

Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2020 - 2025

Submitted to Economic Development Administration January 2020 – Updated April 2022



COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

OF THE

KIAMICHI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

2020-2025

Submitted

January, 2020 (Updated April, 2022)

**KIM ROSE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**STEVE SMALLING
PROJECTS DIRECTOR**

**This report is paid for by funding
made possible through a planning grant
by the US Department of Commerce,
Economic Development Administration**

**Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma
1002 Hwy 2 North
Wilburton, OK 74578
(918) 465-2367**

PREFACE

Planning for economic development, as well as for other purposes, on a regional basis provides an opportunity for officials to establish a strategic plan of action for the development of southeastern Oklahoma in a coordinated manner. Local elected officials have long recognized the importance of working together to solve problems shared by several communities, which explains why regional development has become so popular across this country. The successes of those areas that have coordinated their development efforts to attract business and industry have become the rule and not the exception.

This Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) has been prepared to expand the role of government as a facilitator in the economic development process. Local units of government are being encouraged to utilize their public resources to leverage private sector investments. Few major private sector investments are made today without some involvement from the public sector. Public resources are being used by local officials to shape the physical as well as the economic characteristics of their perspective communities. Furthermore, these conditions are occurring in nearly every city in the country and creating an explosion of economic development activities to attract new jobs.

With this thought provoking message, this CEDS has been prepared to capitalize on these emerging trends and establish a basis for regional cooperation and participation. The Resolution of Adoption, approved by the KEDDO Board of Directors, reflects the regional commitment to the area wide planning process.

The Regional Strategy delivered in this report represents a challenge and an opportunity for local governments to coordinate their actions with solutions through their collective efforts. The regional issues, problems and opportunities are discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this report.



KIAMICHI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

A Regional Trust Authority of Local Governments

OFFICERS:

Mike Brittingham
Chairman

Kevin Smith
1st Vice-Chairman

Derwin Gist
2nd Vice-Chairman

Jennifer Woods
Secretary/Treasurer

PROGRAMS:

Area Agency
on Aging
(AAA)

Economic
Development

Geographic
Information
System
(GIS)

Rural Economic
Action Plan
(REAP)

Rural Fire
Defense

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE KIAMICHI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA APPROVING TO APPLY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION FOR A PLANNING GRANT 2023.

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Commerce provides financial assistance to regional development districts authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 as amended; and

WHEREAS: The Counties of Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg and Pushmataha have formed the Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma (KEDDO); and

WHEREAS: KEDDO is an Economic Development District designated by the Economic Development Administration; and

WHEREAS: KEDDO has prepared the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF KEDDO, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON OCTOBER 12, 2022.

SECTION ONE: THAT, the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of KEDDO hereby approve the submittal of the 2023 planning application.

SECTION TWO: THAT, the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of KEDDO agrees to the leverage and conditions as set out in the application process.

SECTION THREE: THAT, the Executive Director is hereby directed to make the application and is authorized to sign and execute all documentation for the application and contracts if so funded.

AND IS SO ORDERED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:


Michael Brittingham, Chairman

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Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2020 - 2024

KEDDO CEDS (Introduction & Structure)

1

Chapter I

DESCRIPTION OF CEDS PROCESS AND LEGAL STRUCTURE

A. INTRODUCTION:

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) represents a locally initiated planning process designed to create employment opportunities, foster a more stable and diversified economy, improve the quality of life in the region, and provide a mechanism for guiding and coordinating the efforts of local individuals and organizations concerned with the economic development of southeastern Oklahoma.

B. CEDS PROCESS:

This CEDS is implemented and monitored by the staff with overall direction provided by the KEDDO Board of Trustees, specifically, by and through the Executive Committee acting as the CEDS Committee for the district. Goals are established and objectives set in light of the previous year's accomplishments as well as the apparent available resources for the current year. Strategies are formulated or continued that will address any unachieved goals or new opportunities for the year.

C. LEGAL STRUCTURE:

Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma (KEDDO) was initially established as an association of local governments and in 1994 was established as a Public Trust of the seven Counties within the defined boundaries of southeast Oklahoma and is presently governed by a Board of Trustees of local governments. These member entities have collectively united as Public Trust organization dedicated to meeting the goals set forth to benefit the entire district, while simultaneously representing the various city, town, county, conservation districts and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Government which they represent as local elected officials. As set forth in the by-laws, the CEDS Committee consists of the Executive Committee of the total Board of Trustees for the District.

KEDDO LOCAL CONTACTS:

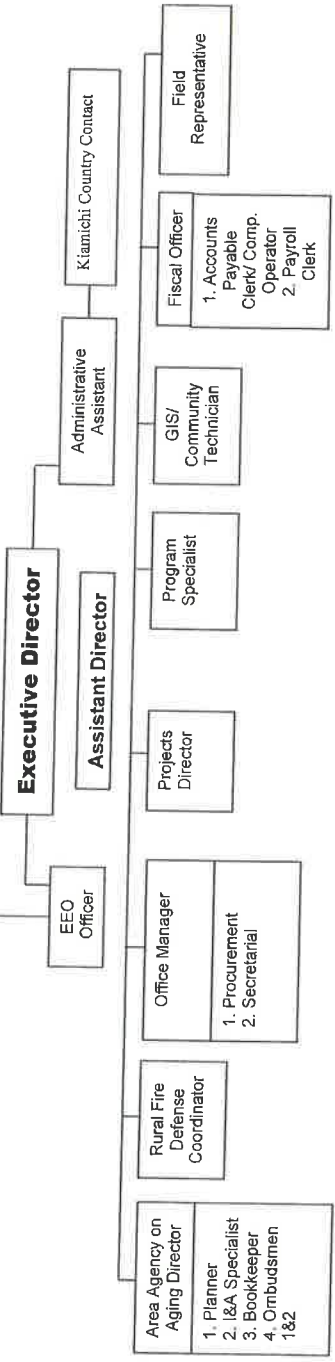
Kim Rose, Executive Director
Steven Clemente, Projects Director
1002 Hwy 2 North
Wilburton OK 74578
918/465-2367

Ronnie Thompson, Chairman
Choctaw County Commissioner
300 East Duke Street
Hugo, OK 74743
(580) 326-5331

