in the intervention grid are of increasing intensity and designed to match the indicated severity of risk identified for the offender. These changes are intended to better identify the relative risk level of the offender and offer the most appropriate level and type of intervention.

Problem Gambling Service System

Before 2005, no public funds were allocated to prevent and treat pathological and problem gambling. In March, 2005, however, pursuant to the Oklahoma Horse Racing State-Tribal Gaming Act, ODMHSAS began receiving monthly installments, totaling \$250,000 annually, to provide treatment and education related to problem gambling. In May 2007, ODMHSAS received its first quarterly installment pursuant to the Oklahoma Education Lottery Act, totaling \$500,000 annually. This funding is also targeted to prevention and treatment of problem gambling. We received an additional \$250,000 in lottery funds from the Legislature in 2013, bringing that amount to \$750,000 total. Combined with funds received from the state tribal gaming compact, the department receives \$1 million annually.

Prevention Services

ODMHSAS has a number of Prevention Services initiatives in place geared toward preventing problems before they become larger and more costly to society. Activities are designed to help communities prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance abuse, and problems/consequences associated with substance abuse. Priority initiatives are directed toward preventing/reducing underage drinking, nonmedical use of prescription drugs, adult binge drinking, inhalant use, methamphetamine use, alcohol use during pregnancy, and marijuana use. A new initiative is training first responders and law enforcement officers in the use of naloxone, used to reverse heroin or opioid overdoses. To date, several lives have been saved using this new prevention technique.

HUMAN SERVICES

Department of Human Services

Juvenile Justice

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

While the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) has experienced structural changes over the past six decades, its primary mission has remained largely the same: to enable people and families to lead safer, healthier, more independent and productive lives.

Until 1983 the agency received direct funding from the state sales tax, bypassing the annual legislative appropriations process. With a dedicated and growing revenue source, DHS took on more and more functions over the years as the state's health and welfare system was developed.

For years DHS was the state's largest agency. At its apex in FY 1993, DHS consumed \$2 billion in state and federal funds annually, or one out of every three dollars spent by all of state government.

Beginning in the 1990s, lawmakers began to review the organization, and it was determined that major divisions of DHS – the public teaching hospitals, rehabilitative services, SoonerCare (Medicaid), and juvenile justice services – could be managed more effectively if moved outside the umbrella of the state's largest agency.

DECENTRALIZATION

Since 1993, decentralization has been the trend at DHS. The Legislature has transferred four large divisions out of the agency and created four new, distinct entities:

- University Hospitals Authority (OU Teaching Hospitals)
- Department of Rehabilitation Services
- Oklahoma HealthCare Authority (SoonerCare)
- Office of Juvenile Affairs

As a result, DHS's appropriated budget decreased by more than half between FY 1994 and FY 1995.

Functions Separated from DHS Since 1993

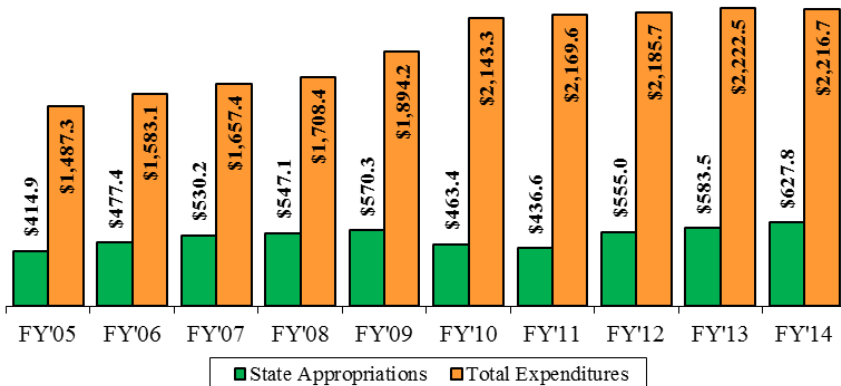
<u>Year</u>	<u>Function Transferred</u>	<u>Transferred Amount</u>
1993	University Hospitals Authority	\$29,710,032
1993	Rehabilitation Services	\$21,952,152
1995	HealthCare Authority	\$227,816,716
1995	Office of Juvenile Affairs	\$75,959,840
Total		\$355,438,740

Note: The University Hospitals Authority is currently partnered with Columbia Health Care Association, which provides management and operating services.

FUNDING

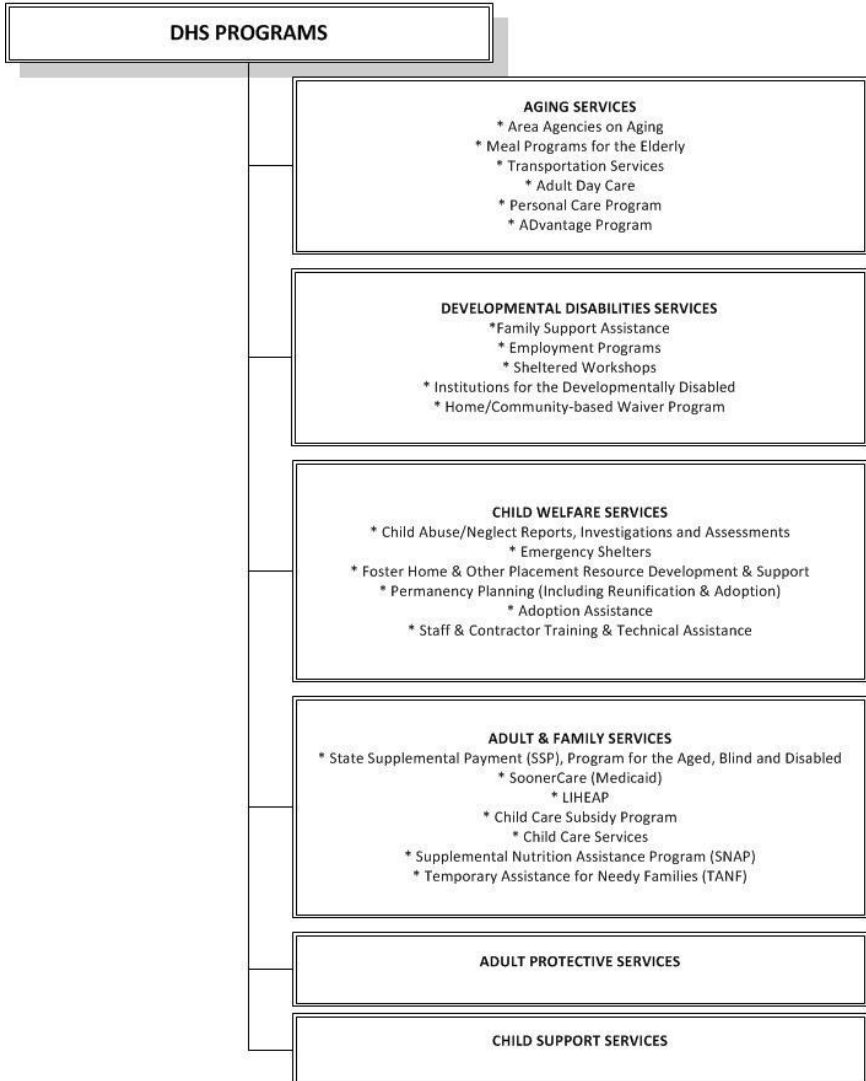
Approximately 65% of the \$2.2 billion total budget in FY 2014 was provided by Federal block grants, entitlement programs, and a small amount from expenditures certified by other State Agencies.

Appropriations and Total Budget Comparison FY'05 through FY'14 (In Millions)



ORGANIZATION

The agency consists of six main divisions that oversee the following major programs.



VERTICAL INTEGRATION

In 2002, the agency brought together aging services, developmental disabilities, child care services and child support into a vertically integrated division. As part of the settlement to child welfare litigation, the agency took steps to vertically integrate the remaining program areas by separating child welfare services from adult and family services beginning in 2012. The goal of vertical integration is to create a system with clear delineation of roles, effective lines of communication, and accountability throughout the system. Vertical integration allows for more direct communication between top level management and frontline staff. Accountability for program integrity is focused and will foster improved employee and public confidence.

Adult & Family Services (AFS)

Adult & Family Services is responsible for a number of programs providing low-income and disabled Oklahomans with cash payments, food benefits, child care, LIHEAP, and SoonerCare.

State Supplemental Payment (SSP): The SSP Program provides a small payment to eligible Oklahomans who are aged, blind or disabled. The number of Oklahomans who receive SSP has increased by almost 20,000 since 2001. Federal regulations require that Oklahoma expend the same amount in SSP payments each year. In order to stay within the required spending level the amount of the individual benefit is adjusted each year to account for the change in the number of eligible recipients. Since 2004 the maximum individual benefit has decreased from \$50 to the current amount of \$41 per month. All SSP recipients now receive their payment on a debit card or by direct deposit. This process is handled through the Financial Services Electronic Payments System (EPS).

SoonerCare (Medicaid) Eligibility: In September 2010 the Oklahoma HealthCare Authority began online eligibility determination for children, families with children, and pregnant women through a web-based system called Online Enrollment. DHS **still enrolls** people for SoonerCare at county offices and retains responsibility for determining SoonerCare eligibility for the aged, blind, and disabled populations, including nursing home care, waived programs, and the Medicare Savings programs (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary, Specified Low Income Beneficiary, and Qualifying Individuals) eligibility.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): The program consists of four components: 1) Heating Assistance, where DHS provides partial payment directly to the utility company/fuel provider for eligible household heating bills, beginning in December of each year; 2) Crisis Assistance, which is paid to the utility company/fuel provider through the Energy Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP), beginning in March of each year – applications for crisis assistance are accepted year round from those with life

threatening medical situations; 3) Summer Cooling assistance, where DHS provides partial payment directly to the utility company for eligible household cooling bills, beginning in July of each year; and 4) Weatherization Assistance, where homeowners are assisted in making their homes more energy-efficient, which is administered by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce with LIHEAP funds allocated to them by DHS.

Historically, LIHEAP in Oklahoma has been funded solely with federal funds. Oklahoma's LIHEAP income eligibility maximum was raised to 130 % of the Federal Poverty Guideline in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 from 110 % in past years and aligns with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program). Due to anticipated reductions in LIHEAP funding, DHS reduced the income guideline back to 110% FPG in FFY 2012. For FFY 2014, DHS approved 87,909 households with heating assistance with an average payment of \$80. The LIHEAP Energy Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP) worked with 15,945 households who received an average benefit of \$338. DHS provided 87,715 households for summer cooling assistance with an average benefit of \$228.

Child Care Services (CCS): The CCS assures Oklahoma families have access to licensed, affordable, high-quality child care where children have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment.

The Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act (10 O.S., § 401-410), enacted in 1963, authorizes DHS to administer the licensing program. This responsibility includes developing minimum requirements for child care facilities, revising existing requirements, and implementing policies and procedures for the licensing program. The foundation of quality child care is a strong licensing program working closely with the Child Care Advisory Committee. CCS is committed to working with providers to ensure licensing requirements are met that safeguard the health and safety of children while in care. A well-trained licensing staff and regular monitoring visits increase the likelihood of positive outcomes in children's physical, emotional and cognitive well-being.

The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) released a state report card comparing states on how well they meet basic requirements needed to protect the health and safety of children in care. Independent ranking by NACCRRA placed Oklahoma fourth overall in center care and first in family child care home care. A key factor in Oklahoma's ranking is the fact that Licensing Specialists conduct three unannounced inspections annually.

In FY 1998, DHS began using a tiered system for rating child care centers and homes.

- A ★ (1 star) rating means the facility meets minimum licensure standards.
- A ★+ (1 star plus) rating, added in FY 2001, is available to facilities for a 24-month period. The expectation is that at the end of the 24-months the facility will meet ★★ (2-star) requirements or revert back to the ★ (1-star) rate.
- A ★★ (2 star) rating is given if the facility meets additional quality criteria, **or** is nationally accredited. This rating was instituted in April 1998.
- A ★★★ (3 star) rating is awarded when a program meets additional criteria, **and** is nationally accredited. This rating was instituted in July 1999.

The state child care reimbursement rate depends on a number of factors: the facility's star rating, the age of the child, whether the child attends full- or part-time, whether the facility is a home or a center, and whether the facility is located in an enhanced area.

During FY 2014, ninety eight percent of children whose center-based care was subsidized by DHS attended two star or higher centers. During the same year, eighty percent of children whose home-based care was subsidized by DHS attended two star or higher homes.

At the end of June 2014 Oklahoma had 3,728 licensed child care facilities including 1,627 child care centers, part-day, school-age and day camp programs; and 2,101 family child care homes and large family child care homes. Licensing specialists work cooperatively with the Cherokee Nation, Muscogee Creek Nation, Chickasaw Nation, and Choctaw Nation tribal licensing programs to license facilities and reduce duplication of monitoring tasks.

Residential and Agency Licensing Services license residential child care facilities and child-placing agencies throughout the state. Licensing staffs provide a variety of consultative services, in addition to regulatory responsibility for the enforcement of licensing requirements. They also investigate complaints regarding non-compliance with licensing requirements or violations of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Act. Their primary mission is to ensure that licensed programs are safe and healthy environments for children and youth who are in 24 hour, out of home care. At the end of June 2014, Residential Licensing Services monitored the following child care facilities with a combined capacity of 2,974 children: 29 children's shelters and 85 residential child care programs. In addition the program monitored 78 child-placing agencies.

The Professional Development Unit is responsible for the development of initiatives contributing to the mission of the CCS including training for Licensing staff and child care providers. To accomplish their goals, the Unit participates in the development of initiatives; creation of contracts through an invitation to bid process, interagency agreement or grant award; and monitoring of initiatives for effectiveness. Major services were delivered through contracts with the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Oklahoma State Department of Health, and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Child Care Subsidy Program: The child care subsidy program in Oklahoma began as part of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program in 1969. What had then evolved into four separate child care funding streams was consolidated in 1996 by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA). This new funding source is called the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). This block grant expanded the amount of money available to states for child care. States can transfer funds from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant into their CCDF program. Oklahoma pays for child care for TANF recipients directly from TANF funds. The Oklahoma Legislature also approves additional funding for the Child Care Subsidy Program. With this expanded funding, more low-income families are receiving child care benefits.

The child care subsidy program encourages collaboration with many agencies and programs which help to strengthen and increase resources available to families. These other agencies and programs include child support services through the Child Support Services, the SoonerCare program, Child Protective Services, the TANF program, Head Start, Early Head Start, Children First, Pre-K, and Child Care Resource and Referral programs.

In FY 2014, DHS provided child care services to 60,663 children. The family must be determined eligible before their child care services can be either fully or partially subsidized. The family may have a co-payment for the child care based on their income, the number of family members and the number of family members needing services.

Providing child care benefits are part of an overall plan of service designed to help low income families achieve their maximum potential for self-support. It is a service benefit provided for children as a means to strengthen the family. Providing quality child care services assures the parent or caretaker that each child in care has the opportunity to receive developmental and learning experiences while the parent or caretaker is engaged in self-support activities like employment, education or training. The worker tries to help the client become more independent by suggesting ways to increase household income and identifying strengths in the client's life. Child care is also provided in critical situations to help prevent neglect, abuse or exploitation of children. The Adult

and Family Services worker and the Child Welfare worker freely share information to develop a plan that best meets the needs of the family when both are working with the family.

Unlike TANF, no direct payments are made to the families that receive child care benefits. Instead, all funds from this program are paid directly to a licensed and contracted child care center or home, or a contracted in-home provider chosen by the parent or caretaker. Providers are licensed to provide child care from child care licensing specialists located in the local human service center offices. Providers request a contract from the Adult and Family Services Child Care Services. Until a provider is granted both a license and a contract, subsidized child care cannot be paid by DHS.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(formerly the Food Stamp Program). SNAP serves as the first line of defense against hunger. It enables low-income families to supplement monthly household food while using **Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards**. Food benefit recipients spend their allotment to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores.

During FY 2014, SNAP food benefits totaling \$900,724,879 were issued to Oklahoma eligible households. Based on a monthly average, 615,412 individuals in 284,886 households were assisted, receiving \$263 per household or \$122 per person. This accounts for a monthly average of \$75,056,034 food benefit dollars received by Oklahoma from the USDA-Food and Nutrition Service. SNAP food benefit issuance decreased by 6% from FY 2013 to FY 2014.

Applicant households apply for program benefits through a local county office. A request for services form can be obtained at the local offices or printed from the www.OKDHS.org website and submitted to a local office as the first step in the eligibility process. Eligibility is determined by local office staff based on federally mandated requirements including:

- income test;
- meeting work requirements for adults age 18 to 50;
- household size.

Congress reauthorizes SNAP every five years. It was last reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill (HR 612A). The program name was officially changed effective October 1, 2008 and Oklahoma chose to adopt the new federal name for its food benefit program. Every October 1st, states are required to make changes to the program through the Thrifty Food Plan overall.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant: In August, 1996, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), which drastically altered both the funding and focus of the nation's welfare system. The act replaced Aid to Families with

Dependent Children (AFDC) with TANF and made major revisions in child support laws. TANF introduced two critical changes to welfare:

- It eliminated the entitlement status of welfare – no longer are citizens guaranteed public assistance. Eligibility and benefits are determined more by state policies and budget constraints and less by federal mandates; and
- Stringent time limits and work requirements have been enacted for all recipients of cash assistance. Recipients may collect cash assistance for a lifetime maximum of five years and must participate in work or an approved work activity for 25 to 30 hours per week during those five years.

If there are more eligible clients than funds, the state may deny programs and services to eligible clients. All families who are eligible to receive TANF are also eligible for SoonerCare.

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 reauthorized the TANF program through the year 2010. The program has been authorized through extensions of the current DRA of 2005 through September 30, 2012. The DRA of 2005 addressed the needs of families by maintaining the program's overall funding and basic structure, while focusing increased efforts on building stronger families through work, job advancement, and research on healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood programs.

TANF Eligibility and Benefit Levels: Under TANF, DHS defines eligibility criteria and benefit levels. The agency also may implement caps on eligible members of the family and require recipients to work. According to 2014 eligibility requirements, a person qualifying for cash assistance payments must:

- have at least one dependent child living with them;
- not have over \$5,000 equity in a car;
- not have over \$1,000 in other assets available;
- cooperate with child support enforcement efforts if a parent is absent from the home to establish paternity and increase parental support;
- be willing to comply with all of the work requirements mandated by state and federal law;
- all adult applicants must be screened for and found not to be using illegal substances.

The average family in the TANF program involves a parent and two children. As seen below, the maximum payment for a family of three is \$292. This figure does not include payments some clients receive for work participation allowances, work start-up payments or transportation services. The maximum a family of three can earn to still receive any cash assistance payment is \$1,193 per month in gross income.

