



To the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development and Relevant Stakeholders,

On behalf of **It's My Community Initiative (IMCI)**, I am writing to express our strong support for maintaining Oklahoma's current structure of local workforce development boards, including the **Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board (COWIB)**, as outlined under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

As a community-based partner, we have directly experienced the value of working with our local workforce board. These boards play a critical role in aligning workforce strategies with the unique needs of regional economies, ensuring that services are responsive, relevant, and effective for both teenage job seekers and employers.

In our work specifically, local workforce boards serve as essential conveners of community-based partnerships. Through their leadership, organizations like ours are able to collaborate with businesses, education providers, and support service agencies to address workforce challenges in a coordinated and meaningful way. This local connection is vital for our students and families, and it simply cannot be replicated through a centralized, one-size-fits-all system.

We are particularly concerned that eliminating the four local workforce development boards would:

- **Reduce the ability to respond** to region-specific workforce and economic needs.
- **Weaken established partnerships** that serve job seekers, including those facing significant barriers to employment.
- **Limit direct employer engagement** that ensures training and services align with real hiring demands.
- **Decrease local accountability** and transparency in workforce system performance.



Oklahoma's workforce system is strongest when it balances statewide coordination with local expertise. The current structure allows for the kind of innovation, responsiveness, and collaboration at the community level that drives the successful outcomes we see every day under WIOA.

We respectfully urge the State to preserve the local workforce development board structure and continue building upon the strong partnerships and proven strategies already in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for your continued commitment to strengthening Oklahoma's workforce.

Sincerely,

Cedric E. Currin-Moore

Youth Program Manager It's My Community Initiative (IMCI)