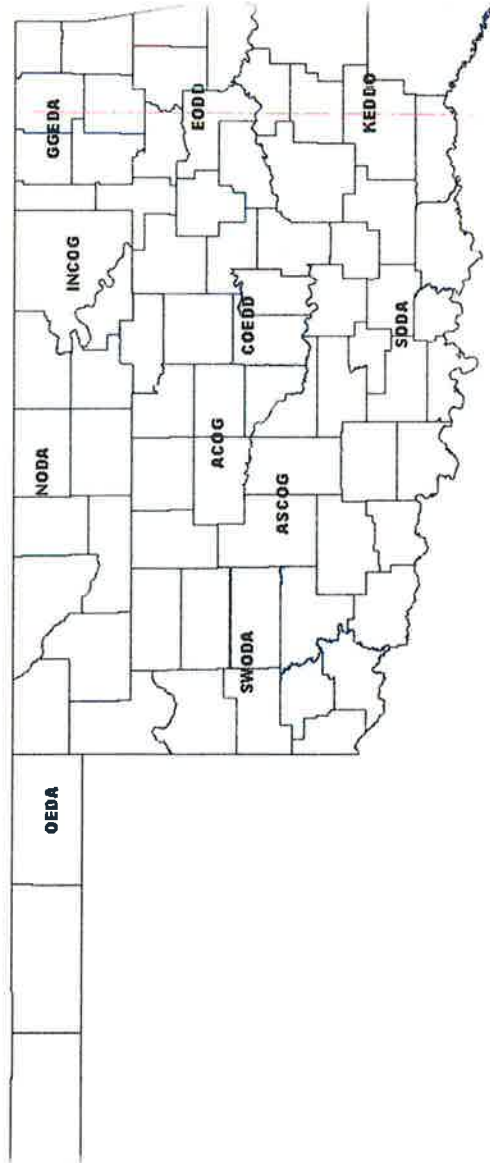
KEDDO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & CEDS COMMITTEE

Ronnie Thompson, Chairman
Michael Brittingham, 1st Vice Chairman
Kevin Smith, 2nd Vice Chairman
Derwin Gist, Secretary/Treasurer
Larry Godfrey
Jimmy Westbrook
Stephen Brinlee
Wayne Sexton
Jennifer Woods
Kim Rose

**Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma
(A Regional Trust Authority)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



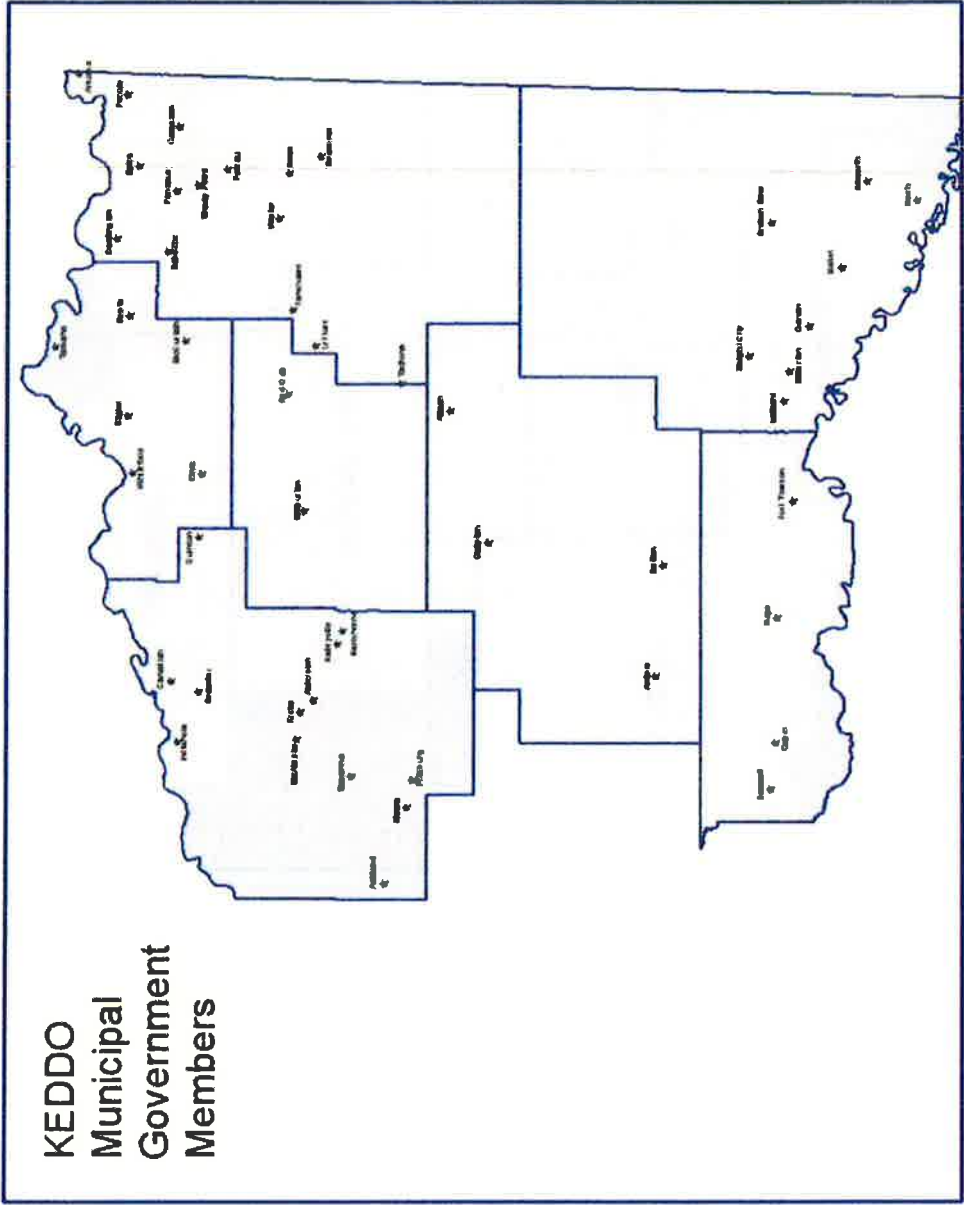
Oklahoma Regional Planning Districts
KEDDO being located in the southeastern corner of Oklahoma