Monthly TANF Payments vs. Federal Poverty Level FY'14

<u>Family Members</u>	<u>FY 2014 TANF Payment</u>	<u>Fed. Poverty Level</u>	<u>TANF as % of Poverty</u>
1	\$180	\$972.50	19%
2	\$225	\$1,310.83	17%
3	\$292	\$1,649.17	18%
4	\$361	\$1,987.50	18%
5	\$422	\$2,325.83	18%
6	\$483	\$2,664.17	18%
7	\$544	\$3,002.50	18%
8	\$598	\$3,340.83	18%
9+	\$650	\$3,679.17	18%

TANF has four purposes set out in federal law:

- to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
- to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
- to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

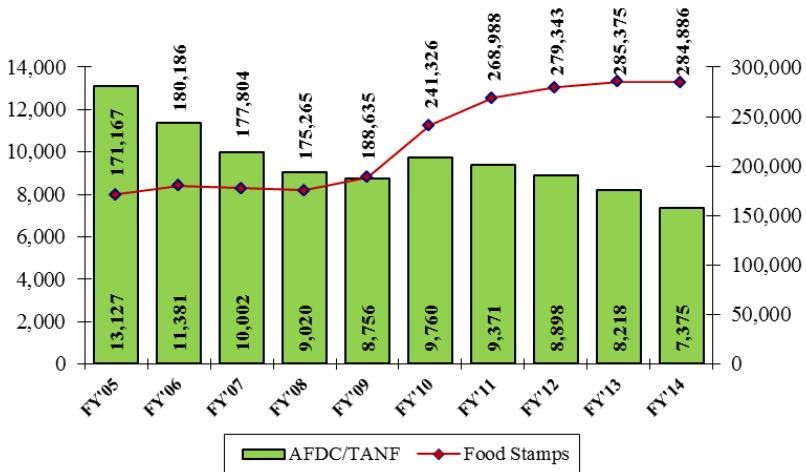
Under federal laws that ordered the conversion from AFDC to TANF, Oklahoma must expend at least \$60.1 million in state funds each year to access federal funds that total \$145 million (this state funding amount is referred to as “maintenance of effort” or MOE). In addition to cash assistance, TANF gives states the flexibility to use the grant for many other programs as long as they meet one of the four purposes of TANF.

Types of Programs & Services Eligible for TANF Funds

* Adult Basic Education/GED/Literacy	* Domestic Violence/Training/Prevention
* Low-Income Father Services	* Tax Credit for Low-Income Families
* Child Abuse Prevention	* Teenage Pregnancy Prevention
* Employer Stipends	* Services to Teen Parents
* Caseworker Incentives	* Substance Abuse Treatment
* Child Care	* Transportation/Cars
* Job Training	* Vocational Training
* Utility Assistance	* Legal Aid Services
* Tuition Assistance	

During the past ten years, the number of adults participating in this program has declined significantly. However, there was a slight growth in cases due to current economic conditions in FY 2010 but the numbers began to decrease again in FY 2011.

Families Served by TANF and SNAP (Monthly Average)
FY'05 through FY'14

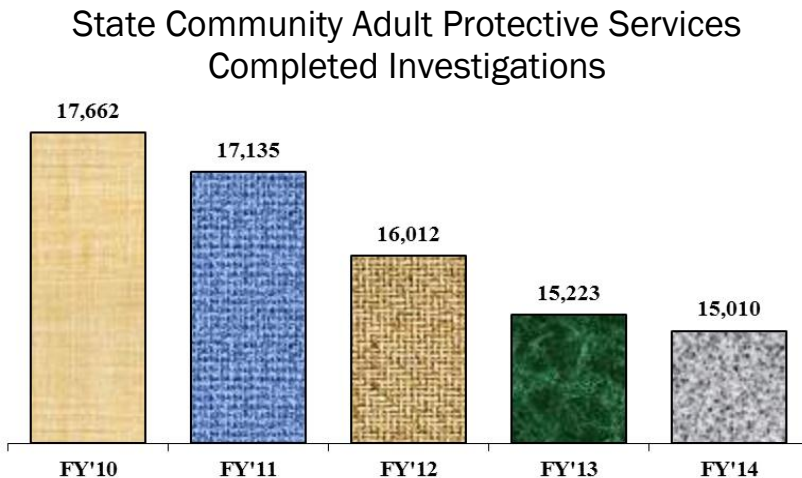


Adult Protective Services (APS)

DHS is mandated by Oklahoma Statutes Title 43A Section 10-101 through 10-111 to provide protective services for vulnerable adults. There are 2 sections of the APS unit, the Community APS program (CAPS) and the Long Term Care Investigation (LTCI).

APS is a non-means tested, multi-faceted program for persons 18 years of age or older who are vulnerable and have allegedly been abused, neglected, and/or exploited. Community APS includes all investigations where the alleged perpetrator is not a staff member of a nursing facility. The Long Term Care Investigators Unit investigates allegations of maltreatment by nursing facility staff of nursing facility residents.

APS have been provided since 1977 when the statute was enacted by the Oklahoma Legislature. The program receives a small portion of the federal funding from the Social Services Block grant. The remainder of the funding is from state dollars. In FY 2014, APS specialists investigated 15,010 reports of maltreatment of vulnerable Oklahoma adults. APS specialists substantiated 7,112 investigations for 47% of the total investigations. The 15,010 investigations included 26,391 distinct allegations. Fifty eight (58) percent of the alleged victims were over sixty (60) years of age. The chart below lists the number of reports for the last 5 fiscal years.



APS staff at the state and local level work with community partners to provide a safety net of services for vulnerable adults. Staff routinely coordinate with local law enforcement, district attorneys, local medical and mental health providers as well as many local service organizations to provide services for those vulnerable adults who have been mistreated and to prevent a reoccurrence of the maltreatment. Maltreatment of vulnerable adults was criminalized in 1984 via Title 21, Section 843.1 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Prosecutions were limited and sporadic until 2003 when DHS sponsored conferences to improve awareness of the types of maltreatment.

Vulnerable adults are often preyed upon by individuals who, by illegal means, target this group to obtain their assets. As a result of this alarming trend, the DHS APS program responded with a series of conferences that were held throughout the state. These conferences brought together law enforcement, district attorneys, judges and APS professionals to improve accountability for persons who perpetrate on vulnerable adults.

The types of referrals investigated by the DHS APS program are self-neglect, caretaker neglect, non-caretaker exploitation, abandonment, caretaker abuse, sexual abuse, caretaker exploitation, verbal abuse, and sexual exploitation. The Oklahoma Legislature added a new allegation of financial neglect in November of 2007 in response to requests of Oklahoma's District Attorneys.

The types of vulnerabilities affecting APS clients include cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's, and other forms of dementia; physical health problems such as chronic debilitating diseases or illnesses; developmental disabilities; mental illness; traumatic brain injury; and substance abuse.

Services are offered to assist vulnerable adults to prevent future occurrences of maltreatment. Self-determination of adults is a cornerstone of the APS program, and as such staff makes determinations of the person's ability to consent to services on every investigation. The client may reject offers of service as a result of an APS investigation.

Clients who lack decision-making abilities and who are in life endangering situations may be provided with involuntary protective services if there are services available to relieve the situation. These involuntary services are court ordered following approval of a certified petition brought before the court.

Long Term Care Investigations (LTCI): LTCI resides in the DHS Adult Protective Services. Its focus is investigations involving abuse, neglect and exploitation of nursing facility residents. During FY 2014 LTCI completed intakes on 3,931 cases; 566 were assigned to inspectors for investigation. LTCI inspectors substantiated 28% of the cases that were assigned.

LTCI staff routinely coordinates with local law enforcement, district attorneys, the State Department of Health, Ombudsmen, licensure boards and other social service and enforcement organizations to stop current problems and prevent reoccurrence of abuse. Staff also coordinates with local, state and county agencies to improve enforcement of abuse, trouble shoot potential problems in facilities, provide training and other activities designed to prevent abuse or facilitate a resolution.

Aging Services Programs

Aging Services (AS) administers community programs that support the independence and quality of life of older Oklahomans. Many of the services are delivered through 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's), which were created as a result of the federal Older Americans Act of 1965. Major services provided include:

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program: The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is administered by Aging Services of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services under the authority of the Older Americans Act and the Oklahoma Long-Term Care Ombudsman Act.

The Ombudsman Program serves residents in Oklahoma Long-Term Care Facilities including nursing homes, assisted living, and residential care homes. An ombudsman helps improve the quality of life and the quality of care available to the residents. A long-term care ombudsman is a person who receives complaints from residents of long-term care facilities, their friends or relatives and attempts to resolve those complaints. The Ombudsman has the authority to explore problems and recommend corrective action. Ombudsmen also serve as a clearing house of information on issues relating to systems, programs and services to the aging.

The Ombudsman Program is supported by local staff and volunteers committed to improving and enriching the lives of institutionalized older persons. Training in skills such as problem solving and communication, the processes of aging and long-term care facility regulations is provided by the Ombudsman Program for all staff and volunteers.

In FY 2014 the Ombudsman program investigated 5,278 complaints on the behalf of residents of long-term care facilities. Over 99% of those complaints were able to be addressed without the need to refer them on to enforcement agencies, and the great majority of complaints were resolved to the satisfaction of the resident and/or complainant.

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals: AAA's provide meals and nutrition education to older Oklahomans across the state. For FY 2013, more than six million meals were served with 4 million delivered to homes, including 3 million delivered to ADvantage consumers. This program is funded by state appropriations and federal funds from the Older Americans Act.

Transportation: Transportation services to medical appointments, shopping and other social services are provided across the state through AAAs via local providers (Older Americans Act services) and through the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 program which provides buses to non-profit organizations to provide transportation to individuals who are elderly and individuals with disability;

National Family Caregiver Support Program: Caregiver services under the Older Americans Act include information to caregivers about available services, assistance to caregivers in gaining access to services, individual counseling, organization of support groups, and caregiver training to assist the caregivers in the areas of health, nutrition and financial literacy and in making decisions and solving problems relating to their caregiver roles. In addition, the respite voucher program provides respite care to family members caring for older Oklahomans, and also to grandparents who are raising grandchildren (and other relatives serving as parents). Vouchers can be used by the caregiver to hire a person of their choice to provide a temporary break from the stress of caregiving. In FY 2014, the respite voucher program provided 70,764 hours of respite to 1,117 unduplicated caregivers and 11,336 hours of respite to 119 unduplicated grandparents raising grandchildren. There are also supplemental services on a limited basis to complement the care provided by caregivers such as the summer camp for grandchildren and the backpack program for school age children.

CNCS (Council for National and Community Services) Volunteer programs: These programs are the Foster Grandparent Program (mentors for school-age children), the Senior Companion Program (companions to homebound elders) and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. These programs connect older volunteers to volunteer opportunities in their communities. DHS contracts with area programs also funded by the CNCS federal program.

Adult Day Services: In FY 2014, 34 sites across the state provided subsidized day care for 380 elderly persons on average. People who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Aid to the Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD), or meet state income guidelines may qualify for a subsidy for adult day care costs in the 34 centers that contract with DHS for funding.

2-1-1 Coordinating Council: DHS, through Aging Services, participates in the 2-1-1 Coordinating Council with other state agencies and entities who have a stake in information and referral (I&R) functions in Oklahoma. The general purpose of the Oklahoma 2-1-1 Coordinating Council, the “Lead Entity” for the 2-1-1 initiative in Oklahoma, is to develop a statewide and integrated 2-1-1 service map for the state that avoids overlap, develop and maintain certification standards for providers who operate call centers, assist call centers in their pursuit of state and national standards; develop and maintain a process for call center accountability and compliance; provide leadership and coordination for the 2-1-1 call centers as they relate to large scale emergencies and homeland security needs, develop an outcome driven strategic plan and advocate for funding to support and sustain the 2-1-1 delivery system.

2-1-1 is an easy to remember, free 24-hour telephone number that connects people with health and human service resources, including:

- ✓ Basic Human Needs Resources – food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance;

- ✓ Physical and Mental Health Resources – health insurance programs, SoonerCare and Medicare, prenatal care, Children’s Health Insurance Program, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation;
- ✓ Employment Supports – financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs;
- ✓ Support for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities – adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services; and
- ✓ Support for Children, Youth and Families – child care, after-school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, child protective services

2-1-1 operates in local communities with support from private and public sources. 2-1-1 is not supported by a phone company surcharge like 9-1-1. Counties throughout Oklahoma are developing funding partnerships with stakeholders including local and state government, the business community, United Way organizations, and charitable foundations. The funding picture for each county is unique. The 2-1-1 line became effective statewide in spring 2008.

Personal Care Program: Personal Care is an optional SoonerCare service that is available to any person regardless of age who requires the service and is financially eligible. DHS determines both financial eligibility and service need. DHS county office staff performs the financial eligibility determination and AS nurses housed around the state perform the service need evaluation.

Personal care attendants provide assistance with activities of daily living (bathing, grooming, etc), light housekeeping and meal preparation. The amount and type of assistance needed is based on the consumer’s need, as determined by DHS. The personal care attendants are employed by licensed home care agencies, except in a small number of cases where needs dictate the service be provided by an independent personal care attendant.

The ADvantage Program: The ADvantage Program is a SoonerCare funded alternative to SoonerCare funded nursing home care. It provides services to elders and some younger adults with disabilities who qualify to have SoonerCare pay their nursing home care but elect to stay at home. Long-term care services are provided in the home and community, rather than in a nursing facility through this Medicaid 1915(c) waiver program. Everyone who is in the ADvantage Program could choose to have their long-term care services provided in a nursing facility. Each ADvantage Program consumer has a case manager who works with the consumer and family to develop a care plan comprised of services to keep the consumer safely at home at a reduced cost to the state. Not every service plan is the same but is based on the consumer’s needs and their informal support system’s capacity to assist in meeting those needs. The cost to the state in SoonerCare dollars spent for each consumer’s ADvantage Program services must be equal to or less than the state would have paid to provide nursing facility

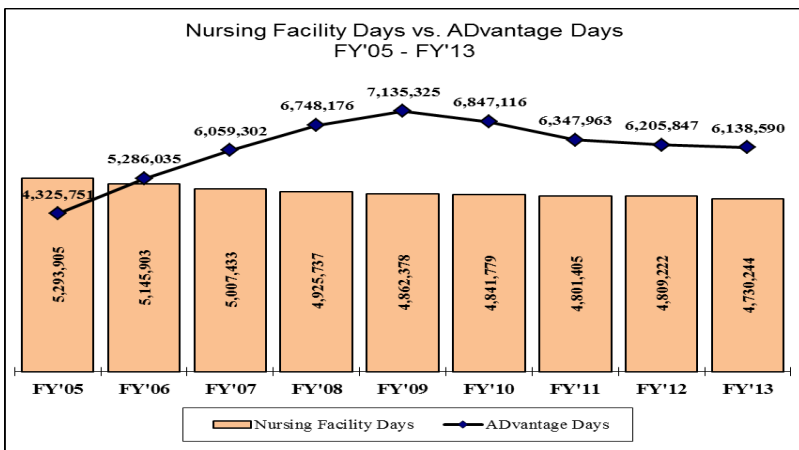
services to that consumer. Generally, if a person needs 24 hour skilled care, the ADvantage Program is not the appropriate service delivery system to meet their needs.

DHS staff performs the financial and level of care eligibility determinations. The DHS/AS nurse who performs the level of care determination provides potential consumers with a list of eligible case management providers in the consumer's geographic region from which the consumer chooses their case management agency. Depending on need, the consumer may also receive:

- ✓ Personal Care (Assistance with activities of daily living or homemaker/chore activities)
- ✓ Adult Day Health Care
- ✓ Home Delivered Meals
- ✓ Specialized Equipment and Supplies

The ADvantage Program began as a pilot in 1994 and has grown steadily since then. In FY 2013, 20,957 consumers elected to be served in the ADvantage Program. In that same year 19,116 consumers received SoonerCare nursing facility services.

In FY 2013, ADvantage costs were \$189,983,370 as opposed to \$527,611,434 in nursing facility costs for the same time period. It cost the State of Oklahoma almost 3 times more to serve less people in nursing facility placement than service in the in-home setting. Since approximately 30% of these costs are paid with state-appropriated funds (with the other 70 % being federal SoonerCare participation), the program continues to save the state a significant amount of money, while providing a choice of settings for SoonerCare consumers to receive their long-term care.



DHS continues implementation of its Electronic Data Entry & Retrieval System (ELDERS) to automate the medical eligibility process for the ADvantage Program. Since the beginning of the ADvantage Program, DHS has performed the required medical eligibility process using a paper-driven system. The processing of forms necessary to determine eligibility and provide services has slowed the eligibility-determination process. With ELDERS, the DHS nurses use laptop computers in the field to enter the required consumer information and then transfer that data electronically to the DHS computer system, thus decreasing the time and resources required to make these determinations.

Legal Services: Working with the Legal Aid Society of Oklahoma and the AAAs, the Legal Services Developer of AS serves to help protect the legal rights of older Oklahomans and ensure legal services are available to Oklahomans over the age of 60 by informing service providers, partners and the general public on issues affecting older Oklahomans and making referrals for legal services. The Legal Services Developer provides leadership in advocacy that strengthens protections for older Oklahomans by empowering constituency groups to provide effective legislative advocacy through education, training, and consultation.

Developmental Disabilities Programs

The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) is to enable persons with developmental disabilities to lead healthy, independent and productive lives to the fullest extent possible; to promote the full exercise of their rights as citizens of their communities, state, and country; and to promote the integrity and well-being of their families. The division's purpose is to design and operate a service system that efficiently uses available resources to support individuals in the least restrictive and intrusive manner possible. The division administers community-based programs and operates institutions both directly and through contract with an external company.

General Funding Breakdown: There are two types of funding for DDS services. First, Home and Community Based Waiver programs represent the majority of the services administered through DDS. Waiver services allow Oklahoma to capture a federal match also known as the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). The FMAP roughly allows Oklahoma to pay 37 cents on the dollar for every dollar of service authorized through a Waiver program. Waiver programs are SoonerCare programs, and thus require all recipients to be SoonerCare eligible. Because there are Oklahomans with developmental disabilities that are not SoonerCare eligible for various reasons, there are limited state funded services available that are wholly funded with state dollars made available through legislative appropriations.

Medicaid Waiver Services: Again, the Medicaid Waiver program is the primary funding source for DDS services. DDS operates three major programs funded by Medicaid: (1) Home and Community-Based Waiver Services provided through four 1915(c) waivers, (2) Targeted Case Management provided

by DDS staff, and (3) Public Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID).

Home and Community Based Waiver Programs: The division operates four different Medicaid Waiver programs: In-Home Supports Waiver for Children, In-Home Supports Waiver for Adults, Community Waiver, and the Homeward Bound Waiver. Waiver services are provided by contracted provider agencies throughout Oklahoma. The services available through these Waiver programs include:

- ✓ Adaptive Equipment, Architectural Modifications, and Medical Supplies
- ✓ Employment Services
- ✓ Family Training/Counseling
- ✓ Habilitation Training Specialists
- ✓ Professional Medical Services, including dental, nursing, nutritional, occupational, physical and speech therapies
- ✓ Psychological Counseling
- ✓ Residential Services
- ✓ Respite Services
- ✓ Transportation Services

To be eligible for DDS Waiver services, a person must:

- ✓ be a resident of the State of Oklahoma;
- ✓ be determined financially eligible for Medicaid by DHS;
- ✓ be determined to have a diagnosis of an intellectual disability or related condition;
- ✓ be determined to meet the Intermediate Care Facilities **for persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID)** level of care;
- ✓ be age three or older;
- ✓ not be simultaneously enrolled in any other Medicaid Waiver program;
- ✓ not be residing in a hospital, nursing facility, or **ICF/ID**; and
- ✓ meet other waiver-specific eligibility criteria.

