

Updates to the Oklahoma Innovation and Technology Plan

The *Oklahoma Innovation and Technology Plan* was approved by the Economic Development Generating Excellence (EDGE) Policy Board on July 10, 2009. This Plan, however, is not a static document—it will evolve as new information becomes available and as recommendations from the *Plan* are enacted and implemented.

The following Updates to the *Oklahoma Innovation and Technology Plan* summarize new information that is pertinent to the *Plan*. In this way the *Plan* always stays current and its implementation will always be based on the most recent information.

Educational Needs Index

The Educational Needs Index originated in 1999 from work supported by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The Index was so useful that it was developed further, adopted by the 16 states within the Southern Governors' Association (SGA) and then expanded with support from the Lumina Foundation for Education to all 50 states where it has now been adopted by many regional organizations.

As described formally, the Educational Needs Index (ENI) is a regional level economic model that assesses conditions and trends for all 50 states and their respective sub-regions on the basis of education, economic and population variables. Each state is compared to the national average on the basis of these variables (see table below). On this just released national comparison, Oklahoma is ranked among those with the greatest educational and economic need.

The within state analysis is also useful and can be viewed on a county-by-county map on the following website: <http://www.educationalneedsindex.com/oklahoma-education.php?n=0>. There are four maps of Oklahoma, one for the overall Educational Needs Index (ENI), and one each for education, economic and population characteristics. Both the education and economic maps clearly show Oklahoma in the "critical" or "most critical" categories. The exceptions are parts of the counties around Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

As is true from most of the other indicators described in the *Oklahoma Innovation and Technology Plan*, this characterization of Oklahoma's critical needs compared to other states says very clearly that our state must take specific actions to move its educational and economic capabilities to a more competitive level.

	Oklahoma	National
Percent of 18 to 64 Year Olds With a High School Diploma (2005)	86.0	85.8
Percent of 25 to 64 Year Olds With an Associates Degree (2005)	7.7	8.2
Percent of 25 to 64 Year Olds With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2005)	23.3	28.6
Difference in College Attainment Between Young (25 to 35) and Older (45 to 54)	-1.7	1.5
Unemployment Rate (2005)	6.43	7.12
Percent of Population Under 65 At or Below the Poverty Level (2005)	21.0	18.5
Median Family Income (2005)	46149	57167
Per Capita Personal Income (2005)	20950	25360
Percent of Employment in Manufacturing and Extraction Industries (2005)	13.0	12
Rate of Population Growth 64 and Under (2000 to 2005)	0.1	2.7
Percent of Population Ages 0 to 19 (2005)	27.2	27.6
Percent of Population Ages 20 to 44 (2005)	34.0	35.1
Percent At-Risk Minorities 0 to 44 (2005)	22.6	31.1

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Kids Count

On July 28, 2009, the Anne E. Casey Foundation released the 20th annual KIDS COUNT data book which lists more than 100 indicators of child-well being from cities, states and the nation, including economic status, health, safety, and risk factors.

The just-released report profiles the well-being of America's children on a state-by-state basis, ranking states on 10 key measures. Oklahoma ranks 44th among the 50 states (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?ind=137>).

The 10 key indicators and Oklahoma's rank are depicted below (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?ind=137>).

As discussed in the *Oklahoma Innovation and Technology Plan*, strengthening Oklahoma's economy with more, higher paying will enable better conditions for the state's children. In particular, note that in terms of children living with families in which no parent has a full-time job and children from families living in poverty, Oklahoma ranks 38th and 41st among the 50 states.

Key Indicator	Oklahoma's Rank
Percent low-birthweight babies	25
Infant mortality rate	40
Child death rate	45
Teen death rate	40
Teen birth rate	45
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts	36
Percent of teens for attending school or working	31
Percent of children living with parents with full employment	38
Percent of children living in poverty	41
Percent of children in single-parent homes	31

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