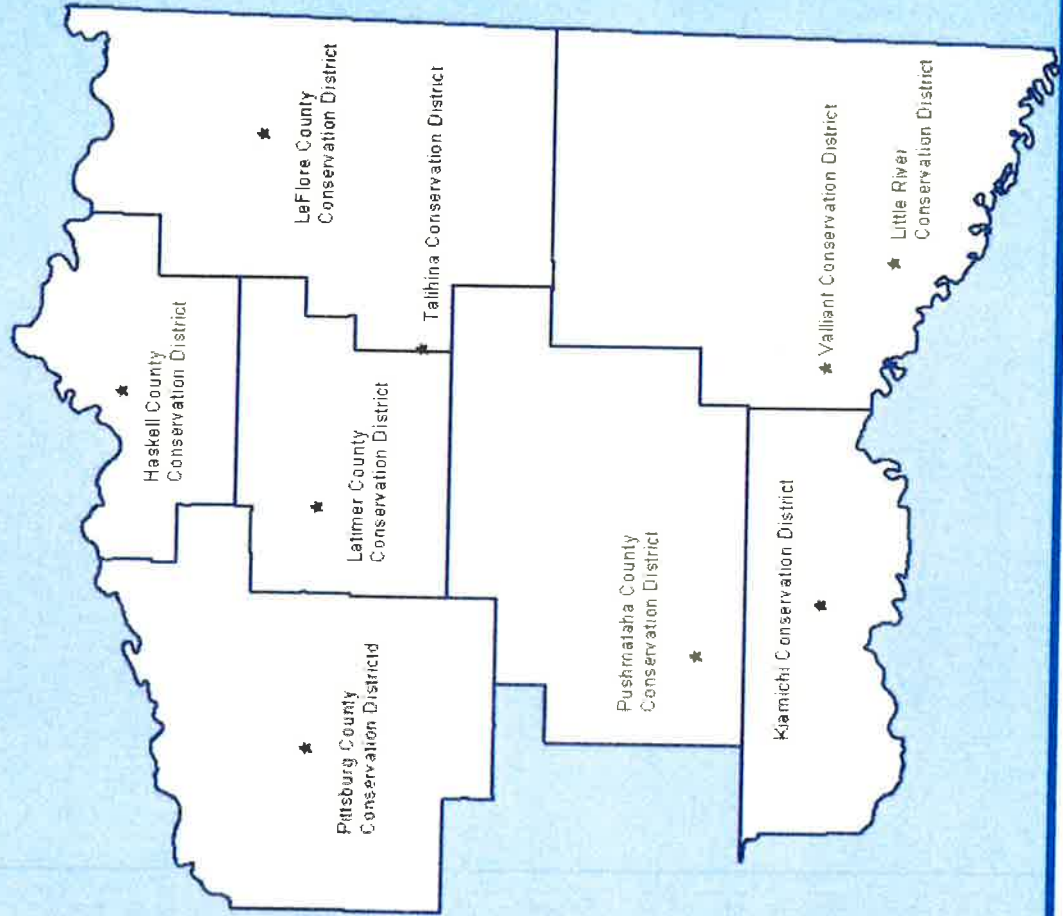
Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

KEDDO DISTRICTS

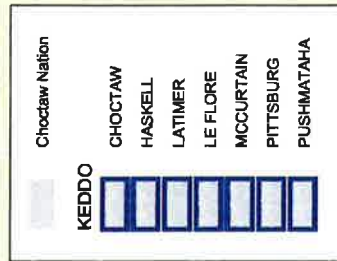
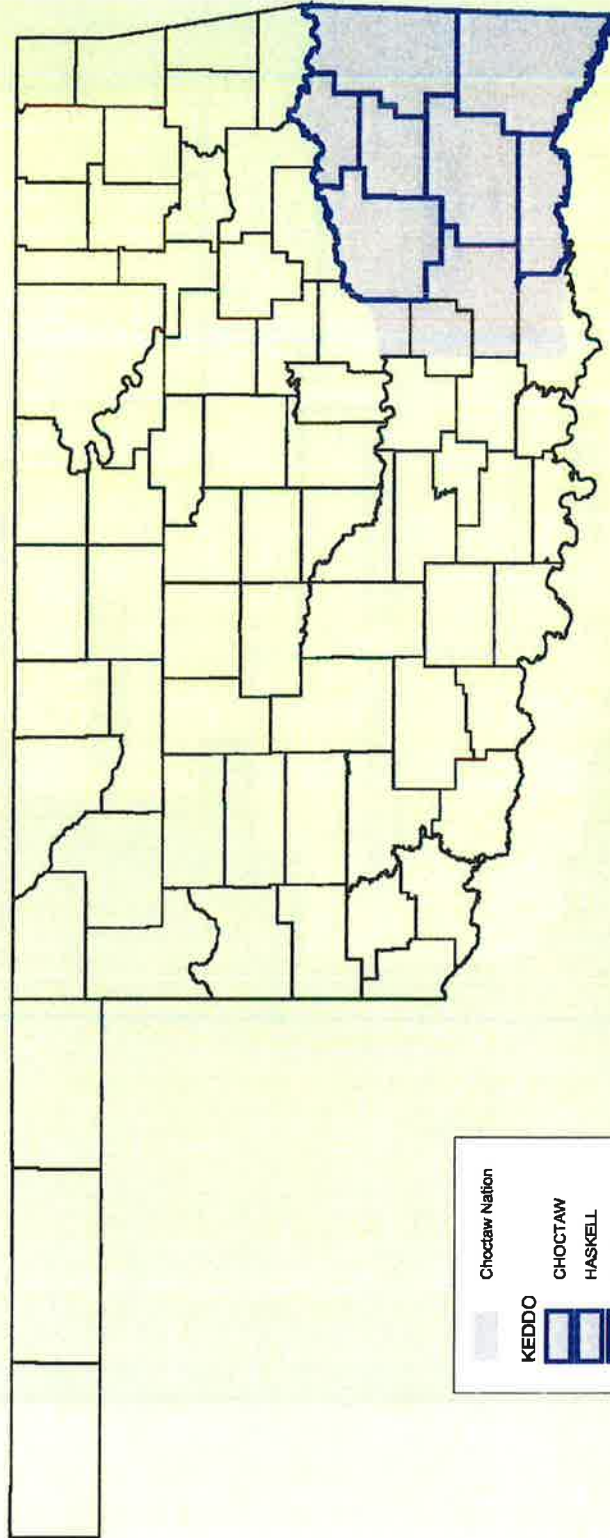