Waiver services are not entitlement programs. The fact that a person qualifies for the service does not mean he or she can automatically be served. Waiver services are dependent on the availability of state money to match the federal funds supporting the programs. There is a waiting list for Waiver services because there are more people requesting these services than there are state-matching

funds to provide services. As of June 30, 2014 there were 6,980 Oklahoman's waiting for Waiver services.

The Community Waiver was first approved by the federal government in 1985. This Waiver provides for a comprehensive array of services including residential, employment, professional and habilitation services and supports. Case managers work closely with family and health professionals to design an annual plan of care based on identified needs. As of June 30, 2014 there were 2,928 Oklahomans being served through Community Waiver.

The In-Home Supports Waiver (IHSW) was created in 1999 in response to a comprehensive survey that found 85 % of Oklahomans on the Waiver Request List wanted support to continue living in their own homes. Individuals on the IHSW are assigned DDS Case Managers to assist them in locating, securing, and coordinating needed services.

In FY 2014, eligible children 3 through 17 years of age could receive up to \$13,844 of services per year through the IHSW for Children. Eligible adults 18 years of age or older could receive up to \$20,761 of services per year through the IHSW for Adults. The IHSW for Children provides less funding than the IHSW for Adults because many services are already available to children through the Medicaid State Plan Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Disabled Children's Program (DCP).

As of June 30, 2014 there were 262 Oklahoma children receiving services through the IHSW for Children. As of the same time, there were 1,464 Oklahoma adults receiving services through the IHSW for Adults.

The Homeward Bound Waiver was created in September 2003 to provide services and supports to the members of the Plaintiff Class of the Homeward Bound vs. The Hissom Memorial Center lawsuit. Prior to 1994, the Hissom Memorial Center in Sand Springs was one of the long-term care facilities, also known as a public ICF/ID, operated by DHS. This Waiver program meets the requirements set by the federal court for serving the individuals who lived at the center during a certain period of time. The services provided under the Homeward Bound Waiver are the same as those under the Community Waiver, with the exception of Class Members having the choice of sharing a house with roommates or living in a single placement. As of June 30, 2014, there were 664 class members served through the Homeward Bound Waiver.

Targeted Case Management Services: Each person receiving waiver services through DDS has a case manager who ensures that individual needs are met through linkage, assessment, brokerage, advocacy, and monitoring activities. Targeted case management services (TCM) are activities that assist this population in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services and supports, even if these supports and services are not covered under

the Oklahoma Home and Community-Based Services Waivers. Services provided include assessment and reassessment; support/service planning, and monitoring and coordination. The DDS Case Manager serves as the individual's Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP).

Public Intermediate Care Facilities (Resource Centers): The Resource Centers serve individuals age six or older who meet the ICF/ID level of care requirement when their individual circumstances indicate this type of placement is the least restrictive, most appropriate living arrangement available. The division operates three facilities: the Southern Oklahoma Resource Center (SORC) in Pauls Valley (census as of June 30, 2014 - 32); the Northern Oklahoma Resource Center (NORCE) in Enid (census as of June 30, 2014 - 15); and the Robert M. Greer Center located on the NORCE campus (census as of June 30, 2014 - 51). The Greer Center is the only facility in the state that exclusively serves individuals who are diagnosed as having both intellectual disability and mental illness. The management and operation of the Greer Center is provided through a contract with Liberty of Oklahoma Corporation.

Non-Medicaid Services:

DDS offers additional services that are not funded by Medicaid but are designed to support individuals in their communities. These services are often referred to as state-funded services as they are funded exclusively with state dollars, and are dependent wholly on legislative appropriations. Because the funding is exclusively with state dollars, the programs are limited in scope and availability.

Family Support Assistance Program: This program provides monthly cash payments to a limited number of families who have a child younger than 18 years of age with a developmental disability, and whose adjusted gross income is no more than \$45,000 a year. The families receive \$250 per month for one child meeting the eligibility criteria. If a family has more than one child meeting the eligibility criteria, an additional \$50 per month per child can be received, with a maximum of \$400 per month. These payments help families pay for needed services such as respite care, architectural modifications, technical assistance, or personal items such as diapers and medication. This program is funded through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

State Funded Employment Services (Sheltered Workshop and Community Integrated Employment): Sheltered Workshops provide employment services and work activities for individuals with developmental disabilities. In 1975, the Department began funding Work Activity Centers that later became known as Sheltered Workshops. Sheltered Workshops continue to provide opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities to engage in meaningful work or participate in training activities. People who receive sheltered workshop services are paid for their work in accordance with rules established by the US Department of Labor. Community Integrated Employment services are designed to promote independence through gainful, integrated employment. Services

include assessment, training, supportive assistance and follow-along support. Employment may be a single placement or in groups of not more than eight.

State Funded Group Home Program: Group Homes offer a living arrangement for 6 to 12 people who share a home and receive up to 24 hours per day of supervision, support, and training in daily living skills. Group Home residents are 18 years of age or older and are provided community living services. Group Homes are single-family homes located in the community close to other services and activities. The home is owned or leased by a private agency. The agency receives reimbursement from DDS for supervising and supporting residents of the home.

Office of Client Advocacy

The Office of Client Advocacy (OCA), established in 1982 following the filing of the “Terry D” lawsuit in 1978, administers three programs providing support and services to children and vulnerable adults in Oklahoma.

Investigations: The OCA has the responsibility to investigate allegations of caretaker abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and misconduct by a person responsible for a child, regardless of custody, residing outside their own homes other than children in foster care. This includes children who receive services from a community services provider or a community services worker, children in day treatment programs and children residing in a state institution.

DHS is statutorily authorized to investigate allegations of caretaker abuse, neglect, verbal abuse and exploitation of vulnerable adults. On behalf of the agency, OCA conducts those investigations involving Hissom class members, residents of Southern Oklahoma Resource Center (SORC), Northern Oklahoma Resource Center of Enid (NORCE) and the Robert M. Greer Center (Greer), and other vulnerable adults receiving services from a community services provider, a community services worker, a SoonerCare personal care services provider or a SoonerCare personal care assistant. In FY 2014 OCA received 2,447 referrals and assigned 967 for investigation.

Grievances: The purpose of OCA grievance policies and procedures is to provide clients a simple, effective, and timely system of problem resolution with access to procedures through which clients can obtain a thorough review, fair consideration, and corrections when appropriate. These policies also ensure that persons filing grievances are free from restraint, coercion, reprisal or discrimination. To further this purpose, OCA independently reviews and monitors the implementation of grievance programs providing services to the individuals listed in the paragraph below.

OCA is responsible for establishing and maintaining grievance programs for complaints filed by or on behalf of children in the custody of the DHS, regardless of placement, and children who are in the voluntary care of DHS. OCA also administers and monitors grievance programs for residents of NORCE, SORC

and Greer, Hissom class members, and other individuals receiving services in the community from the DHS Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS).

Advocacy: OCA advocacy programs advance the capacity and recognition of individual choice, the realization of rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and the personal well-being of recipients of DDS services. The program is based on the guiding principles of self-determination and meaningful choice.

DHS is required to establish an ombudsman program for each institution and residential facility for the intellectually disabled operated by DHS. The program is located in the Office of Client Advocacy (OCA). Orders of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma in *Homeward Bound, Inc., et al. v. Hissom Memorial Center, et al.*, Case No. 85-C-437-TCK-SAJ, require DHS and OCA to provide advocacy services to individuals certified by the court as members of the plaintiff class, known as Hissom class members. OCA also provides advocacy services, on a short-term or emergency basis, to other DDS clients who have a special advocacy need

Child Welfare Services

DHS is the designated state agency mandated to protect children alleged to be abused or neglected. Child Welfare Services (CWS): (1) are directed toward child safety, permanency, and well-being; (2) focus on the family as an integral part of the child's well-being; and (3) are provided to assist the parent develop protective capacities and ability to care for their child.

Child Welfare Services works to keep families together when possible. When a child must be removed from the home to ensure safety, DHS searches for relatives or resource parents that can support the child and family while efforts are made toward reunification. When the child and family cannot be safely reunified, DHS makes efforts to place the child with a family that can provide a safe, healthy life for the child while maintaining connections to the child's kin, culture, and community.

DHS operates and manages two shelter programs and administers the federally-funded Safe and Stable Families program that funds family preservation, family support, time-limited family reunification, and adoption support services.

On January 4, 2012, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) reached an agreement with the plaintiffs in class action litigation *DG vs. Yarbrough*, Case No. 08-CV-074. As part of this agreement, DHS developed an improvement plan, with the assistance of key internal and external stakeholders and the review and approval of the Co-Neutrals, who are child welfare experts who act as arbiters of any dispute between Child Welfare Services and the plaintiffs.

The improvement plan, known as the Oklahoma Pinnacle Plan, endorsed by the Co-Neutrals on July 25, 2012 details a five-year plan that begins Fiscal Year 2013 and addresses 15 performance areas identified in the settlement agreement.

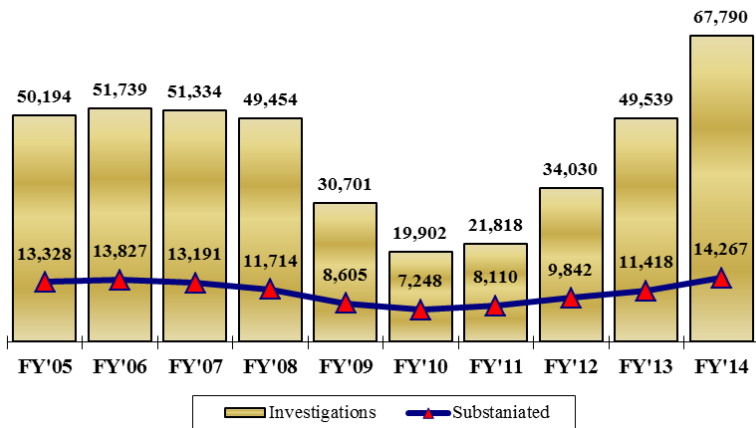
DHS is exploring new and innovative ways to recruit, retain, and support resource families to provide children with life experiences needed for healthy development in all aspects of life. The agency's goal is to place each child with a family that: (1) understands the impact of the trauma the child experiences when entering out-of-home care; (2) that can help the child heal from trauma; and (3) that will keep the child in the resource home during difficult times to ensure placement stability for the child.

Child protective services received 73,417 reports of potential child abuse or neglect in FY 2014. After screening, 35,549 reports met the criteria for a child abuse or neglect assessment or investigation. A differential approach in the response to reports of child abuse and neglect is required for DHS to receive certain federal funding; therefore, accepted reports of child abuse or neglect are prioritized and responded to in different manner as either an assessment or an investigation.

Assessment means a comprehensive review of child safety and evaluation of family functioning and protective capacities conducted in response to a child abuse or neglect referral that does not allege a serious and immediate safety threat to a child. Investigation means a comprehensive review of child safety and evaluation of family functioning and protective capacities conducted in response to an allegation of abuse or neglect that involves a serious and immediate threat to the child's safety.

In FY 2014, DHS conducted an assessment or investigation for 67,790 children and determined 14,267 or 21% of the children were victims of abuse, neglect, or both. Of the 14,267 children, neglect was substantiated for 81.14% of the children; abuse was substantiated for 15.50% of the children; and sexual abuse was substantiated for 3.36 % of the children.

Child Protective Services
Number of Investigations and Children for Whom Abuse and Neglect
Was Substantiated FY'05 – FY'14



When a child cannot be safely maintained in the child's own home, out-of-home care is required. A child may be placed in: (1) a foster care home with relatives; (2) a foster care home with non-relative kinship; (3) a foster care home; (4) therapeutic foster care; (5) a contracted foster care home; or (6) in group home care.

Oklahoma has one of the highest kinship foster care placement rates in the nation and provides a foster care maintenance payment to those relatives and kin, as well as to non-kin, non-relative, foster parents.

In the beginning of FY 2007, 11,941 children in DHS care were in out-of-home placement. In the beginning of FY 2014, 10,233 children were in out-of-home care.

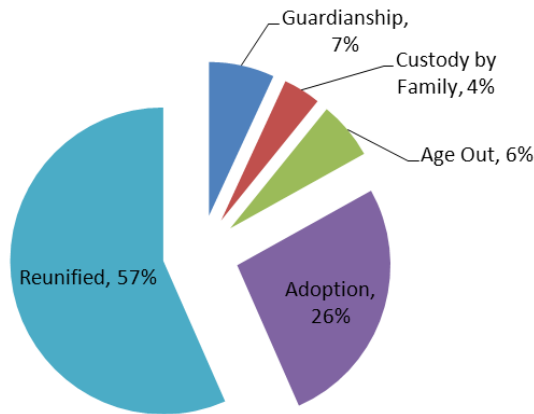
Resource foster and adoptive parents are invaluable to the child welfare system. The foster care payment reimburses resource parents for the cost of food, clothing, shelter, school supplies, personal incidentals, and reasonable travel for a child in Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) custody.

As part of the Oklahoma Pinnacle Plan, DHS has recommended that resource parents be reimbursed at the established Minimum Adequate Rates for Children as set out in a study published by the University of Maryland, National Resource Parent Association, and Children's Rights. The full rate increase in the Pinnacle Plan is a five year plan to fully implement, with three of the five increases being implemented as of July 1, 2014.

**Pinnacle Plan Monthly Reimbursement Rates
for Resource Parents**

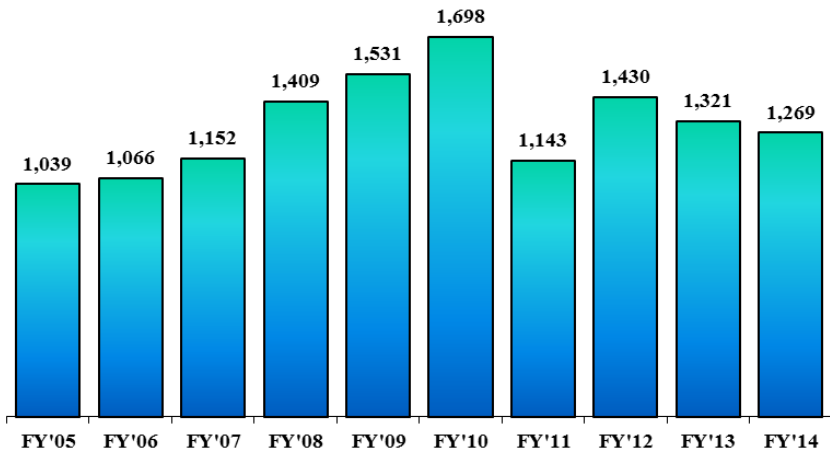
Age	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
0-5	\$365	\$403.48	\$441.97	\$480.45	\$518.94	\$557.42
6-12	\$430	\$471.78	\$513.57	\$555.35	\$597.14	\$638.92
13+	\$498.33	\$538.73	\$579.13	\$619.53	\$659.93	\$700.33

The majority of foster children are reunified with their families. In FY 2014, 4,788 children exited DHS care. Seven percent entered a legal guardianship; 4% were placed in the legal custody of a family member; 6% reached 18 years of age while in care; 26% were adopted; and 57% were reunified with their family.



DHS seeks permanent homes for children unable to return home. A child needs lifelong connections from caring and loving families to thrive. When a child is removed from the home for abuse or neglect cannot safely return home, DHS seeks a safe, permanent family for the child. Between 2007 and 2014, 10,953 children in DHS care were adopted. In FY 2014, DHS finalized 1,269 adoptions. Per capita, DHS adoptions are twice the national average.

In a few cases, adoptions are dissolved. In FY 2014, there were 6 adoption dissolutions which is less than 1% of finalized adoptions and on average these adoptions lasted 74 months or longer than six years.

Adoptions Finalized FY'05 – FY'14**The number of children qualifying for adoption assistance continues to rise.**

The adoption assistance program aids in securing safe, permanent adoptive homes for children with special needs. Adoption assistance provides adoptive families of any income level with needed social services and medical and financial support to care for the child considered difficult to place. Federal and state laws provide for adoption assistance benefits that include: (1) SoonerCare coverage; (2) a monthly adoption assistance payment; (3) special services; and (4) reimbursement of non-recurring adoption expenses.

There were 9,197 children who qualified for adoption assistance at the end of FY 2007. At the end of FY 2014, 14,123 children qualified for adoption assistance.

Adoption subsidy amounts are set at the same rate as foster care reimbursement amounts and the rate for adoption assistance will also increase per the Pinnacle Plan.

Three salary adjustments have been made for Child Welfare Specialists positions as of July 2014. One of the many objectives in the Oklahoma Pinnacle Plan focused on the recruitment and retention of child welfare personnel. The Pinnacle Plan proposes that the salaries for DHS child welfare personnel be increased incrementally over five years beginning in FY 2013. The salary adjustments are based on the compensation market for the Child Welfare Specialist and does consider what other states pay child welfare workers. The legislature supported this Pinnacle Point and appropriated funding for the salary adjustments and the establishment of the new minimum hiring rates for the Child Welfare Specialist, levels I through IV.

Minimum Hiring Rates effective July 1, 2014

Job Title	FY 2012	New Hiring Rate for FY 2014
Child Welfare Specialist I	\$2,381.07	\$2,826.92
Child Welfare Specialist II	\$2,624.33	\$3,149.92
Child Welfare Specialist II	\$2,894.18	\$3,563.00
Child Welfare Specialist IV	\$3,466.10	\$4,226.09

Job Title	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
CWS II	\$2,624.33	\$2,821.15	\$2,990.42	\$3,124.99	\$3,218.74	\$3,307.26
CWS III	\$2,894.18	\$3,111.24	\$3,336.81	\$3,570.39	\$3,802.46	\$4,040.11
CWS IV	\$3,466.10	\$3,726.06	\$3,986.88	\$4,226.09	\$4,437.40	\$4,603.80

Child Support Services

Child Support Services (CSS), a division of DHS, acts as an economic advocate for the children of Oklahoma, ensuring that parents financially support their children. CSS helps families become self-sufficient, and for those who are not receiving public assistance to remain self-sufficient. CSS received the National Child Support Enforcement Association's 2011 Outstanding Program Award and ranked number one in the nation for statewide paternity establishment in 2014.

But why is child support important? If a parent fails to participate in a child's life, it often falls on taxpayers to pick up the bill. CSS helps all taxpayers by enforcing both parents' financial responsibility for the support of their children. More than that, research shows that children with both parents financially supporting them are more likely to succeed in life. A child receiving a reliable source of support is more likely to finish high school, go to college and have a stable marriage. Paying child support is one way that both parents play a part in helping their child succeed.

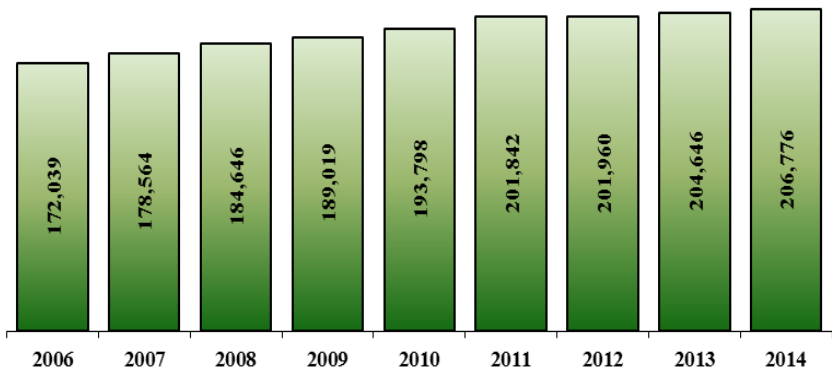
To promote healthy families, CSS enhances the well-being of children by establishing, monitoring and enforcing a reliable source of support for the families it serves. In support of this mission, CSS provides the following services:

- ✓ locating non-custodial parents;
- ✓ establishing paternity;
- ✓ establishing and enforcing child support and medical support orders;
- ✓ working with other partners, states and countries to obtain child support;
- ✓ collecting and distributing support payments; and
- ✓ modifying child support orders when necessary.

