

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1696

By: Coleman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; creating the Oklahoma Talent Attraction and Relocation Revolving Fund; providing for composition of funds; requiring deposit of certain monies appropriated by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; prescribing procedures for expenditures; creating the Oklahoma Talent Attraction and Relocation Program; providing for administration by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; defining terms; specifying requirements for disbursement of funds; establishing grant eligibility requirements; requiring recipients of grants to report certain information to the Department semiannually; specifying eligibility requirements for households to receive incentives; requiring certain electronic report; directing promulgation of rules; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 "Oklahoma Talent Attraction and Relocation Revolving Fund". The

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

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

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

20 B. As used in this section:

21 1. "Eligible applicant" means:

22 a. a city, town, or county, or  
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b. 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 municipality in a single fiscal year.

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

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

4 1. The total estimated cost of the program and the estimated  
5 costs associated with program design, administration, marketing, and  
6 relocation incentive initiatives;

7 2. The household goal and the estimated total grant amount per  
8 household;

9 3. The estimated state and local tax impact;

10 4. The estimated total economic impact; and

11 5. Evidence that the proposed incentives do not duplicate  
12 existing state or local relocation programs serving the same  
13 households or geographic area.

14 F. The applicant shall demonstrate the ability to contribute at  
15 least twenty percent (20%) of the total cost of the talent  
16 recruitment program, which may include local investments and in-kind  
17 donations. An applicant that has previously received a grant under  
18 this section shall not be eligible for an additional grant unless  
19 the applicant has met or exceeded the household goal stated in its  
20 prior approved talent recruitment program plan.

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

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

- 8 1. The total number of household applications;
- 9 2. The total number of approved households;
- 10 3. The cost per approved household;
- 11 4. The annual incomes and occupations of approved households,  
12 reported in aggregate form;
- 13 5. The economic impact of the talent recruitment program,  
14 including state and local tax revenue and new consumer spending, to  
15 the extent such information can be reasonably estimated;
- 16 6. Certification by a certified public accountant or other  
17 independent third party acceptable to the Department verifying  
18 household relocations through documentation including lease  
19 agreements, utility service transfers, or employment records; and  
20 7. If total grant funds exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars  
21 (\$100,000.00), a financial audit of program expenditures.

22 I. A household shall be eligible to receive incentives under a  
23 talent recruitment program funded pursuant to this section if:  
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1       1. The household resides outside this state at the time the  
2 household applies for incentives;

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

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

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

11       1. The total grants awarded versus verified household  
12 relocations;

13       2. Actual versus projected state and local tax revenue  
14 generated;

15       3. Cost per verified household; and

16       4. Net economic impact.

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

20       SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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