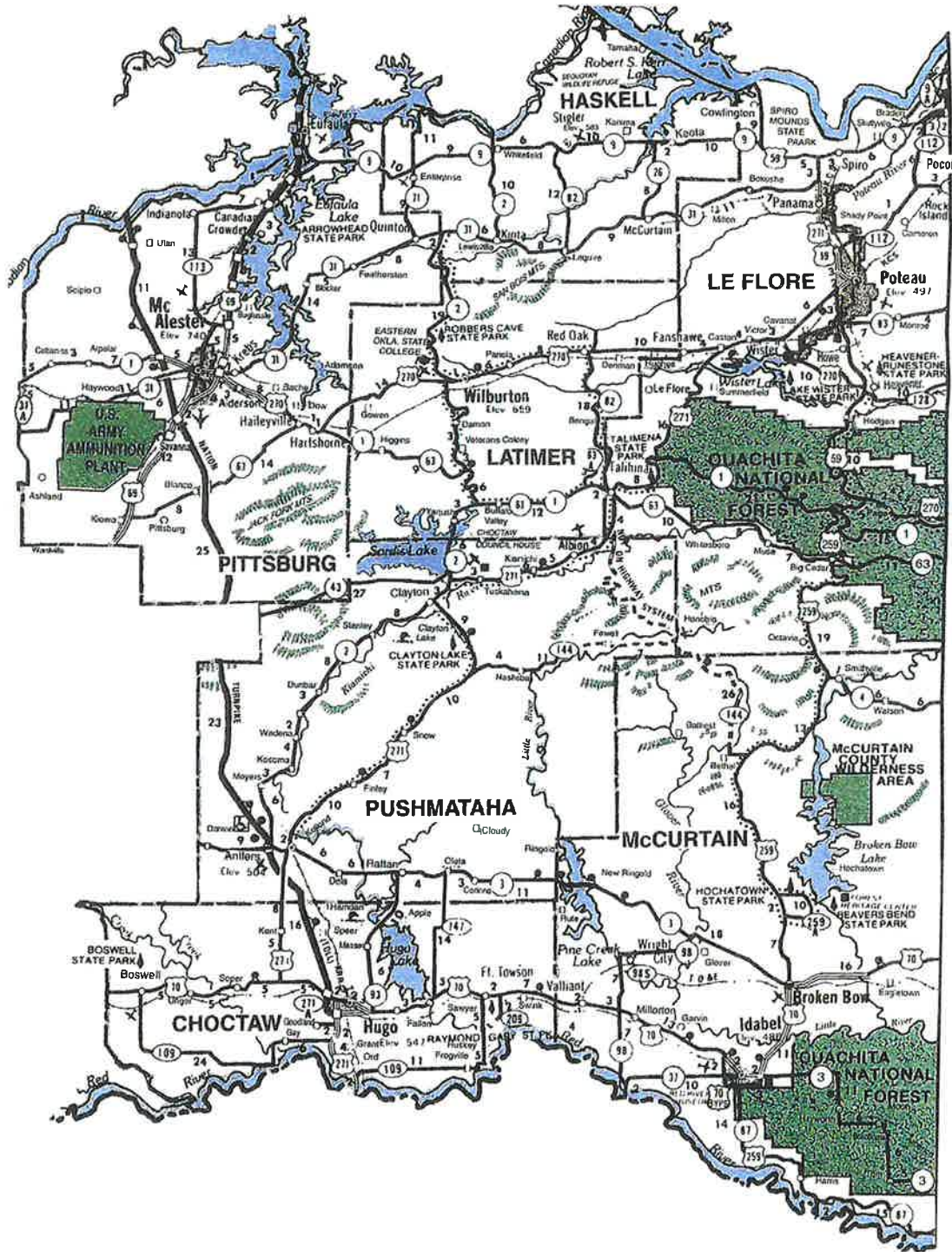
**KEDDO
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
MEMBERS**



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma Map of Area



KIAMICHI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

| Name | Race | Sex | Appt Date | County Residence | Represents | Executive Committee |
|---------------------|------|-----|-----------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Stan Payne | C | M | 2005 | Choctaw | Cities | No |
| Ronnie Thompson | AI | M | 2011 | Choctaw | County | Yes |
| Roger Vandever | C | M | 2010 | Choctaw | At-Large | No |
| Clark McClary | AI | M | 2015 | Haskell | At-Large | No |
| Larry Godfrey | C | M | 1992 | Haskell | Cities | Yes |
| Phil Cantrell | C | M | 2014 | Haskell | Conservation District | No |
| Billy Cloud | AI | M | 2021 | Haskell | County | No |
| Rodger Kimble | C | M | 2020 | Latimer | County | No |
| Stephen Brinlee | C | M | 2007 | Latimer | Cities | Yes |
| Jeremy Bullard | AI | M | 2015 | Latimer | At-Large | No |
| Cody Covey | C | M | 2021 | LeFlore | County | No |
| Derwin Gist | C | M | 2014 | LeFlore | At-Large | Yes |
| Jimmy Westbrook | C | M | 2007 | McCurtain | At-Large | Yes |
| Chris White | AI | M | 2021 | McCurtain | County | No |
| Craig Young | B | M | 2019 | McCurtain | Cities | No |
| Wayne Sexton | C | M | 1979 | Pittsburg | Conservation District | Yes |
| Kevin Smith | C | M | 2008 | Pittsburg | County | Yes |
| Ross Selman | AI | M | 2017 | Pittsburg | At-Large | No |
| Jack Matthews | C | M | 2011 | Pushmataha | Cities | No |
| Shane Miller | C | M | 2022 | Pushmataha | Conservation District | No |
| Michael Brittingham | C | M | 2011 | Pushmataha | At - Large | Yes |
| Brad Burgett | AI | M | 2019 | Pushmataha | County | No |
| Jenifer Woods | AI | M | 2019 | At-Large | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma | Yes |
| John Cook | B | M | 2022 | Latimer | Minorities | No |

LIST OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATING MEMBERS KEDDO - 2019

The Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma (KEDDO), as the sub-state planning district for southeastern Oklahoma, serves seven (7) member county governments, fifty-three (53) member municipal governments, and nine (9) local conservation districts. The categories of local governments served and membership is as follows:

I. LOCAL GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT

- A. County Governments
1. Choctaw County
 2. Haskell County
 3. Latimer County
 4. LeFlore County
 5. McCurtain County
 6. Pittsburg County
 7. Pushmataha County

- B. Municipal Governments
- (Choctaw County)**
1. Boswell
 2. Ft. Towson
 3. Hugo
 4. Sawyer
 5. Soper
- (Haskell County)**
6. Keota
 7. Kinta
 8. McCurtain
 9. Stigler
 10. Whitefield
- (Latimer County)**
11. Red Oak
 12. Wilburton
- (LeFlore County)**
13. Arkoma
 14. Bokoshe
 15. Cameron
 16. Cowlington
 17. Fanshawe
 18. Ft. Coffee
 19. Heavener
 20. Howe
 21. LeFlore