Child Support Services provides these services to families statewide through a variety of different delivery models. CSS contracts with District Attorneys to operate 13 full-service Child Support Offices. CSS directly operates 23 full-service offices, a private vendor operates two full-service offices, and one full-service office is operated by a non-profit organization. There are also three specialty offices: two focuses exclusively on the child welfare cases in the Tulsa and Oklahoma county juvenile courts; and one is dedicated to working difficult-to-collect cases.

As of June 30, 2014, CSS had almost 207,000 open cases. Of these, approximately 9% are current TANF or Foster Care assistance cases, 31% are former TANF or Foster Care assistance cases and 60% have never been on TANF or Foster Care assistance but 47% of those are SoonerCare cases.

Child Support Caseload 2006 through 2014 (as of June 30)



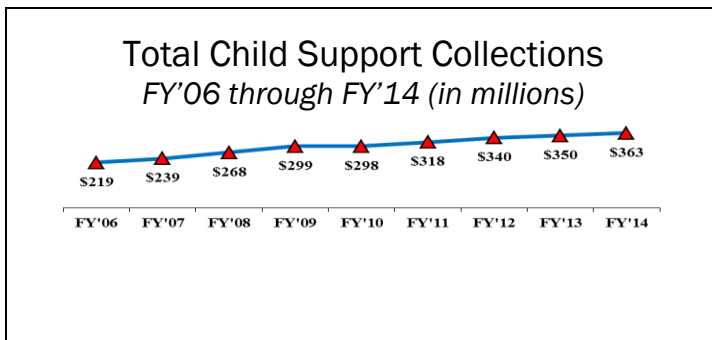
Through the CSS Internet site, child support payments may be paid by credit or debit cards. WebPay also offers a bank transfer directly to CSS known as “direct debit.” Both individuals and employers are eligible to sign up for this service. CSS also has a cooperative agreement with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission to provide an exchange of information regarding quarterly wages, new hires, and unemployment claims.

Other CSS partnerships for the benefit of Oklahoma’s families include:

- Access and Visitation – Through contracts with local non-profit social service agencies, and funded by a special federal grant, referral services are available for a parent to have access to and visitation time with his or her children.

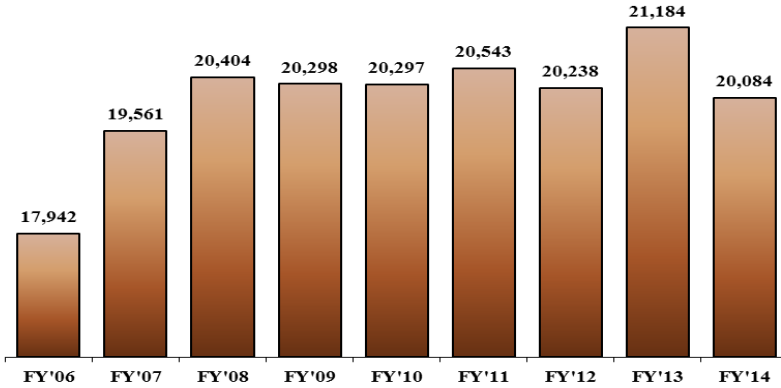
University of Oklahoma, Center for Public Management contracts:

- Customer Assistance Response Effort (CARE) Customer Call Center has been Oklahoma's primary source for child support customer information since 2001. The call center currently answers just over 48,000 customer calls each month, with an additional monthly average of 58,000 calls being handled by the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. CARE answered its seven millionth call on July 29, 2013. Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) successfully resolve an average of 96% of calls processed each month - allowing district offices to devote State resources to other casework.
- In February 2008, CSS centralized processing of all employer related calls and documents to the Employer Service Center (ESC). The ESC processes an average of over 20,000 documents per month and answers over 3,500 phone calls, relieving district offices of nearly 4,000 hours of additional work per month. ESC also performs various outreach and training activities for employers across the state. These activities range from New Hire Reporting training to publishing brochures and handbooks designed to help employers comply with state child support laws. In FY 2013, the ESC contacted over 30,000 employers, specifically in regards to New Hire Reporting compliance. Within the second quarter, New Hire reporting across the state increased 17%.
- In 2001, with three court liaisons in the eastern part of the state, CSS piloted a problem solving court program to help noncustodial parents remove barriers to paying child support, called the Court Liaison Program.
- Total distributed collections (including interstate and out of country collections) increased by 4%, from \$350 million in FY 2013 to \$363 million in FY 2014. In-state collections increased by 4% from \$325 million in FY 2013 to \$338 million in FY 2014.



- As of June 30, 2014 CSS established paternity (by order or by paternity acknowledgement) of 20,084 children; 15,177 of these established paternities were through voluntary acknowledgement.

Paternities Established in Child Support Cases FY'06 through FY'14



- The federal cost effectiveness ratio increased from \$4.53 to \$4.81 between FFY 2012 and FFY 2013. As of June 30, 2014, cost effectiveness is \$4.82. This means CSS collected over four dollars for every dollar spent on collection. Achieving the \$4.00 threshold qualifies Oklahoma for more federal incentives. For every state dollar spent in the child support program (except federal incentives dollars), the federal government matches that dollar with two more.

CSS has a variety of tools to compel child support payments. Among them:

- Income Assignment – In partnership with employers, CSS withholds child support from paychecks as the primary method of child support collection. During the year ending June 30, 2014, over \$234 million was collected - a 3% increase from the year ending June 30, 2013 of \$225 million.
- Federal Income Tax Offset – This automated process with IRS allows for seizure of tax refunds. During the year ending June 30, 2014, over \$41 million was collected--a slight decrease of 4% over the previous year.
- Federal Administrative Offset – This automated process with the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and the U.S. Treasury allows for seizure of various federal monies. During the year ending June 30, 2014, over \$283 thousand was collected using this remedy – an increase of 8% over the previous year.

- **Oklahoma Tax Refund Offset** – This automated process for seizure of state tax refunds is in partnership with the Oklahoma Tax Commission. During the year ending June 30, 2014, nearly \$5 million was collected using this remedy. There is less than a 1% difference in these collections compared to FY 2013.
- **Unemployment Benefit Offset** – Another automated process, this seizes unemployment benefits in partnership with Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. This offset allows for continuation of regular payment of child support when the payer is unemployed. During the year ending June 30, 2014, more than \$5.1 million was collected. In its second full year of operation, the semi-automated program for CSS collecting from unemployment agencies in other states received more than \$142 thousand for families that could not have been reached before.
- **Workers' Compensation and Personal Injury Award Intercept** – This automated process intercepts workers' compensation and personal injury settlements and awards. During the year ending June 30, 2014, more than \$5.5 million was collected. This represents a decrease in overall workers compensation and personal injury collections of 9% over the previous year. The state enacted a Workers Compensation reform effective February 1, 2014 and one impact is lower collections from lower awards.
- **Lottery Offset** – This automated special collection process intercepts lottery winnings of parents who owe child support. During the year ending June 30, 2014, over \$46 thousand was collected, a 10% increase as compared to FY 2013.
- **Passport Denial Collections** – Persons who owe past due child support in excess of \$2,500 are not permitted to obtain or renew a passport. During the year ending June 30, 2014, the passport denial program has collected \$340 thousand, a decrease of 10% as compared to FY 2013.
- **Collection Agency Program** – persons that have made no payment for two (2) months, have no verified employer to which to generate an Income Assignment with the last 45 days and have no future court hearing dates can be referred to the Collection Agency Program. This collection program collected \$2.8 million from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. FY 2014 collections show a 9% increase over FY 2012 and an 11% increase over FY 2013.

- Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Program – Persons entitled to financial compensation from the Oklahoma Crime Victims Fund are matched with child support obligors. The only funds CSS offsets from the crime victims is lost wages. This is a small program that collected just over \$7 thousand dollars during FY 2014. This represents a 63% increase over FY 2013 collections.
- Beginning in the Spring of 2014, CSS began matching with the Oklahoma State Treasurer's Office – Unclaimed Property Fund and then sending lump sum IWO's to recover obligors unclaimed property. After matching on the initial approximately 200 cases CSS has collected nearly \$50 thousand with more expected.
- Also in the Spring of 2014, CSS began working with the State Retirement and Pension Plans to formalize Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDROs) to offset monthly retirement payments as well as lump sum withdrawals for payment of past due child support.

Tribal Child Support Agencies within Oklahoma

In FY 1999, CSS and the Chickasaw Nation opened the first Tribal Child Support Agency in the country. The Federal Child Support Enforcement Office now sponsors 55 Tribal Child Support Offices around the country, with Oklahoma hosting nine (9) full service Tribal Child Support Agencies, more than in any other state. CSS collaborates with the Chickasaw, Osage, Cherokee, Kaw, Muscogee (Creek), Ponca, Comanche, Modoc and Kickapoo federally funded Tribal Child Support Agencies to provide services to thousands of Oklahoma tribal families. CSS partners with these tribal child support programs to coordinate services, refer cases, train employees, and provide access to the CSS automated computer system.



JUVENILE JUSTICE

The organization of state programs addressing juvenile delinquents changed significantly in the mid 1990's. Before 1995, these programs were under the purview of the Department of Human Services. A separate agency, the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA), was created in 1995 to establish independent management of the juvenile justice system, a move designed to improve services and hold juveniles more accountable for their actions.

OFFICE OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS

The creation of OJA was part of a sweeping juvenile justice reform bill, HB 2640, enacted in 1994. After a one-year transition period, the separate agency became operational on July 1, 1995 (FY'96). The bill expanded prevention, intervention and detention programs across the state. The goals of the legislation were to:

- Initiate a number of primary prevention programs to prevent juvenile crime;
- Provide immediate consequences and rehabilitation programs for early offenders to prevent further juvenile crime; and
- Ensure the public's safety by providing more medium-security beds for juveniles adjudicated for serious offenses.

Changes in Juvenile Justice Laws

In addition to creating prevention and treatment programs for adjudicated youth, HB 2640 also enacted the "Youthful Offender Act". Prior to this time, the juvenile justice system was required to release a juvenile in the state's custody at the age of 18. Under the Act, if a juvenile sentenced as a Youthful Offender (YO) turns 18 years of age but has failed to successfully complete his treatment plan, the juvenile may be transferred to the adult correctional system by the court of jurisdiction. Similarly, the juvenile may also be moved to the adult system at any time if the terms of the rehabilitation agreement with the court were violated.

During the 2000 Legislative Session, the Youthful Offender Act was amended to allow a youth up to the age of 20 to remain in the juvenile system, if OJA requests an extension of custody. The purpose of this amendment was to allow YOs who were seventeen years of age or older at the time of their sentencing to have sufficient time in the juvenile system to complete their rehabilitation plans.

During the 2006 Legislative Session, the Youthful Offender Act was further amended. These amendments were the most substantive changes since the enactment of the original legislation. SB1799 included eliminating the ten-year cap on the sentence a YO could receive; mandating in lieu of the cap the same sentencing range as for an adult offender. SB1799 also provided for the retention of YOs in OJA custody until age twenty-one, only in the event of the opening of a new, separate facility devoted to the treatment of YOs. SB1760 removed the cases of fifteen-, sixteen-, and seventeen-year olds charged with first degree murder from eligibility as YOs or from any further jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court.

During the 2008 Legislative Session, the legislature rewrote the Youthful Offender Act in SB1403 to have the courts review the sentence at the time the YO turns eighteen. At the sentencing review hearing, the court may make one of four recommendations: (1) the YO is returned to OJA in order to complete the rehabilitation agreement, provided the time shall not exceed the YO reaching eighteen years and 5 months; (2) the YO is discharged from OJA and transferred to DOC to complete the original sentence, and the court cannot add more time than the original sentence; (3) the YO is placed on probation with DOC; or (4) the YO is discharged from state custody.

SB1403 (2008) the Youthful Offender Act was further amended by permitting the transfer of a YO to DOC if a YO is found to have committed battery or assault and battery on a state employee or contractor while in custody; if a YO has disrupted the facility, smuggled contraband, engaged in other types of behaviors which have endangered the lives or health of other residents or staff; or established a pattern or disruptive behavior not conducive to the policies and procedures of the program. Additionally, SB1403 defined the placement of a YO to be the responsibility of OJA, and OJA is to place a YO not more than 45 days following the filing and adoption of the written rehabilitation plan with the court, unless an emergency is declared. For YOs who have been sentenced to OJA custody who are pending placement into an OJA facility, seventeen- and eighteen-year olds may be detained in county jails while eighteen-year olds may be held in the general population of county jails. The bill also retains annual court review hearings for YOs who are in OJA custody, which are to be completed within 30 days of the date the sentence was imposed.

In 2009, SB270 clarified that a sentence imposed upon a youthful offender would be served in the custody of or under the supervision of OJA until the expiration of the sentence, the youthful offender is discharged, or the youthful offender reaches the age of 18, whichever occurs first. The parole of a youthful offender

as a triggering event for the termination of the sentence was eliminated. This bill also clarified that at the age of 18, the court may order that the youthful offender be placed in the custody of the Department of Corrections rather than incarcerated in the custody of DOC.

In 2009, HB2029 renumbered all sections of the Juvenile Code, including the Youthful Offender Act.

In 2010, SB1771 clarified that youthful offenders shall not remain in the custody of or under the supervision of OJA beyond the maximum age of 18 years and 5 months.

In 2011, SB247 authorized OJA to place juveniles in a collocated secure facility which meet applicable criteria of the federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act.

In 2012, SB1582 authorized campus police for secure juvenile facilities, as provided by the Campus Security Act. HB2300 directed OJA to certify DHS shelters with OJA establishing a system of certification. Additionally, HB2300 established the OK Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents Program for children who are in the custody of OJA and currently placed outside the home, or who have been identified by OJA as at-risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. HB2641 provided an evidence-based counseling curriculum for students in school districts. HB3091 authorized courts to order an expungement of an entire file and record of a Youthful Offender case.

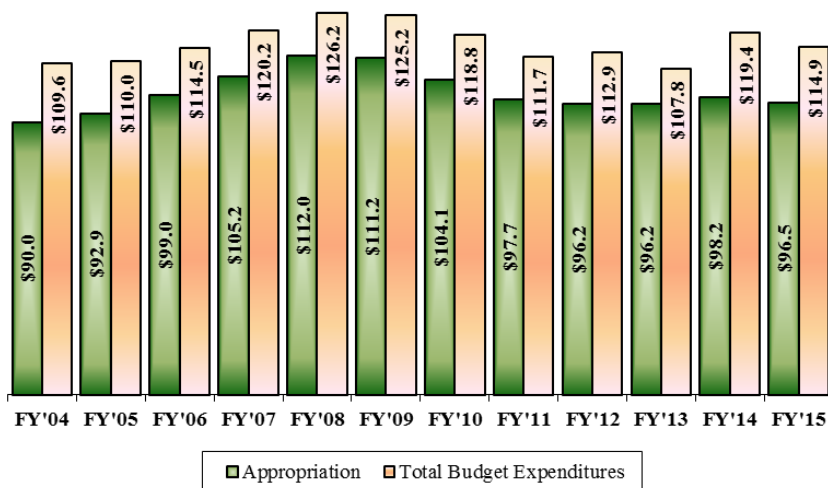
In 2013, a large bill, SB679, resulting from the Juvenile Justice Reform Committee established by the Legislature, consisted of changes to many areas including, but not limited to, due process when a dispositional order undergoes revocation or modification, strengthened court orders directing parents of children who have orders for treatment, additional authority to detain a child, sealing of child records, uniform intake process, court proceedings, OJA custody youth, detention, diversion services, sexting, intoxication, interrogations, adjudication hearings, assessments, and interlocal agreements.

In 2014, SB929 provided OJA standing in YO cases and allows for OJA custody extended youth to be allowed to remain in detention and receive services. SB1902 authorized the Board of Juvenile Affairs to serve as a governing body for an OJA charter school and the Executive Director to provide administration and operation of such a school.

OFFICE OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS BUDGET

Funding for juvenile justice remains primarily a state responsibility. The federal government provides modest funding for juvenile justice programs or services through reimbursement from the Title XIX Medicaid program for youth who are not institutionalized; pass-through and discretionary funding from the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG); and Formula and Title V grant funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Appropriations and Total Budget FY'04 Through FY'15 (In Millions)

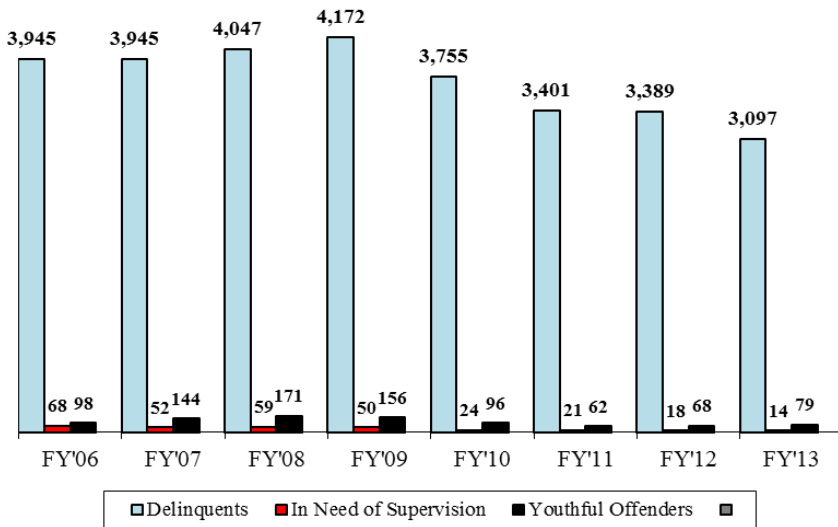


Appropriations to the agency were decreased during FY'10 due to the state revenue failure caused by the recession. Monthly cuts of 5% began in August of '09 and were increased to 10% beginning in December of '09 for the remainder of the fiscal year. The net effect was a 7.5% reduction in state appropriations for FY'10. Appropriations were reduced an additional 4.8% for FY'11. In addition, the agency was required to carryover \$912,464 in stimulus savings from FY'10 to FY'11. Appropriations were reduced for FY'12 to \$96.2 million appropriated and \$112.9 million budgeted; and for FY'13 to \$96.2 million appropriated and \$107.8 million budgeted. In FY'14, the appropriation was \$98.2 million but the \$2 million increase was legislatively directed to Community Based Programs, an increase Level E rates, and to a group home in Lawton, Oklahoma. This produced a net appropriated amount of \$96.2 million for FY'14. In FY'15, the appropriated amount was \$96.5 million and the budgeted amount was \$114.9 million.

JUVENILE CRIME AND RECIDIVISM

The total number of juveniles adjudicated as delinquent decreased between FY'06 and FY'13 (-21.5%), as did the number of juveniles adjudicated as Youthful Offenders (-19%).

