

The Oklahoma Professional Economic Development Council (OEDC) is an association of 150+ economic development professionals throughout the state of Oklahoma who support efforts to market the State, regions and communities a place where people want to live, work and invest in Oklahoma.

Our members are advocates for a prosperous economy in Oklahoma and strive to be active economic development resources for state elected officials and leaders.

OEDC supports the efforts of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as the leading recruitment organization for the state of Oklahoma as well as the activities of the Governor's Economic Development Marketing and International Teams. We also work closely with The State Chamber lobby team in developing, implementing and educating citizens about legislative issues in order to maintain a profitable business climate.



# 2011



## Legislative Agenda

*“The Economic Development  
Resource for Oklahoma”*

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OEDC strives to work hand-in-hand with legislative leadership in efforts to allow Oklahoma to remain competitive in recruitment, retention and growth of industry. Our **2011 Legislative Agenda** was put together with careful thought and consideration of all 180+ members. We realize that with the state's budget shortfalls, legislative leaders will be challenged more now than ever when making decisions on legislative issues. OEDC stands ready to assist and provide expertise when asked.

## Top Three Legislative Priorities:

### Economic Development Incentives

- Continue to support the Oklahoma large and small Quality Jobs Programs. These programs reward the creation and attraction of better paying jobs which provide a higher impact to the states economy.
- Protect the current objectives of Tax Increment Financing as a primary economic development tool.
- Support lifting the moratorium on certain economic development tax credits. In the process, make modifications which will strengthen investment and job growth, creating a positive impact for Oklahomans. The two initial programs of focus are the Small and Rural Venture Capital Formation Act and Aerospace Engineering Tax Credit.
- Support tax credits for actual billable, legal and accounting services performed for a certified incubator tenant.

### Workers' Compensation

Oklahoma businesses want fairness in the workers' compensation system. A fundamental restructuring of the entire workers' compensation program is needed to ensure rates go down and stay down.

### Deal Closing Fund

Support investment in a functional deal closing fund which would allow Oklahoma to stay competitive when trying to attract, retain and/or grow business in Oklahoma.

## Areas of Continued Focus:

The items below are areas/tools we feel should still be kept in mind for Oklahoma's economic development climate:

### Education and Workforce

- Support merit pay for educators and encourage the incorporation of career awareness programs into the common education system while lengthening the school year.
- Support post-secondary education designed to enhance and improve Oklahoma's workforce.
- Supports the development of a strong workforce by ensuring that Oklahoma's workforce delivery and training programs are the best in the nation.
- Support ongoing efforts of the entire education system (common education; institutions of higher learning; and career technology centers) and the business community to assure that what is taught in the classroom is relevant to Oklahoma's current and future workforce needs. Programs include, but are not limited to, Training for Industry Programs (TIP); Existing Industry Initiative (EII); and Safety and Health Training.
- Support flexibility for childcare facilities that provide care to working Oklahomans receiving daycare assistance to be reimbursed when a child is absent. Also, have reimbursement rates based on hours for services provided rather than on a per- day basis.

### Transportation

OEDC opposes any attempts to delay/unravel the transportation and bond program passed in 2008, as well as legislation or constitutional initiatives that would re-direct funds from essential state functions, and erode the legislature's ability to craft a reasonable balanced budget.

### Research and Technology

Maintain OCAST funding with support of an appropriations request. Continue to support a billion dollar Oklahoma Enterprise Research and Investment Endowment to fund and match grants for technology investments in leading edge technologies to help transform Oklahoma's economy. Oppose attempts to raid the fund to shore up general revenue.

### Water/Energy

Water is a critical business resource. Support completion of the update of the Oklahoma comprehensive water plan, and make certain that it encourages and provides ample water for economic development. OEDC supports increasing CNG infrastructure statewide.