- 22. Panama
- 23. Pocola
- 24. Poteau
- 25. Rock Island
- 26. Shady Point
- 27. Spiro
- 28. Talihina
- 29. Wister

(McCurtain County)

- 30. Broken Bow
- 31. Garvin
- 32. Haworth
- 33. Idabel
- 34. Millerton
- 35. Valliant
- 36. Wright City

(Pittsburg County)

- 37. Alderson
- 38. Ashland
- 39. Canadian
- 40. Crowder
- 41. Haileyville
- 42. Hartshorne
- 43. Indianola
- 44. Kiowa
- 45. Krebs
- 46. McAlester
- 47. Pittsburg
- 48. Quinton
- 49. Savanna

(Pushmataha County)

- 50. Albion
- 51. Antlers
- 52. Clayton
- 53. Rattan

II. LOCAL SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS

A. Conservation Districts

- 1. Haskell County Conservation District
- 2. Kiamichi Conservation District
- 3. Latimer County Conservation District
- 4. LeFlore County Conservation District
- 5. Little River Conservation District
- 6. Pittsburg County Conservation District
- 7. Pushmataha Conservation District

8. Talihina Conservation District
9. Valliant County Conservation District

Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2020 - 2024

KEDDO CEDS (Changes in Economy and Statistics)

2

CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY

The KEDDO District's economy has overall improved in the past five years. It is best illustrated in the previous five years of unemployment rates for the district. However, looking at the unemployment rates for the district, it is certainly looking like the economy is starting to stabilize with the unemployment rate holding steady within the district at 5% even though that is a .5% below the state average. It is 2.5% lower than it was in 2014. As being an optimist and giving consideration the state of our federal budgets in crisis, the overall economy within the district appears to becoming more stable. However, the plunge over the past few years in fuel cost has had a very negative impact in the economy for the four northern counties that are all gas producing counties in the district. The three southern counties' economy relies heavily on their natural resources such as timber, agriculture and tourism. As the housing market weakened due to the overall economy over the past five years, a significant decrease in the demand for wood products has had a negative impact on the economy on the southern portion of the district. Most other new development has been in the agricultural arena, and most of the decline has been

related to retail sales. There is a tremendous need to diversify the economy through the utilization of existing industrial parks and existing natural resources for tourism. Our region has shown a small growth in the last ten years. The district has had a 3% increase in population in comparrison to the states 9.5% increase.

The marketing efforts of southeastern Oklahoma must be continued or increased in the industrial area. Also, the real hidden treasure for southeastern Oklahoma is our beautiful lakes and streams that has seen a substancial growth in tourism over the past few years from our neighbors from north Texas. In addtion, we must all realize that we are not just competing locally any longer with the technology of today. We compete on a world-wide basis.

A. Changes

1. The population shows an overall gain from 2000 to 2010.
2. Unemployment rates are still substantially higher within the district than state and national averages even though they have decreased over the last five years the trends show to being consistant over the past couple of years.

3. Construction industry has seen a slow down due to the instability of the overall housing market.
4. Financial resources have seen a significant change over the past few years due to the economy becoming more stable in Oklahoma which has allowed borrowing funds from lending institutions to become better.
5. Tourism is on an increase by visitor numbers published by the Oklahoma State Parks Department.
6. Major changes in agriculture have been in the poultry and hog industries. This has been generated by major processing companies interested in the area.
7. Over the past five years, the area has seen improvements in manufacturing due to the improved overall economic conditions in the state.

NEW POTENTIALS AND PROBLEMS

A. Potentials

1. Natural Resources:

Development of natural resources will center around timber, coal, natural gas and water. These will not necessarily be new potentials. However, some potentials for development or utilization are present that have not been so in previous reports. Timber has an increased potential as additional processing in the local region can render it a more affordable raw product in high labor cost areas in the eastern sea board corridor, as well as in the global market. Additionally, the knowledge economy will create a greater demand for pulpwood for conversion to paper for computers and fax machines. Coal has a greater potential for utilization with the advent of the AES cogeneration energy and steam plant going "on stream" in 1990. This is a short term potential. Technology dealing with high sulphur emissions from coal burning plants will keep coal as a continuous natural resource potential well into the

mid-decades of the 21st Century. Natural gas exploration and development at the present time as stated earlier has reached a 30 year low in our district.

However, creation of new municipal and rural water district systems will continue to grow and accelerate with the influx of emigres from metropolitan areas.

2. Labor Costs:

Cost of labor will continue to be a potential for industrial development and expansion of existing industry. These inquiries are predicated in part because of an available "labor pool" that can enjoy a better standard of living at a less expensive wage rate.

3. Universities and Training Facilities:

Training facilities to address employment and industry requirements are viewed as another strong area of potential for the region. Kiamichi Technology Center has eight campuses located throughout the KEDDO District that provide an array of training for adults and youth. Recent changes in the administration of

local two year colleges for the region portend a departure from the status-quo to a pro-active education program for the entire region. Both of these colleges through a collaborative effort with other Universities can now provide four year degrees. Both Eastern Oklahoma State College and Carl Albert State College are working in concert with regional universities for the training and development of a better educated and responsive work force to enhance the region's competitive position.

4. Utility Costs:

These costs remain stable. There is minimal increase within the area that would cause excessive concerns for location or expansion of existing employers.

5. Land Costs:

Everything is relative. Local people view the selling price of land for development purposes as inflated. However, industrialists on the East and West Coast considering expansion view cost as minimal in comparison to the

east and west coast.

6. Tax Costs:

Ad valorem taxation in Oklahoma has a decent competitive edge with the bordering states. This tax rate has a tremendous impact when comparisons are made once again with east and west coast states. Assistance with tax abatement from the State Legislature has given an added inducement in the industrial recruiting process.

7. Water Transportation:

The northern and southern extremities of the district have potential for development in this area. Massive infusions of public sector funding will be required to develop water transportation. However, southeastern Oklahoma has an abundance of water in comparison to the western part of Oklahoma and the northern portion of Texas. Water has become a very heated political topic among the people in southeastern Oklahoma. Northern Texas and western Oklahoma have shown a strong desire to obtain water from southeastern

Oklahoma and some communities have shown interest in selling the water while others are dead set against any sell of water. Due to the state legislators moritorium not to sell water and the battle of the courts to determine if a community has the right to sell water could have a huge impact both financially and on the water resources for years to come.

8. Markets:

The term markets can be a generic term for a multiplicity of endeavors to develop the area. Primary efforts to "market" the district will be embodied in the endeavors contained or inferred in #1 (Natural Resources) above.