Types of Adjudication FY'06 Through FY'13



Source: Office of Juvenile Affairs – Juvenile On-Line Tracking System (JOLTS).

OJA PROGRAMS

In keeping with the agency's mission, programs provided by the Office of Juvenile Affairs can be divided into three categories:

- Prevention programs, which aim to prevent and decrease juvenile delinquency;
- Intervention/treatment programs, which provide immediate consequences and rehabilitation services for juveniles adjudicated for less serious offenses; and
- Detention/Secure Facilities programs, which protect the public from juveniles who have been adjudicated for or are charged with violent or other serious offenses.

Prevention

Community-Based Youth Services: Community-based Youth Services agencies are the primary providers of prevention services for the juvenile justice system, since part of their mission is to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

The State of Oklahoma funds 42 Youth Services agencies serving all 77 counties across the state and is responsible for providing a continuum of services. Youth Services Agencies provide community educational programs to schools and parent organizations, parenting classes, and family counseling (prevention programs) as well as first-time offender and emergency shelter programs (intervention programs). Some also subcontract with municipalities to operate community intervention centers serving as temporary holding facilities for youth arrested on minor charges when their guardians cannot immediately be located.

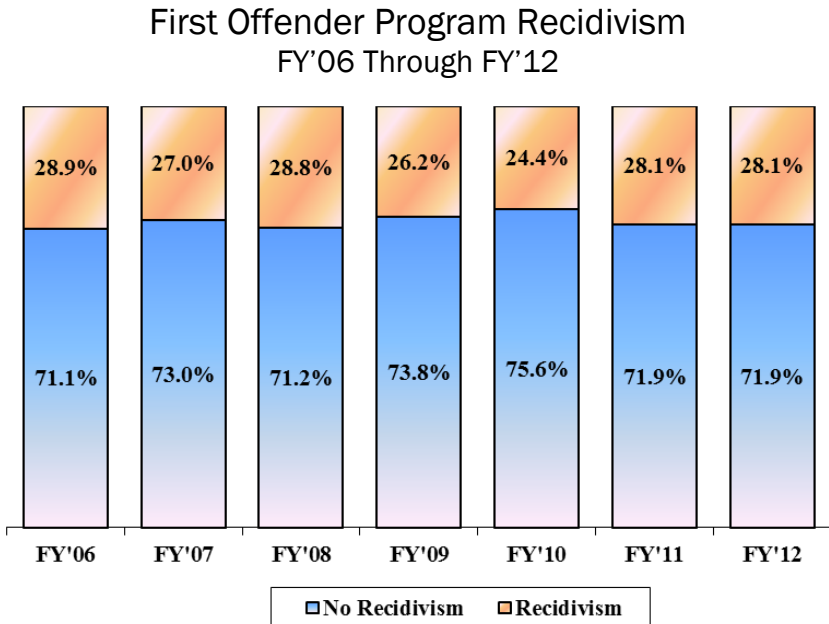
During FY'10, Youth Services agencies received nearly \$23.3 million in state funding. In FY'15, Youth Services received \$21,305,255 from the \$96,499,033 appropriated to OJA.

Intervention/Treatment Programs

Graduated Sanctions: This program is a community-based initiative focused on preventing juveniles who have committed non-violent minor offenses from committing more serious and/or violent crimes. In previous years, it has been funded by the federal government under the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) and by community donations. The federal funding which supported this program has undergone a gradual reduction. State dollars have been appropriated to allow for continued existence of these community-based services. For FY'10, nineteen communities had graduated sanctions programs in operations. During FY'11 and FY'12, the number of communities providing the graduated sanctions program declined. For FY'15, twelve communities have graduated sanctions programs in operation.

Youth arrested for minor offenses (such as vandalism or petty larceny) are referred to the sanctions program. The youth and their parent are given the option to participate in the sanctions program or go through the juvenile justice system. If the family elects to participate in the program, the youth appears before a community board. The board determines the appropriate consequences and treatment plan based on the individual needs of the youth. A variety of consequences and services are ordered by the community boards to assist the youth with learning responsibility through community accountability. Each program is unique to the geographic location and the community it serves. Services and/or consequences may include counseling, community service projects, life skills programs, and Saturday school.

First Offender: This curriculum-based program is primarily state-funded and administered by Youth Services agencies across the state. The program is designed to intervene and prevent identified community youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Youth served under this program have committed minor offenses such as being truant, violating curfew, and shoplifting. Parents and youth must apply to participate in the program; it provides eight weeks of counseling and instruction on anger management, responsible decision-making and appropriate behavior. State law allows district attorneys to defer further prosecution of juveniles who successfully complete the program.



Source: Office of Juvenile Affairs – Juvenile On-Line Tracking System (JOLTS).

Detention

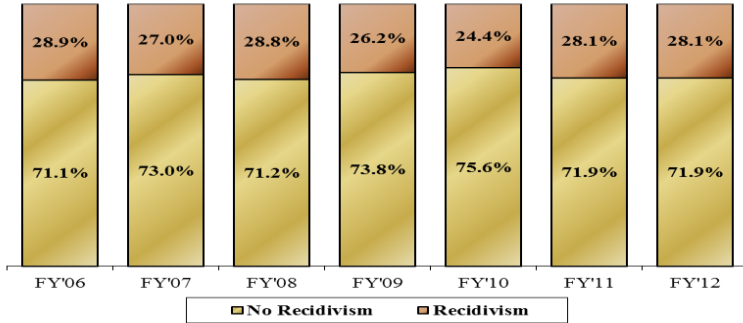
State funds are provided for 309 secure detention beds located in 17 counties. These centers provide secure detention to juveniles arrested for serious crimes as well as juveniles placed in state's custody and awaiting placement in an OJA-operated or contracted facility. State reimbursement for these centers varies according to facility capacity and during FY'10 the OJA budget for detention centers was reduced by 7.5% and sustained a further reduction during FY'11 of 4.4%. In FY'13, funding for the 11.9% in previous cuts, were restored to the detention centers. In FY15, due to budget constraints, OJA reduced detention center funding by \$400,000.00.

Residential services are provided to adjudicated youth in the custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs for serious property crimes and violent offenses. Services range from foster homes to medium-security institutions. During

FY'10, the OJA contract for the 30-bed program operated by the Oklahoma Military Department was cancelled due to the state's budget shortfall. The program had served 90 chronic property offenders a year. All OJA placements incorporate educational services either at a local school, as in the case of foster care, or on-site at the facility, as in group homes and secure institutions.

- **Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC):** TFC is a contracted service for youth who need medical and therapeutic services but can be served outside of a psychiatric facility. The agency contracts for approximately 20 beds costing \$33.80 per day with an annual cost of \$12,337 per bed.
- **Specialized Community Homes:** These are homes of individuals in the community who provide room and board for up to four youths. The contractors are professional social service providers who offer intensive, individually focused therapeutic intervention programs. In FY'11, OJA had a reduction from six to two homes, as the annual salary reduced from \$38,000 to \$31,500. In addition to salary, providers receive \$22.63 per day in foster care maintenance payments for each child they are serving. In FY'12, the number of Specialized Community Homes increased to three homes and OJA restored the annual salary back to \$38,000 for the three homes. In FY14, OJA lost one of the Specialized Community Homes due to the operators retirement. OJA currently funds 2 Specialized Community Homes.
- **Level E Group Homes:** These staff secure group homes have a highly structured environment and regularly scheduled contact with professional staff. Crisis intervention is available through a formalized process on a 24-hour basis. Youth in this category display extreme anti-social and aggressive behaviors and often suffer emotional disturbances as well. The state contracts with private providers for 226 Level E beds at an average cost of \$148.20 per day.
- **Secure Institutions:** Secure institutions are locked and fenced facilities that provide OJA's most intensive level of residential programming. They are reserved for youth whose behavior represents the greatest risk to the public and to themselves. The agency operates two institutions: the Southwestern Oklahoma Juvenile Center in Manitou (64 beds), and the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center in Tecumseh (80 beds). In September 2011, the Lloyd E. Rader Center in Sand Springs was closed. The Rader Center was OJA's largest secure facility, which was the only secure facility in Oklahoma with the Diagnostic and Evaluation program, the Intensive Treatment Program, as well as the Behavior and Medical Unit. In FY14, OJA contracted with Southern Plains Secure Services for medium secure placement of twenty two (22) females.

Annual Out-of-Home Placement Recidivism FY'06 Through FY'12

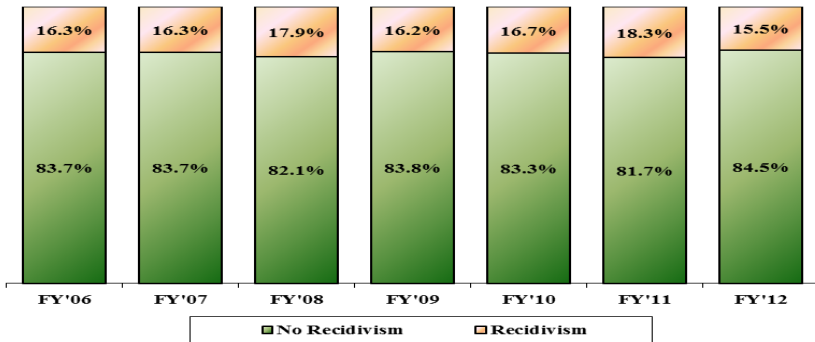


Source: Office of Juvenile Affairs – Juvenile On-Line Tracking System

Follow-up and Aftercare

Research shows that an essential part of successful rehabilitation of delinquent youth includes a program of six to twelve months of follow-up/aftercare that includes both surveillance as well as therapeutic counseling services. OJA provides the surveillance and Youth Services Agencies provide the therapeutic counseling through their Community At-Risk Services (CARS) program. The CARS program was implemented in FY'00 for individual, group and family counseling, as well as school reintegration. All youth exiting group homes or institutions are eligible for CARS services, while other at-risk youth may also receive services in order for them to remain at home. During FY'10 the CARS program was reduced by 7.5% and was reduced a further 4.4% during FY'11. In FY'12, partial funding of approximately one-fifth of the previous reductions was restored to the CARS program.

Annual Recidivism Rates for the CARS Program FY'06 Through FY'12



Source: Office of Juvenile Affairs – Juvenile On-Line Tracking System

STATE PERSONNEL ISSUES

Section Information Prepared By:

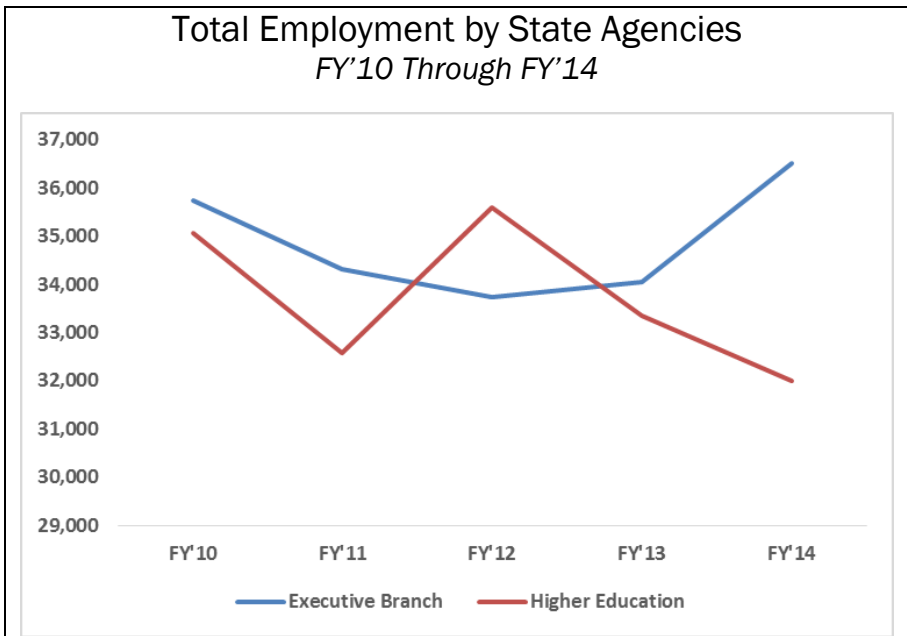
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STATE PERSONNEL ISSUES

Total State Government Employment

State agencies paid a total of 68,498 full-time-equivalent employees in FY'14, according to Office of Management and Enterprise Services data. This total includes 31,987 FTE at state higher education institutions, a 463 person increase from FY'13. FTE levels at executive branch state agencies decreased after the budget cuts of FY'10 and FY'11, but began to rebound in FY'13.



Source: Office of Management and Enterprise Services

State Employee Salaries

The average state employee earns \$42,108 per year (according to Office of Management and Enterprise Services data, which excludes higher education agencies). State employees' salaries have increased an average of 4.7 percent over the last five years.

Average Oklahoma State Employee Salary FY'10 Through FY'14		
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Average Salary</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2010	\$39,842	0.9%
2011	\$40,026	0.5%
2012	\$40,483	1.2%
2013	\$40,966	1.2 %
2014	\$42,108	2.7%

Source: Office of Management and Enterprise Services

Total Remuneration Study

In 2012, the State contracted for a Total Remuneration Study for all executive branch employees. The purpose of this study was to take a comprehensive look at salary and benefits for both classified and unclassified employees and compare to jobs in both the private and public sectors. The study began by the formation of a committee with representation from the Governor's office, Senate, House of Representatives, State Agencies, Oklahoma Public Employee Association, and the State's Human Capital Management Division. This committee defined the State's competitive market, set the desired position in relation to this market, and drafted the State's compensation philosophy. Once the competitive market was determined, benchmark jobs were selected and compared to similar positions in the market. Overall, the study found that state employees were paid below their counterparts in both the public and private sectors, but in many cases had a richer benefits package. The study concluded with recommendations and a five year plan for implementing them.

In the 2014 legislative session, SB 2131 was passed to provide pay raises for the job categories identified by the study as being most underpaid. Also passed in that session was HB 3293, which codified the State's compensation philosophy. It directed the establishment of an effective pay for performance plan and removed most salaries from statute, both recommendations of the study. Approximately 12,378 employees at 25 state agencies received raises under the provisions of SB 2131. These raises averaged between 5% and 13.5%.

PAY RAISE HISTORY

- FY'15 A pay raise was passed to provide pay raises for the job categories identified by the total remuneration study as being most underpaid. (SB 2131, SB 232)
- FY'08 – FY'14 No Pay Raise
- FY'07 5 percent annual across-the-board raise provided for all state employees effective October 1, 2006. (SB 82XX)
- FY'06 \$700 annual across-the-board raise provided for all state employees effective July 1, 2005. (HB 2005)
- FY'05 \$1,400 annual across-the-board raise provided for all state employees effective January 1, 2005 (HB 2005).
- FY'04 No Pay Raise
- FY'03 No Pay Raise
- FY'02 No Pay Raise
- FY'01 \$2,000 annual across-the-board raise provided for all state employees effective October 1, 2000 (SB 994).
- FY'00 2 percent pay increase, with a minimum provision of \$600 and a maximum provision of \$1,000, for all state employees effective July 1, 1999 (SB 183).
- FY'99 4 percent pay increase, with minimum provision of \$1,250 and a maximum provision of \$2,000, for all state employees effective January 1, 1999 (HB 2928).
- FY'98 No Pay Raise
- FY'97 \$1,200 annual across-the-board raise for agency employees. Also, an allied health pay plan gave a 10 percent raise to about 900 health care workers (SB 846).
- FY'96 No Pay Raise
- FY'95 \$800 annual across-the-board raise for agency employees beginning October 1, 1994 (SB 870).
- FY'94 No Pay Raise

STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PACKAGE

The state employee benefits package consists of paid annual and sick leave; a defined benefit retirement plan and a deferred compensation retirement plan; and group health, life, and disability insurance.

Generally, employees pay the following costs of benefits:

- 3.5 percent of salary paid to the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). However, contributions differ for employees in other retirement systems (see Retirement Benefits);
- supplemental life insurance premiums (optional);
- federally mandated social security tax and Medicare tax; and
- effective January 1, 2014, employees under the age of 50 may defer up to \$17,500 annually while employees 50 or over may defer up to \$23,000 per year.

State agencies, as employers, pay the remaining cost of providing employee benefits as follows:

- 16.5 percent of salaries paid to OPERS;
- a benefits allowance ranging from \$640.98 to \$1,677.96 in Plan Year (PY) 2012, depending on whether an employee chooses to buy coverage for dependents (see Group Health Insurance Benefits). The state funds 75 percent of the monthly group health insurance premiums for dependents;
- \$25 per month matching employer contribution for employee participants of the state's deferred compensation program; and
- federally-mandated social security tax and Medicare tax.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The state has seven state retirement plans. OPERS is the main retirement system, covering two of every three state employees. The normal retirement age for state employees is 62 for those who became a member of OPERS before November 1, 2011. The normal retirement age for those who became a member of OPERS on or after November 1, 2011, is 65. The employee must have at least six years of full-time-equivalent employment. Any employee retiring on or after this age is entitled to an annual benefit equal to 2 percent of the employee's final average salary, multiplied by the number of years of credited service. For example, an employee retiring at the age of 62 with a final average salary of \$25,000 and 30 years of credited service would receive an annual retirement benefit of \$15,000 (2% x 30 years x \$25,000).

Employees may elect to receive a greater retirement than that listed above. By contributing an additional 2.91 percent of all gross salary, an employee will receive a 2.5 percent multiplier rather than a 2 percent multiplier for all years of service in which the greater contribution was made.

Statutes also allow state employees to retire under the "Rule of 80" or "Rule of 90", depending on the date the member joined the system. To qualify for retirement under this option, the sum of the employee's age and years of credited service must equal 80 or 90. Thus, an employee 55 years of age with 25 years of service may retire with full benefits under the "Rule of 80". Persons who become a member of OPERS on or after November 1, 2011, can retire at the "Rule of 90" if they are at least 60 years of age.

Another option for state employees is early retirement. To qualify, an employee must be at least 55 years of age and have a minimum of 10 years of credited service for those who became a member of OPERS before November 1, 2011. For those who became a member of OPERS on or after November 1, 2011, the minimum age for early retirement is 60.

Another benefit to retirees is a state contribution of \$105 per month credited toward group health insurance costs. The monthly health insurance premium for retirees under the age of 65 is equal to the monthly premium for active employees (commonly known as the blending of rates).

In addition to OPERS, there are six state retirement systems with their own unique rules and regulations: the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System (OTRS), the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges (URSJJ), the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System (OPPRS), the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System (OLERS), the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System (OFPRS), and the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Retirement System.

In 2014, the Legislature enacted a measure (HB 2630), which requires that OPERS establish a defined contribution system for members initially employed on or after November 1, 2015, with some exclusions. Employees will contribute a minimum of three percent and a maximum of seven percent of compensation, which will be matched by the employer. The contribution rate can only be changed one time each calendar year during an option period. Employees are immediately vested at 100 percent of the employee contributions and are vested with respect to the employer contributions at 20 percent in year 1, 40 percent in year 2, 60 percent in year 3, 80 percent in year 4 and 100 percent in year 5 and thereafter. Employees will be able to select investment options, but the OPERS Board will establish default investment options for those employees who do not make a selection.

