

NODA

news

(Spring/2023) Volume (1)

Oklahoma Innovation Expansion Program



April 3, 2023, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce began accepting applications for the Oklahoma Innovation Expansion Program (OIEP). The application period closes on Friday, April 14 at 5:00 p.m. The program will make up to \$15 million in funding available to qualifying companies across the state. Existing companies with new and innovative projects leading to diversification, market expansion, or supply chain resiliency may apply for OIEP. Awards will range between \$25,000 to \$150,000 depending on the amount positive revenue for the state and the size of the company.

To be eligible, companies must not have spent anything toward the project, and the project must provide a net positive benefit for the state. Businesses must have a minimum annual payroll of \$625,000 with a minimum capital investment of \$50,000. Full program detail and conditions are available by scanning the QR code or on ODOC's website, bokcommerce.gov/OIEP.



REAP INVENTORY POLICY MAKEOVER



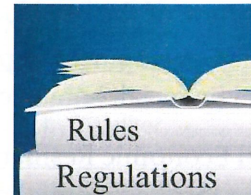
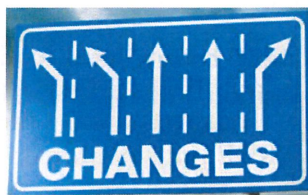
SUMMARY OF CHANGES

CONFUSING?

(ODOC) issued a revision on the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grant program in 2023. The revision included changes to how equipment purchased with REAP grant funds will be tracked under each Council of Governments (COG: e.g. NODA). For example, NODA's inventory tracking policy of purchases made with REAP grant funds will no longer stop after 5 years, it will continue annually until the sell or disposition of the item, then for an additional three years.

- All entities awarded REAP funds shall maintain an inventory file for all equipment or non-expendable property with a service life of more than one (1) year and costing \$500.00 or more for IT purchases, or \$2,500.00 or more for non IT purchases.
- Maintain inventory records for three (3 years) after the date of disposal or sale.
- Equipment acquired with funds from ODOC contracts may be sold, traded in, salvaged, etc. **ONLY** upon written approval from ODOC.

It can be. However, With NODA on your team we promise to keep you on track with the new policy requirements. Jennifer Firkard will email NODAs communities the updated REAP Policies & Procedures Guidelines, with the full inventory tracking policy on pages 9-10. For questions, concerns or more information, contact Jennifer Firkard at (580) 599-0358 or jennifer@noda-ok.org.

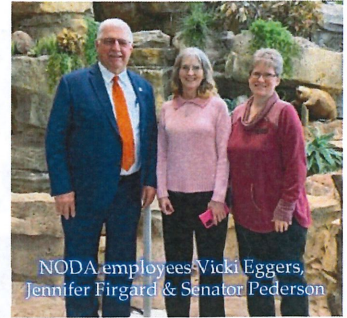




Enid Day at the Capitol



The annual Enid Day at the Capitol took place on March 7, from 8:30-11 a.m., at the John D. Groendyke Wildlife Building, in Oklahoma City. This day is an opportunity for Enid leaders to discuss, current bills being discussed in the House and Senate, as well as issues facing Oklahoma with state officials. In attendance were Rep. Chad Caldwell, Rep. Carl Newton, Rep. Mike Dobrinski, Sen. Roland Pederson and Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell.



NODA employees Vicki Eggers, Jennifer Firkard & Senator Pederson

Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell spoke about the importance of tourism for job growth and economic development. Sen Pederson introduced Mark Woodward from OK Bureau of Narcotics to speak about the issues surrounding illegal marijuana grow facilities and the impact they make on our state. Other topics included educational vouchers and tax credits for private schools, water preservation in Northwest Oklahoma, tax reductions, funding for mental health programs, substance abuse programs, and prison reform. Jennifer Firkard and Vicki Eggers from NODA attended, Firkard took the opportunity to speak with Senator Pederson about their continued support and funding of the State REAP grant program.