9. Other Transportation:

Potential to develop and/or improve transportation networks and systems within the district are numerous. Over the past few years, Oklahoma has identified many bridges throughout the Oklahoma transportation system that have been listed critical in needing repair. Again, over the past few years the State of Oklahoma has given priority to many of these bridges along several

millions in federal funding that has improved the transportation system. However, I feel Oklahoma is similar to many of our surrounding states and is suffering from older infra-structure problems that is far beyond the state's ability to adequately fund the necessary improvements. The singular "bright spot" for potential is vested in the numerous small to medium sized airports in the district. A major percentage of these facilities have the utilities and infra-structure in place to be developed as municipal/county industrial parks. In addition, the district is home to the Robert S. Kerr navigational system that offers a port at Keota, OK.

10. Attractions for Tourism:

The KEDDO Board of Trustees have mandated that the staff make Tourism and Recreation events and activities a major economic development endeavor for the entire district. This mandate has resulted in KEDDO, once again, being designated the administrative entity for Choctaw Country (the tourism development and promotion entity for southeast Oklahoma.)

11. Business Financing and Other Incentives:

"Other incentives" such as tax abatement on ad valorem, sales tax on machinery, participation with the employment and training programs, Targeted Job Tax Credit, etc. are in place and utilized. Business financing is indeed a problem area and will be addressed in the subsequent section.

12. Special Skills in Labor Force:

Low hourly wage rates predicate the request for specific skills in the area's labor force. Requests for special skills can be satisfied via the Kiamichi Technology Center coupled with the capacity to fund Special Skills.

13. Living Environment:

The area's uncluttered and mostly unchanged physical environment is conducive for the attraction of "Dust Bowlers" and their offspring to return home. Corollary to this is the fact that real estate prices on the west coast are greatly exaggerated by local prevailing prices. Example = the housing market as a comparison from California to Oklahoma results in Oklahoma being

double the value in California. Results equals - Sell in California; purchase in Southeast Oklahoma and have a personal retirement fund for exceeding returns on investment of a conventional nature. The potential is great to promote the district as a retirement center and obviously those persons able to retire have a larger amount of disposable income (at the present time) than the working public in the district.

14. Foreign Trade Development:

Foreign trade potential is somewhat limited for the near future. The agriculture economy also has some potential for expansion through timber, coal and soybean sales.

15. Other:

Natural Gas Industry, poultry production and processing with the associated support business is the most promising area of additional development in the district ie: Tyson and OK Foods.

B. PROBLEMS

The major overriding problem for all fifteen previous stated items listed prior is the continuing lack of affordable capital to accommodate expansion as well as the need for venture capital.

1. Natural Resources:

The implementation of bureaucratic regulations without consultation or consideration of the local sector is a problem ie: The Bureau of Land Management's recently implemented limited test burn criteria will preclude the use of Oklahoma coal in Oklahoma based industries.

2. Labor Costs:

Because labor costs are relatively inexpensive, a misconception exists in some industries that labor in Southeast Oklahoma is worth no more than it values itself. Consequently, thier perception may be an inferior judgement of the caliber of employee.

3. Universities and Training Facilities:

Absence of adequate funding for better research and development programs and retention of good faculty is the major problem.

4. Utility Costs:

Not a great problem.

5. Land Costs:

Not a great problem.

6. Tax Costs:

Major criticism in this area appears to be: Industrialists seeking to expand indicate Oklahomans do not tax themselves enough. This sends a signal that we are not committed enough to build infra-structure and support first class educational facilities.

7. Water Transportation:

Once again lack of developmental capital.

8. Markets:

A time lag in realizing that Oklahoma is competing in a global economy is the major problem in the area.

9. Other Transportation:

However, as stated earlier in this document, the bridges and roadways have seen a lot of improvement over the last five years. They are still along way from being adequate.

10. Attractions for Tourism:

The only major problem is there is more public attendance than we can accommodate on a sporadic basis. Overall, the district is in a great position to be "the backyard for northern Texas" which brings in a lot of tourism dollars for the state.

11. Business Financing and Other Incentives:

However, there is no venture capital or risk takers.

12. Special Skills in Labor Force:

Not a significant problem for the types of industries being recruited or that are exploring the possibility of locating in the district.

13. Living Environment:

No particular problem.

14. Foreign Trade Development:

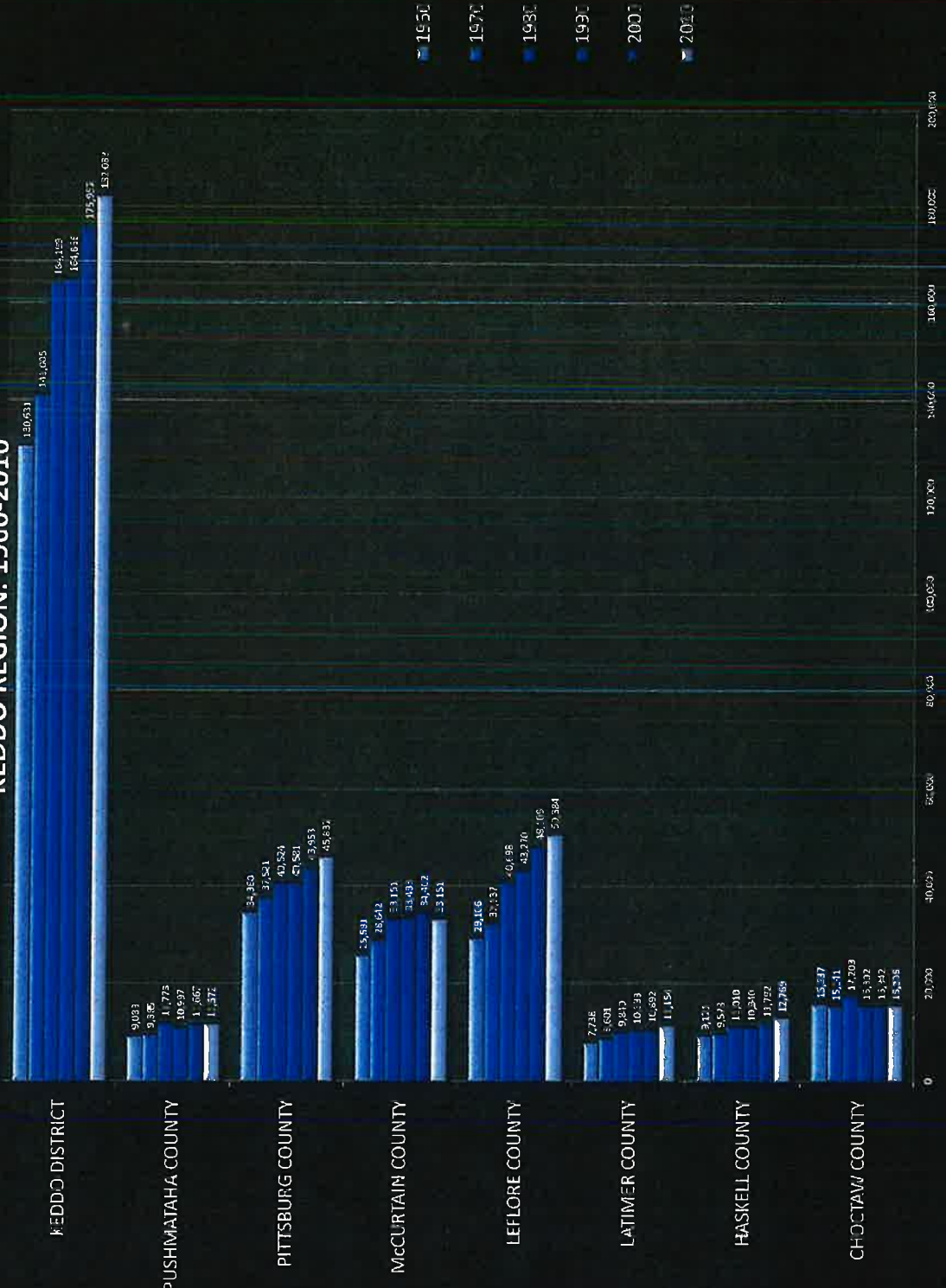
The inability to recognize that Oklahoma is competing in a global economy.