There are legislative procedures which govern the consideration of certain retirement measures. The Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act requires legislation pertaining to OPERS, URSJJ, OTRS, OPPRS, OLERS and OFPRS to be subject to review by an actuary that contracts with the Legislative Service Bureau. Legislation relating to these systems is identified by an RB number and the Legislative Actuary makes a determination whether such a measure does or does not have a fiscal impact. A retirement bill deemed not to have a fiscal impact may be introduced, considered and enacted during either session of a Legislature. Legislation which is deemed to have a fiscal impact must be introduced during the first session of a Legislature. For such legislation to be considered, the legislation must first be submitted by the committee of which the legislation was assigned to the Legislative Actuary for an actuarial investigation. Once the investigation is completed, retirement measures having a fiscal impact can only be considered, passed and enacted during the second session if the concurrent funding associated with such measure is also provided.

GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

State employees are offered a benefit allowance to pay for mandated and optional coverages as well as assist employees in the cost of covering dependents. The benefit allowance is based on the following formula:

Monthly premium of the Health Choice high option health plan
Plus
Average monthly premium of all dental plans
Plus
Basic life insurance monthly premium
Plus
Basic disability monthly premium
Equals
Employee Only Flexible Benefit Allowance

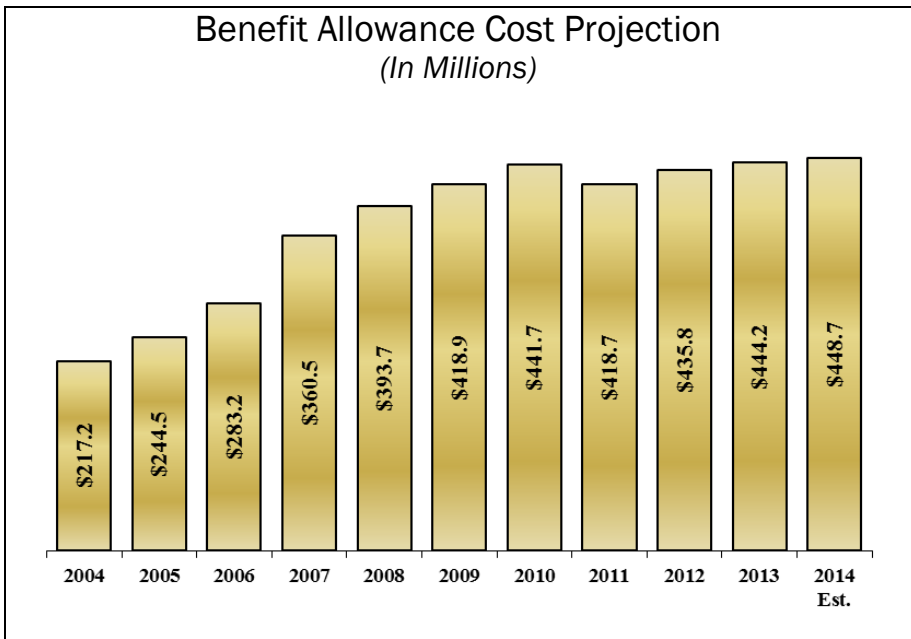
Beginning January 1, 2013, the benefit allowance shall not be less than the plan year 2012 benefit allowance amounts.

Dependents are covered at 75 percent of the monthly premium of the Health Choice high option health insurance plan. The benefits allowance is used to purchase the options the employees want. They must select coverage for themselves in the following areas: medical, dental, life, and disability. If the total price of the options selected by the employees is less than the benefit allowance, they receive the difference as taxable income. If the cost of the options selected by the employees is more than the benefit allowance, the employees may elect to pay for the excess through pre-tax payroll deductions.

The state offers its employees a standard indemnity plan (HealthChoice) or health maintenance organizations (HMOs). The basic differences between the medical plans include: cost; choice of doctors and hospitals; how the employee and the plan share expenses through deductibles, co-payments, and coinsurance; and the maximum the employee has to pay out of pocket.

School district employees are also offered a benefit allowance to pay for coverage for the group health insurance plan offered by the state or the self-insured plan offered by the school district. Full-time certified and support personnel electing health insurance coverage will receive an allowance in the amount equal to the Health Choice Hi-option. Personnel not electing coverage may receive \$189.69 per month in taxable compensation. There is no benefit allowance provided to school district employees for dependent coverage.

The cost of providing health benefits to state employees and their families has been increasing steadily over the past decade. Small changes to the benefit plan and other adjustments have allowed rates to remain fairly constant the last two years. Despite this good news, state agencies have still had to absorb over \$300 million in cost increases since FY'99.



PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Department of Corrections

This chapter describes the state prison system, summarizes recent initiatives and concerns, and compares significant benchmarks with other states.

Organization of the Prison System

There are 24 prisons - 17 public and 6 private - scattered throughout the state. Of the six private prisons, only two hold Oklahoma inmates exclusively (Davis and Lawton). Two others (Great Plains and Diamondback) are currently vacant. The Northfork prison houses California inmates.

In addition to prisons, DOC also operates 15 work centers and 7 community corrections centers and contracts with 11 privately operated halfway houses and 15 county jails to house inmates.

As of September, 2014, the Department had a 104.19% occupancy-rate at state facilities and a 95.3% occupancy rate in contract beds. It housed 159 offenders in county jail backup (awaiting reception at LARC) and it also supervised 21,557 offenders on probation, 3,214 on parole and 680 on GPS monitoring.

Private Prisons (owner)

	<u>City</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Opened</u>
Great Plains Correctional Facility (Cornell) * vacant	Hinton	2,000	1991
Northfork Correctional Facility (CCA) * California inmates	Sayre	2,400	2000
Diamondback Correctional Facility (CCA) * vacant	Watonga	2,160	1998
Davis Correctional Facility (CCA)	Holdenville	1,620	1996
Cimarron Correctional Facility (CCA) * including Puerto Rico inmates	Cushing	1,720	1997
Lawton Correctional Facility (GEO)	Lawton	2,526	1998

State Prisons - Maximum Security

Oklahoma State Penitentiary	McAlester	1,115	1908
Lexington Assessment and Reception Center	Lexington	418	1978

<u>State Prisons - Medium Security</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Opened</u>
Oklahoma State Reformatory *includes 200 min. beds	Granite	999	1909
Dick Conner Correctional Center *includes 236 min. beds	Hominy	1,196	1979
Joseph Harp Correctional Center	Lexington	1,405	1978
Mack Alford Correctional Center *includes 263 min. beds	Stringtown	805	1973
James Crabtree Correctional Center *includes 200 min. beds	Helena	969	1982
Lexington Correctional Center *includes 267 min. beds	Lexington	1,020	1978
Mabel Basset Correctional Center (Female) *includes 264 min. beds	McLoud	1,136	1998
<u>State Prisons - Minimum Security</u>			
Jackie Brannon Correctional Center	McAlester	737	1985
Jim Hamilton Correctional Center	Hodgen	706	1969
Jess Dunn Correctional Center	Taft	982	1980
John Lilley Correctional Center	Boley	836	1983
Northeast Oklahoma Correctional Center	Vinita	501	1994
William S. Key Correctional Center	Ft. Supply	1,087	1988
Howard McLeod Correctional Center	Atoka	616	1961
Bill Johnson Correctional Center	Alva	630	1995
Eddie Warrior Correctional Center (Female)	Taft	783	1988

INMATE DEMOGRAPHICS

The statistics below are a snapshot of the demographics of the inmates in DOC custody taken in July, 2014.

Inmate Count = 27,459

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Male	89.5%
Female	10.5%

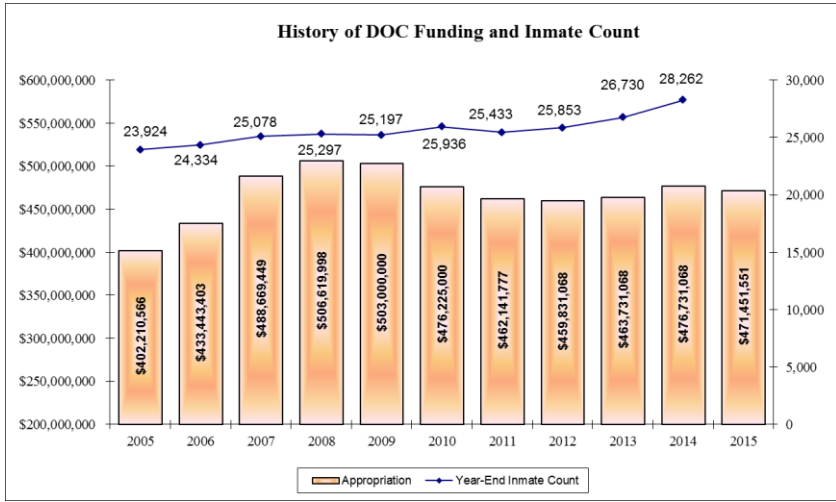
<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Caucasian	54.6%
African American	26.5%
Native American	10.7%
Hispanic	7.6%
Other	0.6%

<u>Crime Type</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Violent	48.4%
Non-Violent	51.6%

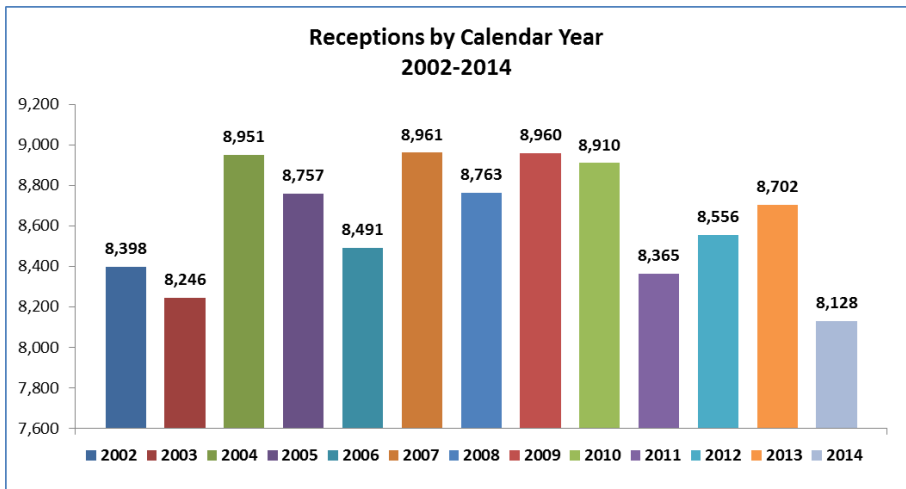
Average Age	38
Offenders on Death Row	49
Offenders in for Life without Parole	838
Offenders in on 85% Laws	8,070

Growth in the Prison System

The number of inmates in DOC custody has grown by 18% since 2005 and the agency's budget has grown by the same amount over that time period. The FY'15 budget for DOC comprises 6.6% of the total state appropriated budget. The chart below shows the fiscal year-end inmate counts and appropriated budgets for DOC since FY2005.



A major reason for the growth in the prison population is the increasing number of inmates DOC receives each year. As the chart below shows, annual receptions are at all-time highs.



*current receptions thru August 31, 2014

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BUDGET

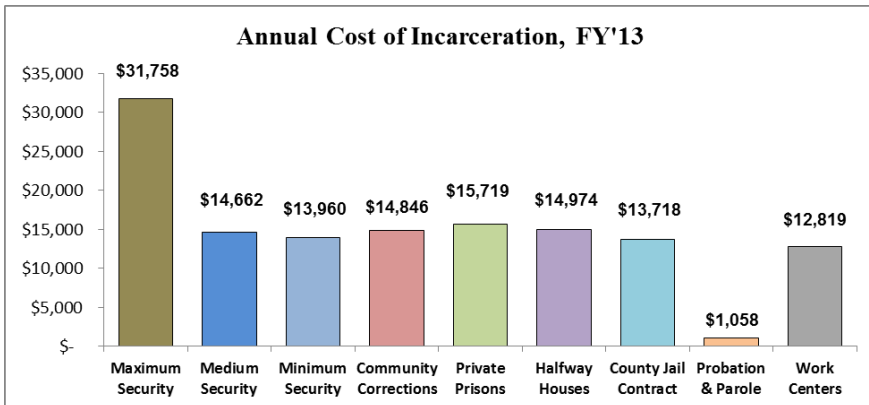
Sources of Funding

Almost all funding for DOC comes from state appropriations. Revolving funds are generated from sales of products and services to inmates (canteen sales), and from sales of inmate-produced products and services through Oklahoma Correctional Industries and Agri-Services to state agencies and private purchasers. Federal funds are generally grants for specific treatment or rehabilitation programs.

FY'15 DOC Budget by Source

Appropriated Funds	\$471,451,551	88.75%
Revolving Funds	\$54,924,078	10.81%
Federal Funds	\$2,220,182	0.44%
Total Funding	\$528,595,811	100.00%

Costs of the Prison System



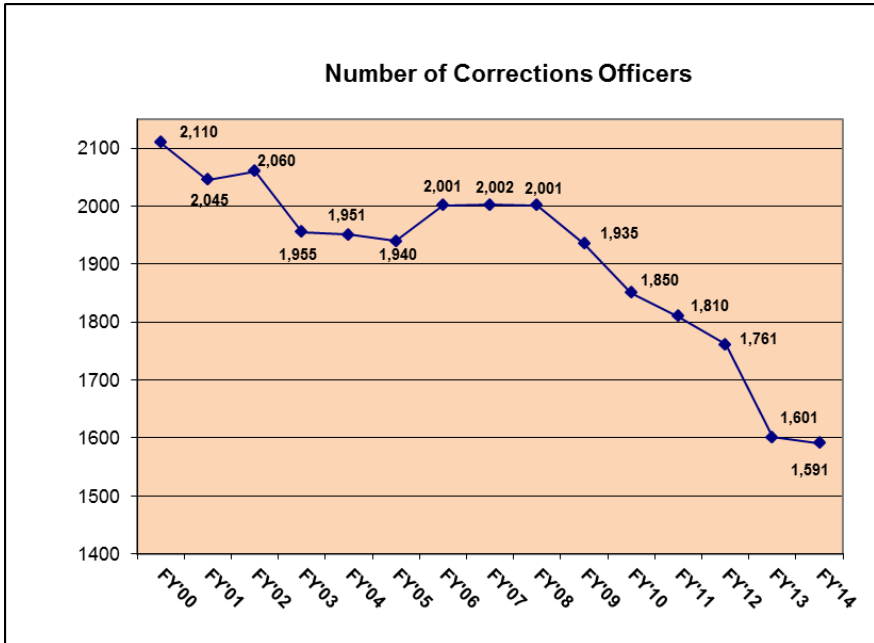
CURRENT ISSUES AND TRENDS

Staffing Issues

The at-capacity or over-capacity levels at DOC facilities and the Department's consistent budget struggles have put a strain on DOC employees. The agency has struggled to deal with poor morale, high turnover rates, high over-time expenditures and low corrections officer-to-inmate ratios.

In an attempt to address some of these issues, the Legislature authorized a pay raise of 8% for many DOC employees during the 2014 session. The pay raise did not apply to every employee of the agency. The pay raise was granted mainly to front line security personnel which included the following:

1. Correctional Security Officer I, II, III or IV;
2. Correctional Security Manager I or II; and
3. Chief of Security I, II or III.



Pay Raises for Other Public Safety Employees

SB 2131 gave a 6.25% pay raise to many employees in the public safety and judiciary area. The positions affected were identified by OMES using the compensation study commissioned by the Governor in 2013.

Agency	# of Employees Affected
ABLE Commission	22
Attorney General	38
Bureau of Investigation - OSBI	171
Council on Law Enforcement Education & Training - CLEET	1
Fire Marshal	14
Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs Control - OBND	79
Pardon and Parole Board	21
Public Safety Department	271

OTHER AGENCIES

Board of Medicolegal Investigations

Another area of concern in the public safety sector is the Board of Medicolegal Investigations which lost its national accreditation in 2009 primarily due to inadequate staffing, excessive workload and a lack of sufficient space. A comprehensive reform bill was passed by the Legislature in 2010; however, the bill was vetoed by the Governor. Still, a bill was passed in 2010 to begin the process of moving the agency to Edmond and building a new headquarters to be located near the OSBI Forensic Science Center and the University of Central Oklahoma Forensic Science Institute.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public safety currently has 797 state troopers; over 250 of which are eligible for retirement. The department has had three academies since a permanent funding source was put in place for that purpose in FY'12. According to DPS, the number of applicants has been low for the academy because the salary is not competitive. The passage of SB 2131 and SB 232 raised the current pay for the troopers and will bring them into a competitive range with other agencies and police forces.

TOURISM

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TOURISM

In Oklahoma, tourism offers its citizens two important commodities: economic development opportunities and recreational resources. The Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation (OTRD) is the state agency that promotes development and use of the state parks, resorts and golf courses. The department also advances tourism by publicizing information about recreation facilities and events.

OTRD operates the following state facilities:

- 35 state parks;
- 5 lodges;
- 7 golf courses; and
- 12 Tourism Information Centers.

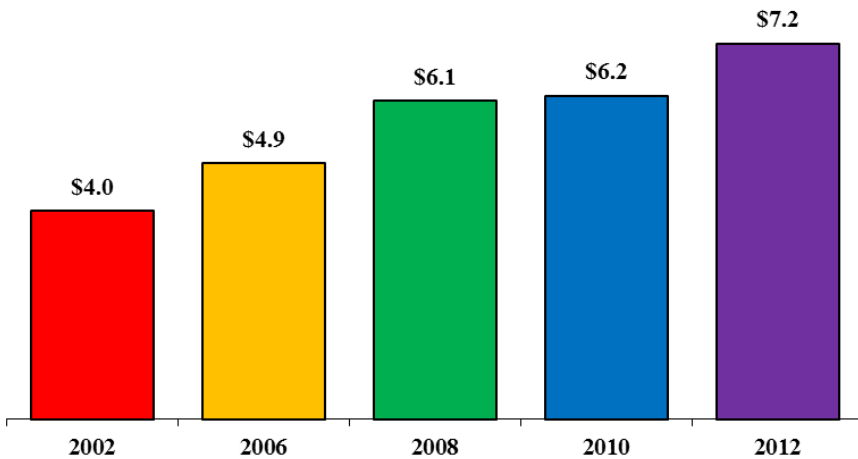
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM

In 2012, Oklahoma tourism generated nearly \$7.2 billion in domestic travel spending, a 6.1% increase over 2011, according to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

It is estimated that tourism accounts for 78,200 jobs in Oklahoma, amounting to more than \$2.0 billion in payroll for 2012. In addition, tourism contributes to the development of the workforce for the companies that supply goods and services to the travel industry, from real estate brokers to cleaning services to grocery stores to gas stations.

In 2012, tourism contributed more than \$1.1 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. Travel-generated tax revenue is a significant economic benefit because governments use these funds to support travel infrastructure and help support a variety of public programs. Each dollar spent by domestic travelers in Oklahoma produced 10 cents for federal tax coffers, five cents in state tax receipts, and two cents in local tax funds.