T.H.E O.N.E W.I.T.H T.H.E N.E.W E.M.P.L.O.Y.E.E

NODA would like everyone to welcome Chanler Cory, our new mobility manager covering Noble, Garfield, and Kay Counties. She is very passionate about helping people in under-represented communities, and is extremely eager to meet and help new and interesting people through working with NODA. While she classifies herself as a great listener, she is working to strengthen and expand her vocabulary. Chanler grew up in Austin, TX with three younger brothers, and dreamed of being a flight attendant when she grew up. She went to high school in San Antonio before she moved to Stillwater to attend OSU, receiving her bachelors of science



degree in sociology and meeting her long-term boyfriend of the last 2 ½ years. And of course, she still roots for her alma mater in football. Her hobbies include; traveling, skiing, and mountain biking. She finds organizing to be relaxing and therapeutic to relieve stress, and enjoys spending time watching true crime shows with her 5 year old pug Bing Bong after a long day. While she will never turn down chocolate cake or ICEEs, she can turn down waking up early and will hit the snooze button as many times as possible. With her passion and drive for advocating for people, we can't wait to see what innovative changes and benefits she brings to this new position.



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION



WWW.EDA.GOV

With funding opportunities opening up this year through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science (CHIPS) Act, and funding for broadband infrastructure, the Northern Oklahoma Economic Development District (NODA EDD) wants to make you aware of two **new** economic development tools EDA created to help with data information and analytics. You can get more information by scanning the QR code, and recording of how to use both data tools can be found at

A brief overview of the new tools:

- [Economic Development Capacity Index](#) (EDCI) data on **county level** economic development capacity related to financial, human capital, industry composition, infrastructure, institutions and partnerships
- [National Economic Resilience Data Explorer](#) (NERDE) information and data on economic distress including local economic recovery and resilience analysis



Board Spotlight



Travis Darr was elected the County Commissioner of Major County District 3 in June 2018 and officially took office January 2019. Darr joined the NODA board in February 2021. He has over 25 years of experience in project and personnel management with hiring, contracting, and resources. He also has extensive experience with operating, buying, and maintaining heavy equipment.

Darr was born and raised in Fairview, the home of the largest open rodeo. Growing up he wanted to be a truck driver. He has two siblings, 8 kids, and 7 grandkids. He loves to work on heavy machinery, and welding, but would like to learn more about working with wood. Some of his favorite jobs were building oil drilling rigs, constructing and welding.

Darr decided to run for county commissioner in order to effectively communicate and resolve issues of the community. He loves working with NODA because of the opportunity to meet new people and collaborate to help fix the concerns and meet the needs of all the regions that NODA serves. He believes his experiences and familiarity the local areas give him a strong ability to help improve the welfare of our regions. His favorite quote that he continues to live by is "It can only get better", and with his help and dedication we know it will continue to get better for NODA and our communities.

"GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MAKING A DONATION, IT'S ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE." ~KATHY CALVIN~

Through an inter-local agreement, the Covington Rural Fire Department (RFD) gifted a Pierce 4900 International Rescue Truck to the Lucien RFD. This unit can pump 1,250 gallons per minute of water for quick fire control. Lucien RFD had been looking for a truck for over a year and expressed their absolute gratitude over this donation. The Lucien fire chief says they are excited to work to get this unit into service.



(Pictured L-R: NODA Board President, County Commissioner, and Covington firefighter Marc Bolz, Covington firefighter Chris Bigby, Covington Fire Chief Brandon Schram, Lucien Fire Chief Jerry Smith, and Lucien firefighter Sarah Harper.) Also present NODA Rural Fire Coordinator Cecil Michael

Northern Oklahoma Regional
Transportation Planning Organization

NORTHWEST FORWARD
2045 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan



NORTPO is working on becoming a leader in regional transportation planning in northwest Oklahoma; by making the public our priority through hosting public outreach meetings, and posting quarterly surveys to get local input on transportation issues. With GIS mapping NORTPO creates maps for the region that include demographics, routes, and developments in transportation. We also author long-range multimodal transportation plans in coordination with ODOT. You can participate in these surveys on our website or through QR codes to let us know your needs, as well as see all our transportation plans, work programs, limited English proficiency plans, public notices, and much more. Come see all we have going on at nortpo.org, you can also use the QR code to see our new brochure!



NORTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(580) 237-4810

2901 N Van Buren Enid, OK 73703

Making a Difference in Northern Oklahoma

We provide opportunities to improve the quality of life in our eight-county region-Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, and Noble. For more information about NODA services, contact us at (580) 237-4810 or visit us on the web at www.noda-ok.org

NODA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

- President-**Marc Bolz**, *Garfield Co.*
- Finance Officer-**Noel Clonts**, *Kay Co.*
- Secretary-**Marci Hyde**, *Alfalfa Co.*

BOARD MEMBERS

- Mike Roach, *Alfalfa Co.*
- Kelly Fanning, *Alfalfa Co.*
- Brandon Schultz, *Blaine Co.*
- Bill Seitter, *Blaine Co.*
- Ashley Humphrey, *City of Enid*
- Chris Henderson, *City of Ponca City*
- Howard Powell, *Garfield Co.*
- Max Hess, *Grant Co.*
- Dea Mandevill, *Grant Co.*
- Jason Shanks, *Kay Co.*
- Jeff Moss, *Kingfisher Co.*
- Tiffany Tillman, *Kingfisher Co.*
- Travis Darr, *Major Co.*
- Phillip Schrahl, *Major Co.*
- Gary May, *Noble Co.*
- Dixie Johnson, *Noble Co.*
- Cathy Lantz, *Member At-Large*
- Ray "Toby" Walker, *Member At-Large*

Rural Fire Defense Coordinators Advocate at the Capitol



(Pictured from left: Choate, Luke Underwood, Cecil Michael (from NODA), Perry Brinegar, Ed Barton, Mark Gardner, Tom Sheats, Paul Simpson, and Steve Pitts.)

The Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils (OARC), Rural Fire Defense Coordinators met at the state capitol to promote their programs and discuss current legislation as it relates to the rural fire defense programs and funding. In a state where the average cost for suppressing fires has topped over \$1 billion dollars, Oklahoma firefighters are stretched. OARC's defense coordinators work diligently, advocating and informing the states legislatures of the cost and importance of providing rural fire departments with skilled firefighters and reliable equipment. For more information you can visit oarcok.com/rural-fire/.

*Life is a beautiful journey,
we can help you enjoy the ride!*

Cherokee Strip Transit (CST) has been operating since 1991 and still offers rides to residents in Garfield, Alfalfa, Grant, Kay, Noble, Kingfisher, and Blaine counties. With upgraded vehicles, updated communication and navigation systems our friendly drivers are eager and willing to show you how easy it can be to get the ride you need to the places you need to go.

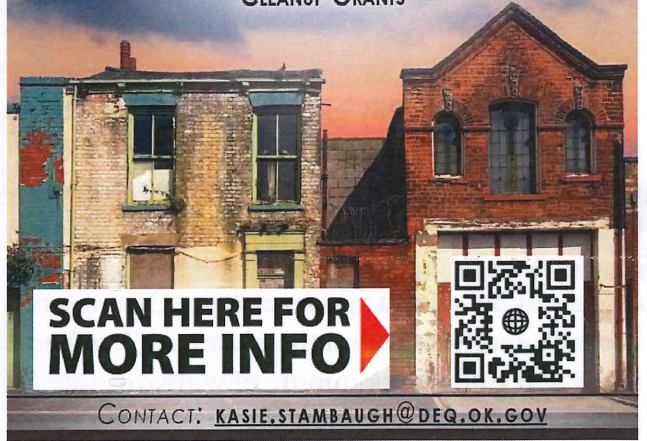
Visit www.noda-ok.org/cherokee-strip-transit/ for information on ADA policies, the Title VI Civil Rights Act program or a brief overview of routes and fares. To schedule or inquire about ride services and assistance call (580) 863-2279 or (800) 722-0353 for TDD



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

up to **\$500,000 AVAILABLE**
for

**SHOVEL-READY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION
CLEANUP GRANTS**



**Northern Oklahoma
Development Authority**
2901 N. Van Buren St.
Enid, OK 73703