15. Other

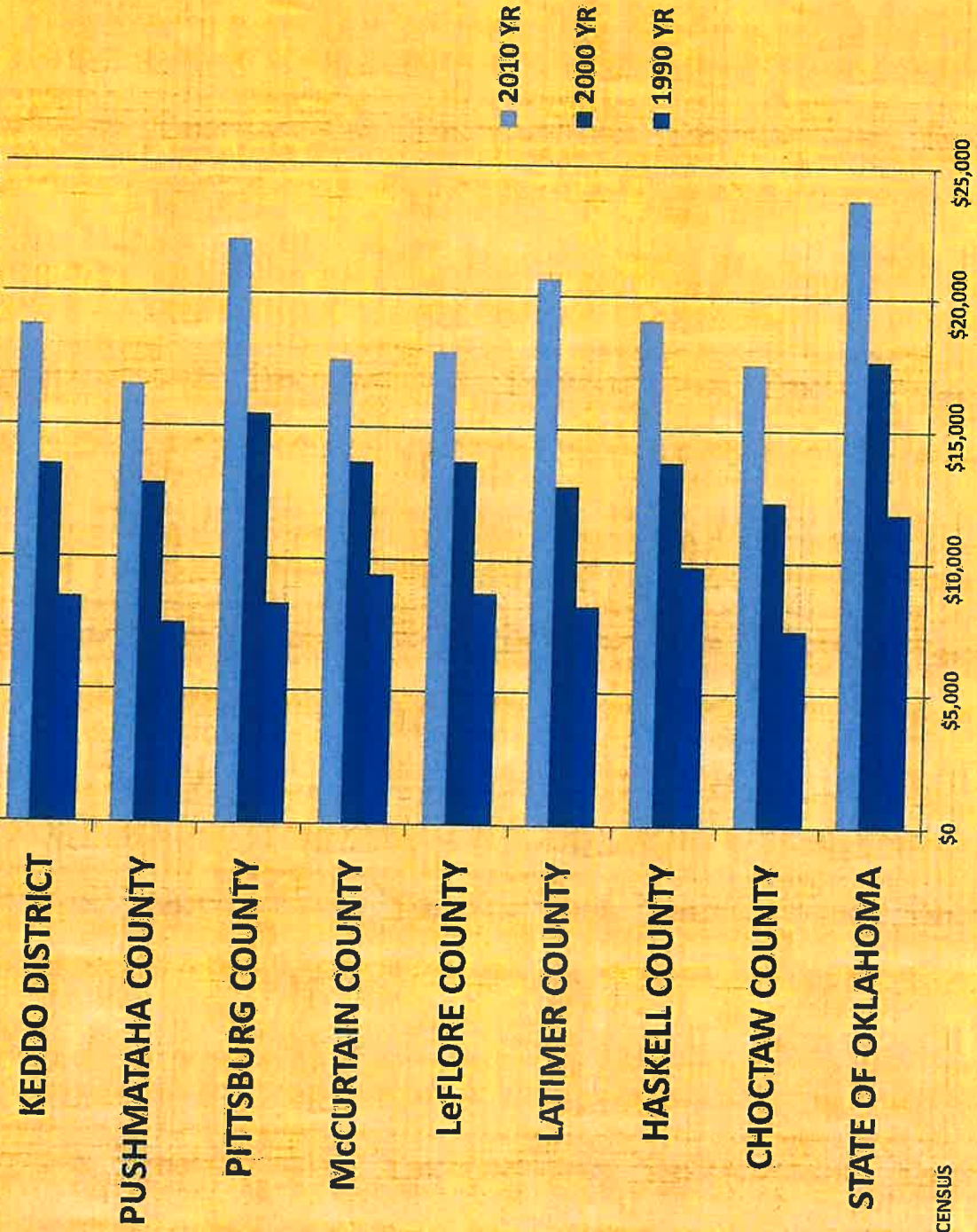
Rural Health Care has really become a real issue within our district, as well as many other areas within rural Oklahoma. Six of our seven counties are struggling to maintain their rural hospital. The hospital in Latimer and Haskell counties have closed with the other four being on life support. The only hospital within the district that illustrates any real hope of survival is located in McAlester which is a Regional facility. This alone will make it even harder to recruit industry without quality healthcare.