Domestic Travel Spending in Oklahoma (Billions of Dollars)



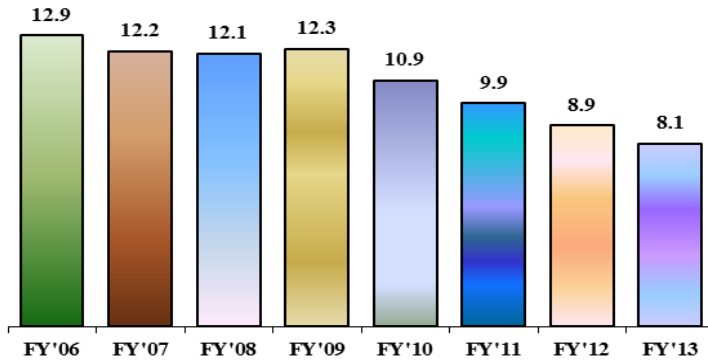
Source: U. S. Travel Association; OTRD

STATE PARKS

Oklahoma features an extensive range of state park resources. From large state parks like Beavers Bend and Lake Murray, to the geographical dispersion of the parks throughout the state like Black Mesa and Natural Falls, park visitors can enjoy a multitude of natural resources. Oklahoma State Parks offer a great ecological diversity from the woodlands and lakes of the southeast to mesas and deserts of the panhandle. In fact, mile for mile, Oklahoma has the most diverse terrain in America. All parks offer a great array of natural environments which welcome both expert and novice nature enthusiasts.

Oklahoma's 35 state parks serve approximately 11 million visitors annually. The parks are supported by approximately 512 full-time employees.

State Park Attendance in Oklahoma (In Millions)

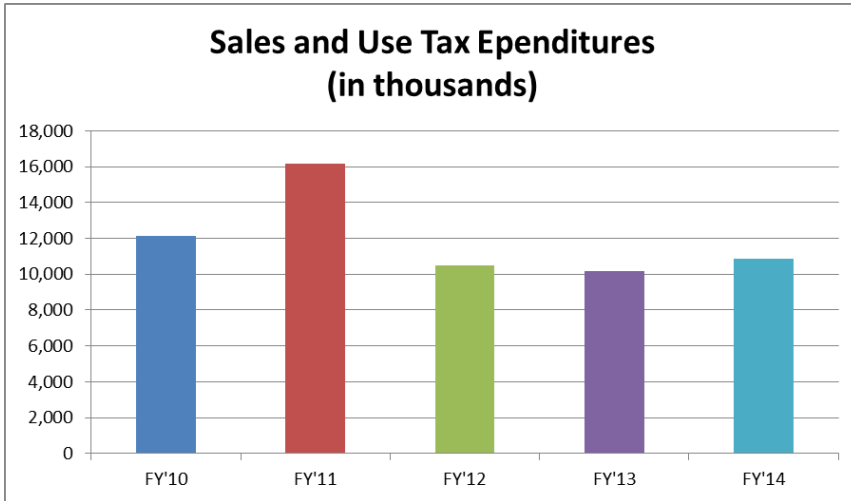


The parks consist of more than 330 cabins and cottages and over 2,000 structures and buildings. Private entrepreneurs operate over 40 leased concessions. These operations provide numerous services and recreational opportunities for guests, from miniature golf and horseback riding to marinas and restaurants.

Recent legislation has provided new funds for extensive capital improvement to the state parks system. In the 2006 legislative session, Tourism was directed to receive a share of the REAP funds from gross production on oil and gas taxes. On a continuing basis, the department will be receiving a portion of the REAP funds, and the sales and use tax revenues.

The portion of the REAP funds will be used to address environment improvements such as potable water, wastewater infrastructure, and conservation planning. The department can spend up to \$15 million of REAP funds per fiscal year. Total receipts for FY'13 were 2.67 million.

The Department of Tourism receives 0.87% of sales and use tax revenues each year to help support its operations and to perform capitol repairs and renovations to state parks. This is estimated to generate \$20 million each year.



STATE GOLF COURSES

The state owns and operates seven golf courses:

- Arrowhead Golf Course, Canadian
- Cedar Creek Golf Course, Broken Bow
- Fort Cobb Golf Course, Fort Cobb
- Grand Cherokee Golf Course, Langley
- Lake Murray Golf Course, Ardmore
- Roman Nose Golf Course, Watonga
- Sequoyah Golf Course, Hulbert

During the peak season, about 30 full-time employees work with 60 seasonal employees and volunteers to operate the courses located throughout the state. In FY'13, the courses generated over \$2.1 million in revenue. In FY'13, 71,000 rounds of golf were played. The 9,000 round decrease over the previous fiscal year was mainly due to last year's heat wave.

State Golf Course Statistics FY'06 Through FY'13 (In Thousands)

	FY'06	FY'07	FY'08	FY'10	FY'11	FY'12	FY'13
Total Rounds Played	158	138	114	79	70	72	71
State Appropriations	\$878	\$776	\$408	\$1,345	\$699	\$173	\$112
Total Golf Visitor Revenue	\$4,409	\$4,029	\$3,426	\$2,340	\$2,157	\$2,197	\$2,186
Revenue as a % of Total Budget	83%	69%	59%	64%	76%	85%	84%
Total Golf Expenditures	\$5,287	\$4,941	\$4,941	\$3,657	\$3,221	\$2,575	\$2,614
Profit/Loss (Inc. minus Exp.)	\$0	-\$136	-\$827	-\$1,317	-\$365	-\$378	-\$427

STATE LODGES

The Resort Division maintains five lodge properties, all located within our state parks. Each of our facilities include lodge rooms and cabin accommodations and offer amenities such as restaurants, meeting space, catering, recreational facilities and programs. Further, each of our resort parks provide our guests the opportunity to golf, fish, hike and indulge in a myriad of other activities. The lodges are geographically distinct and located throughout the state:

- Sequoyah Lodge is in the northeast section of the state, located near Wagoner, in the Sequoyah State Park;
- Lake Murray Lodge is in south central Oklahoma, just outside of Ardmore and within the Lake Murray State Park;
- Roman Nose Lodge is found in the Roman Nose State Park close to Watonga, in the central portion of the state;
- The Lakeview Lodge is in the southeast area of the state, near Broken Bow, within Hochatown State Park; and
- The Belle Starr Lodge is located in the Robbers Cave State Park near Wilburton, in southeast Oklahoma.

Each lodge is designed with a theme reflecting the history of its area and the type of recreation it provides.

For FY'13, the lodges generated \$5.08 million in revenue. Roman Nose Lodge is newly renovated and re-opened. Performing jobs from major maintenance to food service, about 85 full-time and 100 seasonal employees staff the facilities. Because the facilities are located in predominately rural locations, the resorts are major employers and contributors to the local economies.

OKLAHOMA TOURISM INFORMATION CENTERS

Information Centers serve as an information resource and rest area for travelers along Oklahoma's major highways and interstates.

Oklahoma has 12 Information Centers:

- Thackerville (operated by the Chickasaw Nation)
- Capitol Building, Oklahoma City
- Midwest City (operated by the City of Midwest City)
- Miami
- Sallisaw
- Colbert (operated by the Choctaw Nation)
- Blackwell
- Erick
- Walters
- Catoosa (operated by the Cherokee Nation)
- Oklahoma City
- Cherokee Turnpike in Delaware County (operated by the Cherokee Nation)

These facilities are located at various points of entry to the state, in the major metropolitan areas, and the state capitol building. These 12 centers provide tourism-related materials to over 2.04 million visitors per year. Studies have demonstrated that for every three visitors who stop at a tourism information center, one is influenced to extend their stay in Oklahoma; thereby, additional dollars are added to the state and local economies.

OKLAHOMA TODAY MAGAZINE

Oklahoma Today covers the people, places, history and culture of Oklahoma in a manner designed to encourage readers to explore the state and its people.

As the official state magazine, *Oklahoma Today* tells the historic and contemporary story of Oklahoma to a worldwide audience. The magazine is published bi-monthly beginning in January and ending in November. An extra issue, the *Year in Review*, is published in late January.

Oklahoma Today is produced by a staff of seven full-time employees. The magazine also relies on the talent of freelance writers, photographers and art

directors. *Oklahoma Today* has a paid circulation of almost 40,000 and a readership of approximately 150,000. The magazine is distributed to newsstands in Oklahoma and surrounding states and is available on selected newsstands and bookstores nationwide.

Oklahoma Today has received multiple awards for excellence. Named “Best Magazine in Oklahoma” for 2007, 2010 and 2012 by the Society of Professional Journalist, *Oklahoma Today* has won the coveted “Magazine of the Year” title six times since 1991 by the International Regional Magazine Association (IRMA).

OKLAHOMA FILM AND MUSIC COMMISSION

The office of the Oklahoma Film and Music Commission promotes, supports and expands film, television and music activities in Oklahoma. Activities of the division include research, scouting and evaluation of locations for film and television productions and coordinating the activities of the productions and the communities in which they shoot. That includes permitting, arranging clearances and serving as a liaison between the productions and state and location officials, institutions, businesses and the media.

The division administers three incentive programs: The Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program, the Point-of-Purchase Oklahoma Sales Tax Exemption and the Construction Tax Credit.

The Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate program, funded up to \$5 million per year in 2014, offers a 37 percent rebate to qualifying production’s expenditures in Oklahoma with a minimum \$50,000 budget and a minimum \$25,000 Oklahoma expenditure.

The Point-of-Purchase Oklahoma Sales Tax Exemption is offered to qualifying productions on goods and services to be used in the production. There is no minimum budget or expenditure requirement. This exemption cannot be used in conjunction with the 37% rebate.

Films made in Oklahoma in 2012 and 2013

“The Veil” (2013)
“You Can’t Win” (2013)
“Rudderless” (2013)
“Running Deer” (2012)
“August: Osage County” (2012)

NACEA

The Native American Cultural and Educational Authority (NACEA) was created in 1994 to construct and operate the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum for generating awareness and understanding of the history of tribes and their relationship to Oklahoma today. Originally, the state would cover one-third of the construction cost, the federal government would cover one-third, and the final third would come from private donations or the tribes. The total cost of construction was estimated at \$150 million. However, due to budget restraints, the federal government will not be able to fulfill its portion of the funding. Therefore, during the 2008 session the Legislature authorized another bond for \$25 million to further fund the construction of the center.

To date, state funding for construction of the center is a total of over \$67 million. Overall, funding for the center has reached \$91 million. NACEA will need another \$80 million to complete the project, through a mix of state funding and pledges from private and local entities.

Of the \$80 million needed to complete the Cultural Center, about \$50 million will be used to complete the construction of the facility, and \$30 million will be used to purchase and develop the museum exhibits.

The NACEA will receive a \$6.7 million appropriation for the 2015 fiscal year. A large majority of NACEA's yearly appropriations are used to pay debt service on the previous bond issues. For F'15, debt service payments will amount to about \$5.2 million. The remaining \$1.5 million will fund NACEA operations. The majority of operations expenses for NACEA include salaries, insurance premiums, and the museum site maintenance and security.

TRANSPORTATION

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TRANSPORTATION

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is to provide a safe, economical and efficient transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma. Because many experts cite quality roads as an essential element in creating and maintaining healthy economies, Oklahoma's legislative leaders have made an effort to reverse the state's historically low investment in transportation issues. This chapter summarizes the challenges facing ODOT and highlights recent initiatives intended to create solutions.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, ODOT released a comprehensive highway needs study which calculated a \$11.2 billion backlog of construction needs on state highways. At that time, state fuel taxes were the only significant source of revenue for highway construction, and a projected fuel tax growth of 2 percent annually would never bridge the gap between revenues and needs.

To address these funding shortfalls, both ODOT and the Legislature have enacted various policies over the past decade:

- The department outsourced more functions, particularly mowing and engineering;
- The Legislature authorized the use of more inmate labor for routine maintenance projects (litter removal, guardrail repair and other manual tasks);
- The legislature created the ROADS fund, which will infuse \$2.3 billion to ODOT between FY'08 and FY'16.

State Funding Comparison FY2014				
State	Lane Miles	State Funding for Highways	State Funding per Lane Mile	
Arkansas	37,400	\$604,992,732	\$16,176	
Colorado	23,021	\$658,956,609	\$28,624	
Kansas	23,988	\$748,952,030	\$31,222	
Lousiana	39,194	\$762,000,000	\$19,442	
Missouri	77,317	\$1,187,600,000	\$15,360	
New Mexico	29,143	\$381,680,000	\$13,097	
Oklahoma	30,350	\$601,907,308	\$19,832	
Texas	195,022	\$4,195,924,887	\$21,515	

TRANSPORTATION BOND ISSUES

In an effort to address the state's highway needs, the Legislature adopted HB 1629 (1997), which provided a plan for \$1.01 billion in new revenues for highway construction. Using a combination of appropriated funds and bond sale proceeds, the Capitol Improvement Program (CIP) nearly doubled the annual amount spent for state highway construction. Of the \$1.01 billion total, \$560 million was provided as direct appropriations to ODOT and another \$450 million was raised through bond financing.

Beginning in 2006 under HB 1176, ODOT is now liable for the CIP debt service. As the debt service requirement is reduced the difference between the annualized amount and the debt service requirement will be available for roads and bridges.

Three state bond issues have been passed in recent years to supplement ODOT's funding and to cover recent decreases to the State Transportation Fund. The Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority was responsible for issuing the bonds:

2008 (HB 2272)

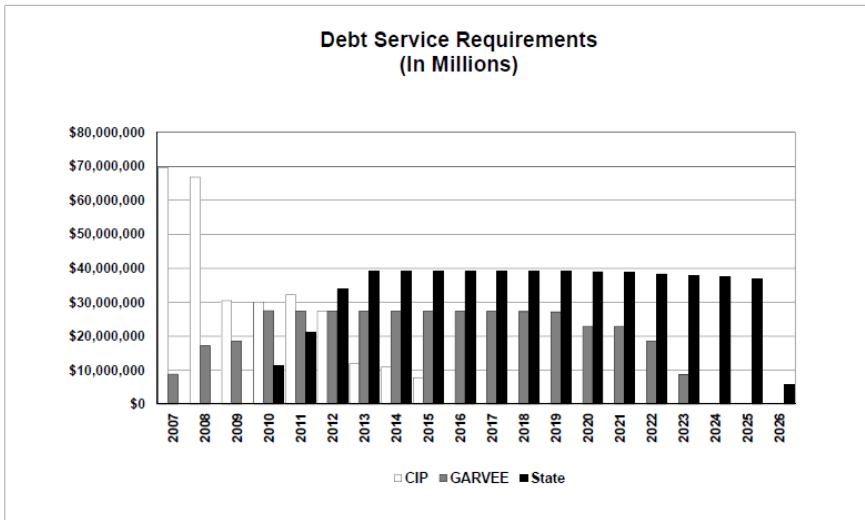
Authorized the sale of \$300 million in bonds in two issues; the first \$150 million no earlier than August 1, 2009 and the second \$150 million no earlier than August 1, 2010.

2010 (HB 2434)

Authorized ODOT to increase the August 1, 2010 bond issue amount to cover ODOT's FY'11 appropriation decrease and continue funding road and bridge improvements.

2011 (HB 2171)

Authorized ODOT to issue a \$70 million dollar bond issue to cover ODOT's FY'12 appropriation decrease and continue funding road and bridge improvements.



CROSS-TOWN EXPRESSWAY – OKLAHOMA CITY

In May 2002 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved ODOT's Crosstown Expressway project, the largest single such undertaking in Department history. ODOT, the FHWA, the City of Oklahoma City and the general public had labored since 1996 to solve the problem of an ever-growing I-40 traffic load with the least impact on the affected area and community. The now former roadway was designed to accommodate 70,000 vehicles per day; today's traffic count numbers 100,000 daily users. Because of the age of the roadway and the increased traffic, it became clear that prompt action was necessary to keep traffic safe and flowing.

Eastbound lanes of traffic on the new Crosstown Expressway were opened in January 2012 with the westbound lanes following in February 2012. The newly opened Crosstown is designed to carry 173,000 vehicles a day and includes five driving lanes in each direction.

Work continues on the Dallas and Amarillo Junctions as well as building downtown connector routes to the new interstate and deconstructing the old crosstown bridge. Reusable steel beams from the old Crosstown Bridge will be offered to the counties for use on the county road system.

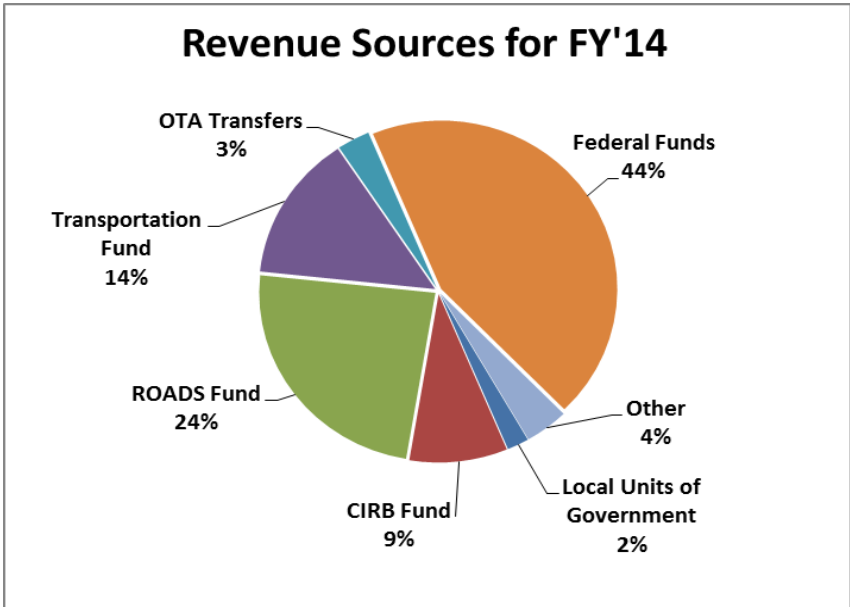
Total costs for the new Crosstown Expresses are estimated at \$660 million; all funding will derive from federal sources. All construction is expected to complete in 2014.

FUNDING FOR STATE HIGHWAYS

Total monies available for support of the state transportation system have increased by \$945.6 million or 52 percent between FY'04 and FY'14. This is largely due to the creation of the ROADS fund and an increase in federal funds.

ODOT Revenue Sources Comparison
FY'04 and FY'14

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>FY'04</u>		<u>FY'14</u>	
	<u>Dollars</u> <u>(in millions)</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>of Total</u>	<u>Dollars</u> <u>(in millions)</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>of Total</u>
Appropriation	\$192.2	22.6%	\$208.7	11.6%
Revolving/Carryover	\$203.9	23.9%	\$589.7	32.8%
Federal Funds	\$454.0	53.4%	\$640.2	35.6%
ROADS Fund	\$0.0	0.0%	\$357.1	19.8%
Total	<u>\$850.1</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$1,795.7</u>	<u>100.0%</u>



Highway construction projects have a significant impact on the economy of Oklahoma. ODOT reports that for every \$1 million in highway construction projects granted to an Oklahoma-based contractor, about 90 jobs are created and about \$840,000 are expended on indirect salaries and materials.

