

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 1696

6 By: Coleman

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to state government; creating the  
9 Oklahoma Talent Attraction and Relocation Revolving  
10 Fund; providing for composition of funds; requiring  
11 deposit of certain monies appropriated by the  
12 Oklahoma Department of Commerce; prescribing  
13 procedures for expenditures; creating the Oklahoma  
14 Talent Attraction and Relocation Program; providing  
15 for administration by the Oklahoma Department of  
16 Commerce; defining terms; specifying requirements for  
17 disbursement of funds; establishing grant eligibility  
18 requirements; requiring recipients of grants to  
19 report certain information to the Department  
20 semiannually; specifying eligibility requirements for  
21 households to receive incentives; requiring certain  
22 electronic report; directing promulgation of rules;  
23 providing for codification; providing an effective  
24 date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5013.4 of Title 74, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to be designated the

1 "Oklahoma Talent Attraction and Relocation Revolving Fund". The  
2 fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year  
3 limitations, and shall consist of all monies designated to the fund  
4 by law. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby  
5 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Department for  
6 the purpose of implementing and administering the Oklahoma Talent  
7 Attraction and Relocation Program, including the awarding and  
8 administration of grants, program evaluation, and related  
9 administrative costs. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon  
10 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as  
11 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and  
12 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

13 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7020 of Title 74, unless there  
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Department of  
17 Commerce the Oklahoma Talent Attraction and Relocation Program, to  
18 be administered by the Department for the purpose of awarding grants  
19 to support talent recruitment programs that motivate households to  
20 relocate to Oklahoma from outside the state.

21 B. As used in this section:

22 1. "Eligible applicant" means:  
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- a. a municipality with a population of fewer than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) persons according to the most recent Federal Decennial Census,
- b. a county with a population of fewer than five hundred thousand (500,000) persons according to the most recent Federal Decennial Census, or
- c. a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose includes economic development, workforce development, or community development;

2. "Household" means a group of one or more individuals who live together within the same dwelling; and

3. "Household goals" means the total number of households that a talent recruitment program seeks to successfully incentivize to relocate or commit to relocate from outside this state to a municipality in this state.

C. Subject to availability of funds, the Department may award grants to eligible applicants for the administration of talent recruitment programs and for costs associated with providing incentives for households to relocate from outside this state to establish residency within this state. No more than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in grant funds may be awarded to a single eligible applicant in a single fiscal year. No single grant awarded pursuant to this subsection shall exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00).

1 D. To the extent funds are available, the Department shall  
2 disburse fifty percent (50%) of the total grant amount upon  
3 execution of a grant contract and fifty percent (50%) of the total  
4 grant amount upon verification that the recipient has successfully  
5 met at least one-half (1/2) of the household goal stated in the  
6 approved talent recruitment program plan. If the recipient fails to  
7 meet at least one-half (1/2) of its stated household goal, the  
8 remaining portion of the grant shall not be disbursed.

9 E. To be considered for a grant, an eligible applicant shall  
10 submit to the Department a written talent recruitment program plan  
11 that includes:

12 1. The total estimated cost of the program and the estimated  
13 costs associated with program design, administration, marketing, and  
14 relocation incentive initiatives;

15 2. The household goal and the estimated total grant amount per  
16 household;

17 3. The estimated state and local tax impact;

18 4. The estimated total economic impact; and

19 5. Evidence that the proposed incentives do not duplicate  
20 existing state or local relocation programs serving the same  
21 households or geographic area.

22 F. The applicant shall demonstrate the ability to contribute at  
23 least twenty percent (20%) of the total cost of the talent  
24 recruitment program, which may include local investments and in-kind

1 donations. An applicant that has previously received a grant under  
2 this section shall not be eligible for an additional grant unless  
3 the applicant has met or exceeded the household goal stated in its  
4 prior approved talent recruitment program plan.

5 G. If a recipient fails to meet its household goal by the end  
6 of the program period, or if after notice and hearing the Department  
7 determines grant funds were used for unauthorized purposes or  
8 obtained through material misrepresentation of fact, the Department  
9 may require repayment of all or part of the grant disbursed, plus  
10 interest at the rate provided in Section 2375 of Title 68 of the  
11 Oklahoma Statutes. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce Board shall  
12 promulgate rules for repayment procedures pursuant to the  
13 Administrative Procedures Act.

14 H. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall provide  
15 semiannual reports to the Department that include:

- 16 1. The total number of household applications;
- 17 2. The total number of approved households;
- 18 3. The cost per approved household;
- 19 4. The annual incomes and occupations of approved households,  
20 reported in aggregate form;
- 21 5. The economic impact of the talent recruitment program,  
22 including state and local tax revenue and new consumer spending, to  
23 the extent such information can be reasonably estimated;

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1           6. Certification by a certified public accountant or other  
2 independent third party acceptable to the Department verifying  
3 household relocations through documentation including lease  
4 agreements, utility service transfers, or employment records; and

5           7. If total grant funds exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars  
6 (\$100,000.00), a financial audit of program expenditures.

7           I. A household shall be eligible to receive incentives under a  
8 talent recruitment program funded pursuant to this section if:

9           1. The household resides outside this state at the time the  
10 household applies for incentives;

11           2. The household has an individual household income of at least  
12 Fifty-five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00); and

13           3. The household submits an application to a grant recipient  
14 for incentives under the talent recruitment program.

15           J. Beginning two (2) years after the effective date of this  
16 act, and every two (2) years thereafter, the Department shall submit  
17 an electronic report to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the  
18 Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives evaluating:

19           1. The total grants awarded versus verified household  
20 relocations;

21           2. Actual versus projected state and local tax revenue  
22 generated;

23           3. Cost per verified household; and

24           4. Net economic impact.

1 K. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall promulgate rules  
2 as necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this  
3 section pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

4 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

5 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
6 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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