ROADS FUND

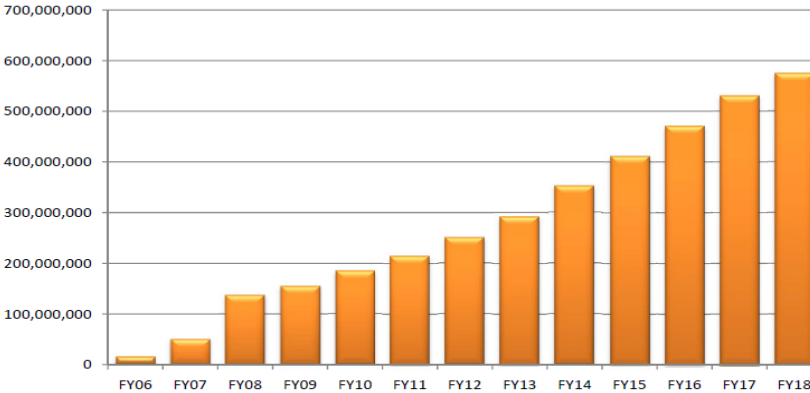
During the 2005 session a historic piece of legislation was passed that would help infuse funds into the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for years to come. HB 1078 created the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety (ROADS) Fund. Initially, the fund would provide funding for the maintenance and repair of state highways and bridges and would increase incrementally (\$17.5 million if the percentage of General Revenue Fund growth is less than 3 percent compared to the previous year, \$35 million if growth is 3 percent or better) until reaching the amount of \$170 million.

Many changes and modifications have been made to the ROADS fund since its inception to dramatically increase funding for the State's transportation infrastructure. The 3% growth trigger was removed in 2008 which provided for a consistent annual increase to the fund. The annual allocation has increased from \$30 million in 2008 to \$41.7 million in 2012. The overall cap has been raised from the original \$170 million to \$575 million in 2012. Below are the most recent modifications to the fund:

2012 (HB 2248)

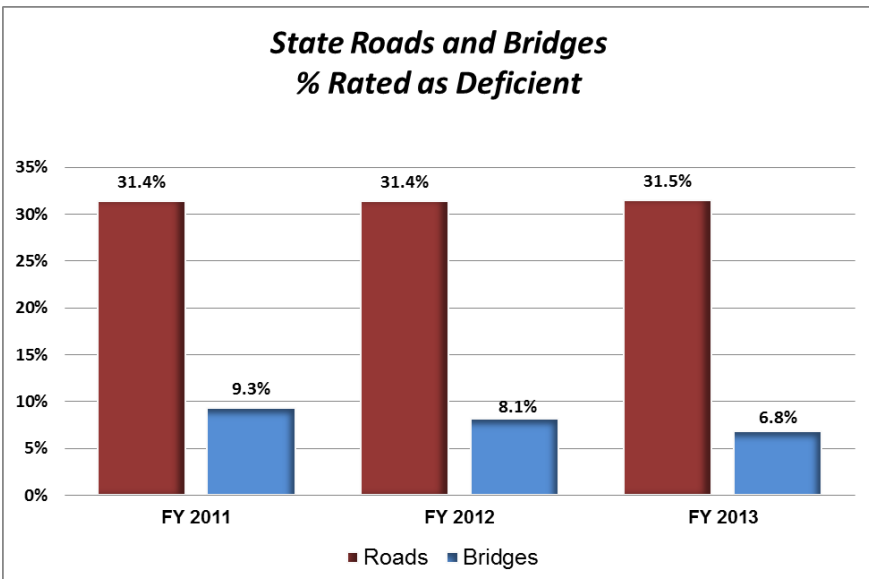
- Increased the annual ROADS fund allocation from \$41.7 million to \$59.7 million.
- Increased the overall cap on the fund from \$435 million to \$575 million.

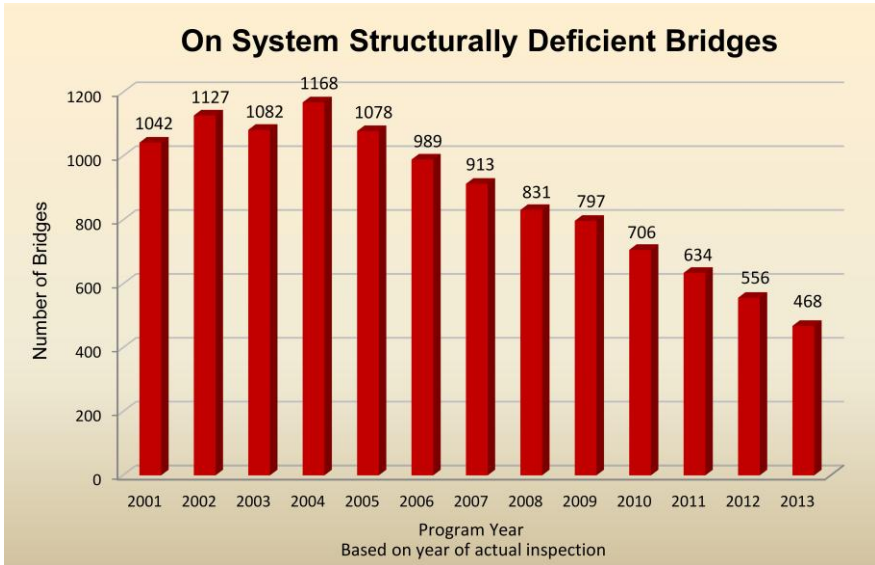
ROADS Fund Revenue



STATE ROAD AND BRIDGE SYSTEM STATISTICS

The chart below shows the number of roads and bridges in disrepair on the State's highway system.





COUNTY ROADS

The County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund was established within ODOT to receive motor fuel tax receipts that are apportioned directly by statute for maintenance, repair, and replacement of county roads and bridges (as prescribed by the County Bridge and Road Improvement Act). These funds are allocated among the various counties by ODOT. To receive monies, a county must submit to ODOT a project plan for repair or replacement of a county road or bridge. Projects are approved by the Transportation Commission and contracts are awarded subject to the state competitive bidding process. As work progresses contractors submit progress billings to ODOT for payment from the fund.

The apportionment of funds from the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund is based on factors developed by ODOT, taking into consideration the following:

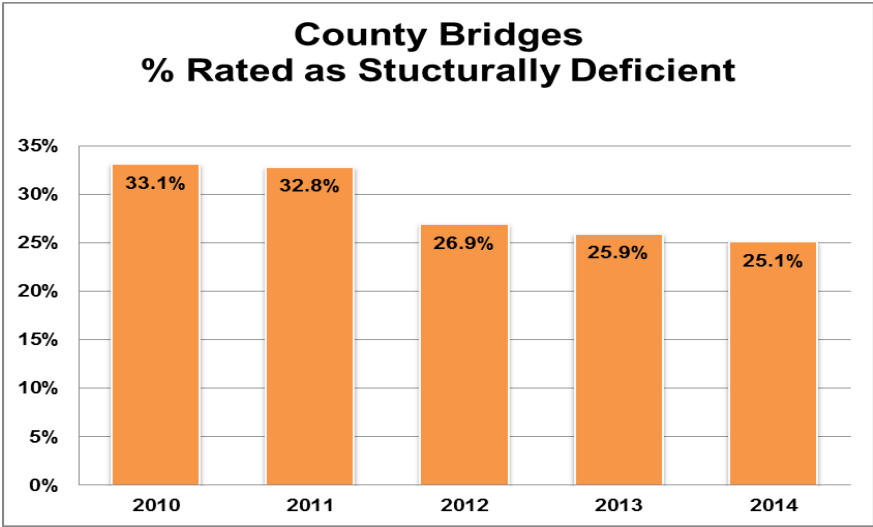
- the county's share of total state road mileage;
- the county's share of statewide vehicle miles driven annually, measured by ODOT; and
- effects of terrain on road improvement and maintenance costs. Flat terrain is presumed to be 15 percent less costly than rolling terrain, and mountainous terrain is 15 percent more costly than rolling terrain. Thus, a county with less-than-average mountainous terrain receives a reduced apportionment.

The following table shows how the various factors influence apportionment in three counties: one that is a relatively mountainous eastern county, a flat western county and an urban county with high traffic volume:

	Mountainous <u>LeFlore Co.</u>	Flat Terrain <u>Harper Co.</u>	High Traffic <u>Oklahoma Co.</u>
Cost Factor	2.33	0.98	2.27

In the 2006 Legislative Session, funding for county roads was addressed in two separate bills. SB 1288 appropriated \$25 million in one-time funds to the County Bridges and Road Improvement Fund for the repair of county roads and bridges in the state. HB 1176 apportioned 5 percent of all fees, taxes and penalties collected or received pursuant to the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges (CIRB) Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 (FY'08). This apportionment was to grow to 10 percent in FY'09 and 15 percent in FY'10 for a total annual fiscal impact of approximately \$85 million;

In the 2012 Legislative Session, HB 2249 further increased funding to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Revolving Fund. The measure gradually increases the CIRB allocation from 15% to 20% over a 3 year period. Increases in revenue to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Fund will total \$1,700,000 for FY'13, \$21,063,393 for FY'14 and \$31,126,614 for FY'15.

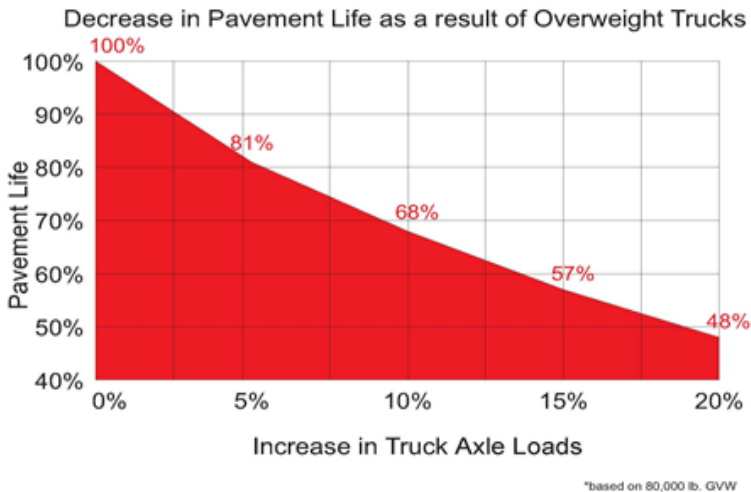


PORT OF ENTRY WEIGH STATIONS

On January 22, 2008, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority announced a landmark partnership effort to upgrade Oklahoma's Port of Entry facilities. Utilizing an estimated \$81 million in funding originating from the Oklahoma Petroleum Storage Tank Release Indemnity Program as provided by the Corporation Commission, \$11 million from the Turnpike Authority and \$4 million from ODOT, the Department will develop eight new Port of Entry facilities at Oklahoma borders.

The initial Ports of Entry on Interstate 35 in Kay County at the Kansas state line and on Interstate 40 in Beckham County at the Texas state line are currently in service. All currently available funding has been committed and the remaining six facilities will be scheduled and advanced to construction as additional fiscal resources are accumulated.

Illegally loaded or operated trucks have an adverse impact on the condition of our transportation system and on the safety of the traveling public. These state-of-the-art facilities will establish the front line necessary to create a more controlled freight transportation environment on the highway system.



RAILROADS

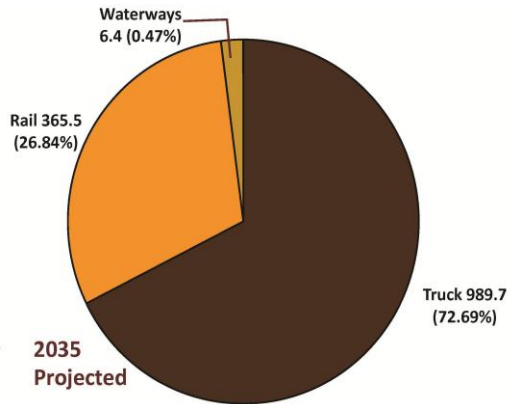
Today, ODOT oversees and monitors five different railroad companies operating on approximately 212 miles of State owned track, administers the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Grade Crossing Safety Program (that provides federal funds to make safety improvements to Oklahoma's nearly 4,000 at-grade public railway / road intersections), manages Oklahoma's Heartland Flyer passenger rail service (Amtrak's highest-rated train for customer satisfaction), oversees rail company involvement for ODOT projects which touch on railroad property, and seeks and develops federal funding opportunities to grow and improve Oklahoma's passenger and freight rail systems.

Over the years the Department has developed public – private partnerships with many Class III and Class I railroads to lease the majority of the 882 miles of State owned mainline track in order to continue rail service for many Oklahoma communities and businesses. Two of these leases were developed as long term lease to purchase agreements, intended to eventually return these facilities to private ownership. Following the maturation of these 30 year agreements, more than 350 miles of the State owned rail system was returned to private ownership in 2012, thus reducing total ownership from its peak of 882.

In August 2014, ODOT and Stillwater Central Railroad completed a \$75 million sale of the Sooner Sub rail line between Midwest City and Sapulpa. The sale was a culmination of a 180 day process put into place in 2013 by the State Legislature. The sale calls for plans to introduce a pilot program for passenger-rail service, dubbed the "Eastern Flyer" connecting Midwest City and Sapulpa. Passenger rail service should begin in the first half of 2015.

With the sale of the Sooner Sub rail line ODOT announced a \$100 million initiative to improve safety at the state's railroad crossings with most of the money coming from the \$75 million sale of the Sooner Sub. Improvements are to be made at more than 300 rail crossings statewide and will add flashing lights and crossing arms to many of the crossings. Federal funding and money from railroad companies also will be used in the program, which should take three to four years to complete.

Rail freight traffic continues to be the main source of railroad activity in the state. An estimated 278 million tons of freight flows through the state each year with many rail lines carrying 50 to 100 trains a day. Rail freight traffic will experience significant growth over the next few decades. The number of trains on some corridors is expected to double over the next 20 years, and the largest growth in freight traffic per day is expected on the BNSF line in the northern part of the state.



OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY (OTA)

Revenue

OTA is a non-appropriated state agency that provides and administers the state's turnpike system. All revenues are derived from tolls, concessions, interest income, and fines. Over the past several years the Oklahoma Turnpike System has experienced a gradual increase in toll revenues, from \$185.9 million in 2004 to a projected \$244.3 million in 2014. This represents 31 percent growth, which the Authority attributes to the completion of the additional lanes on the John Kilpatrick and Creek Turnpikes, a 16 percent toll hike in 2009, along with natural traffic growth. The Authority also benefits from 40% of its revenue coming from out-of-state traffic. Although the Turnpike has never had to use them, a portion of state excise taxes for fuels consumed on turnpikes is made available to the agency for bond debt payments in the event that revenues fall short of debt requirements,. Those fuel taxes are immediately remitted to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation if not used by the Authority. In 2013 approximately \$41.6 million was transferred. Since 1992, over \$700 million of fuel taxes has been remitted.

Financial Obligations

The financial structure of the turnpike system is based on "cross-pledging". Costs incurred and revenues received are combined across the system. The total debt is based on the entire system and not on an individual turnpike within the system. "Cross-pledging" was approved by a referendum vote of the people in 1954 for the purpose of financing the construction of other key turnpikes. After the January 1, 2014 debt payment of \$95.3 million was paid, total outstanding bond debt of the Authority is \$986 million: \$986 million in principal, with \$428 million in interest paid by the time the bonds are retired in 2031. Annual payments stay fairly level until 2028 when they drop to around \$36.4 million per year.

Fiscal Responsibility

The Authority carries the highest bond rating of any tolling entity in the US with an Aa3 from Moody's. This rating is the result of strong debt management policies, an established and strong network, strong asset preservation practices and independent oversight by Consulting Engineers, External Auditors, and Traffic & Revenue Consultants. Because of the conservative fiscal policies of the Authority, the OTA has kept the rate per mile charged to customers approximately 57% below the national average for passenger vehicles and 62% below the national average for commercial vehicles. Recent needed capacity improvements (added lanes) were made in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa to accommodate growing demand and was done so without increase tolls.

Maintenance

The Authority annually adopts a comprehensive capital plan. A major basis for having a comprehensive capital plan is because an ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation program will extend the useful life of the system. It is a "pay now" or "pay a lot more later" proposition. The Turner, Will Rogers and H.E. Baily Turnpikes are a part of the I-44 corridor which provides routes for commercial shipments all throughout the country. 38% of the Authority's toll revenues come from Commercial traffic. Ensuring these as well as other turnpike corridors are preserved to provide needed commerce and transportation is a key objective of the Authority.

The OTA Capital Plan, which was started in 1994, identifies maintenance (repair, rehabilitation, and improvement) expenditures on a five-year basis; it is updated annually. The current Five-Year Plan (2014-2018) estimates expenditures of over \$341 million. These projects will be funded from unrestricted and restricted funds of the Authority including Bond proceeds which are discussed below.

System Statistics

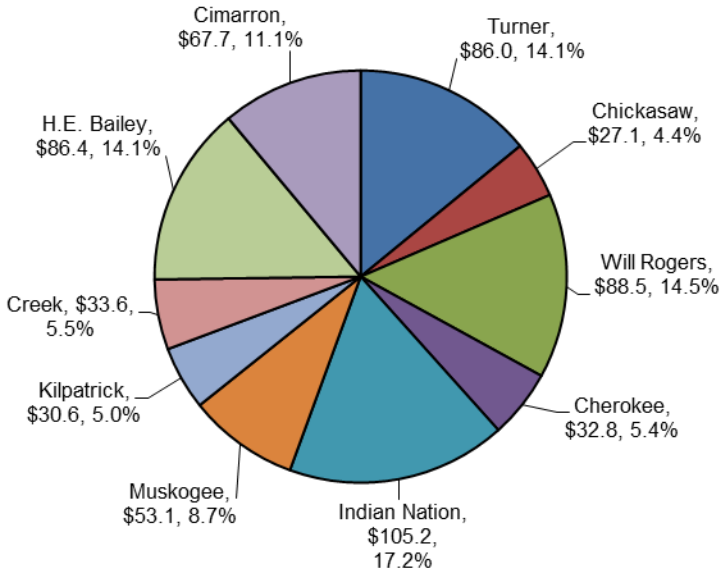
In January 1998, OTA was authorized to issue bonds for the construction of five new turnpike completion and/or improvement projects: Kilpatrick, Turner, Muskogee, Will Rogers, and H.E. Bailey. Bonds totaling \$687 million were issued that year. All projects were completed by 2002.

The two urban turnpikes, the Kilpatrick and Creek were completed in 2002 and represent the busiest turnpikes on the Turnpike System. In order to address traffic congestion issues, in August of 2011, the Authority was authorized to issue bonds in order to add capacity on the busiest sections of these two roads.

Bonds totaling \$159.7 million were issued in December of 2011. Both segments were opened to traffic in the fall of 2013 and a substantial traffic increase is seen on both segments to date which further confirmed the need for these improvements.

Oklahoma's 605 total turnpike miles account for 5 percent of the state's highway system. This 605 miles of road ranks second nationally. By regional comparison Kansas, a state demographically similar, has some 250 miles of turnpike roads.

Turnpike Mileage/System Percentage



PIKEPASS

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority was one of the first turnpikes in the nation to introduce roadway speed toll collection using automatic vehicle identification (AVI) technology. This system, named *PIKEPASS*, was opened to its first travelers in January 1, 1991. This enhancement improved ease and safety of travel along all turnpikes, most importantly in the urban areas accommodating multiple entry and exit points. To date, that system has more than 1.5 Million participants. Approximately 68% of the Authority's revenue is collected annually through the *PIKEPASS* System.

Recent developments with the *PIKEPASS* System include interoperability with the North Texas Turnpike Authority (NTTA). Beginning August 10, 2014, customers of the *PIKEPASS* System now are able to travel on NTTA roadways using their *PIKEPASS* thus enjoying the Toll Tag rate for each trip. Plans are under way to complete similar interoperability with the Kansas Turnpike Authority by the end of 2014.