COUNTY POPULATION COMPARISONS KEDDO REGION: 1960-2010

SOURCE: 2010 CENSUS



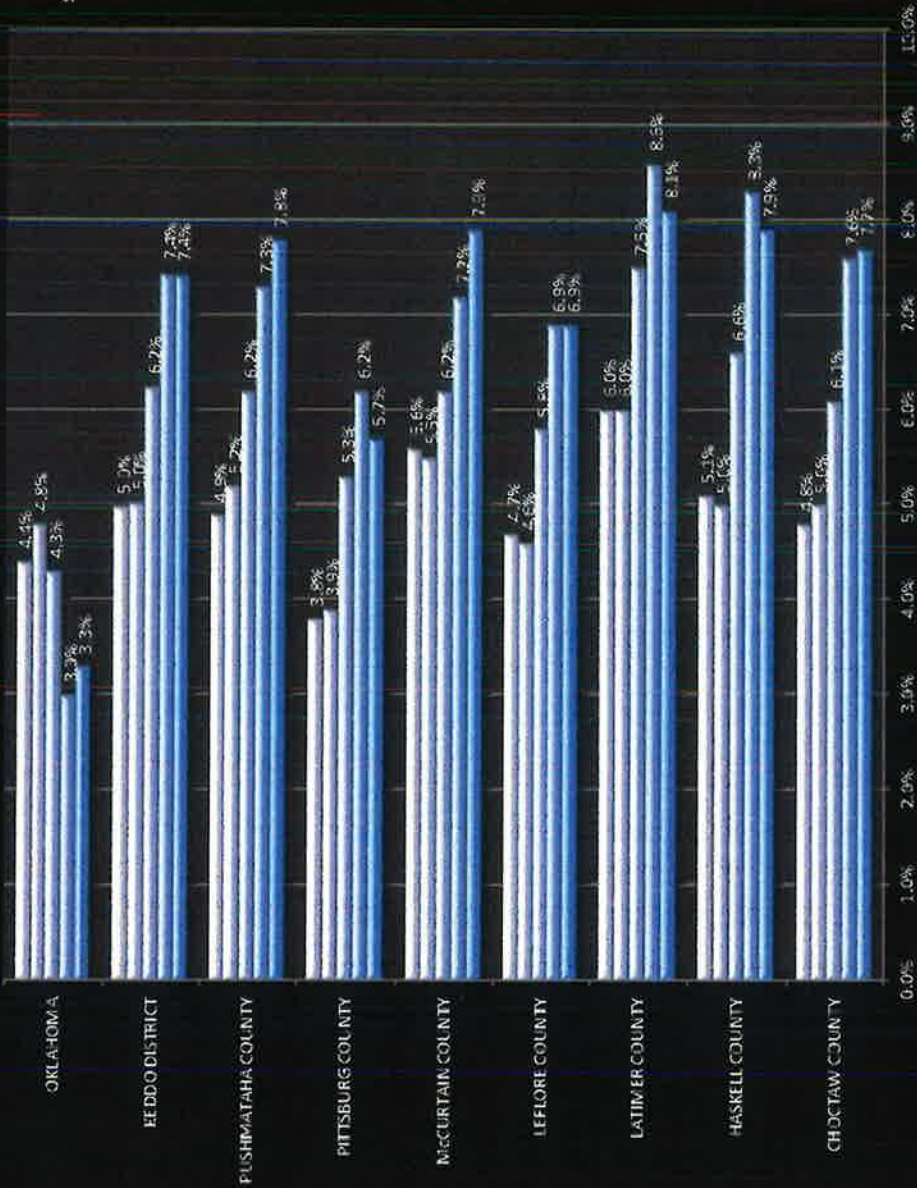
PER CAPITA INCOME KEDDO REGION



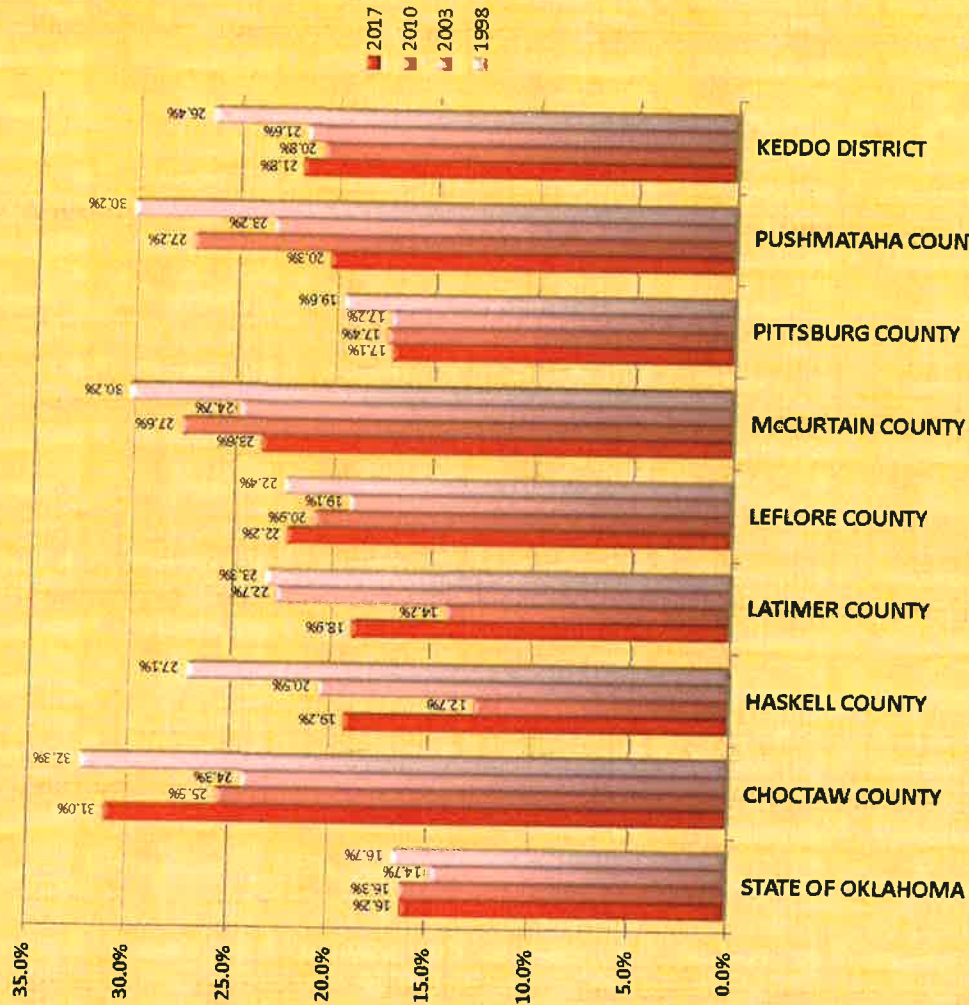
SOURCE: US CENSUS
2010

UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGE RATE FOR FIVE YEARS WITHIN THE KEDDO REGION

SOURCE: OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

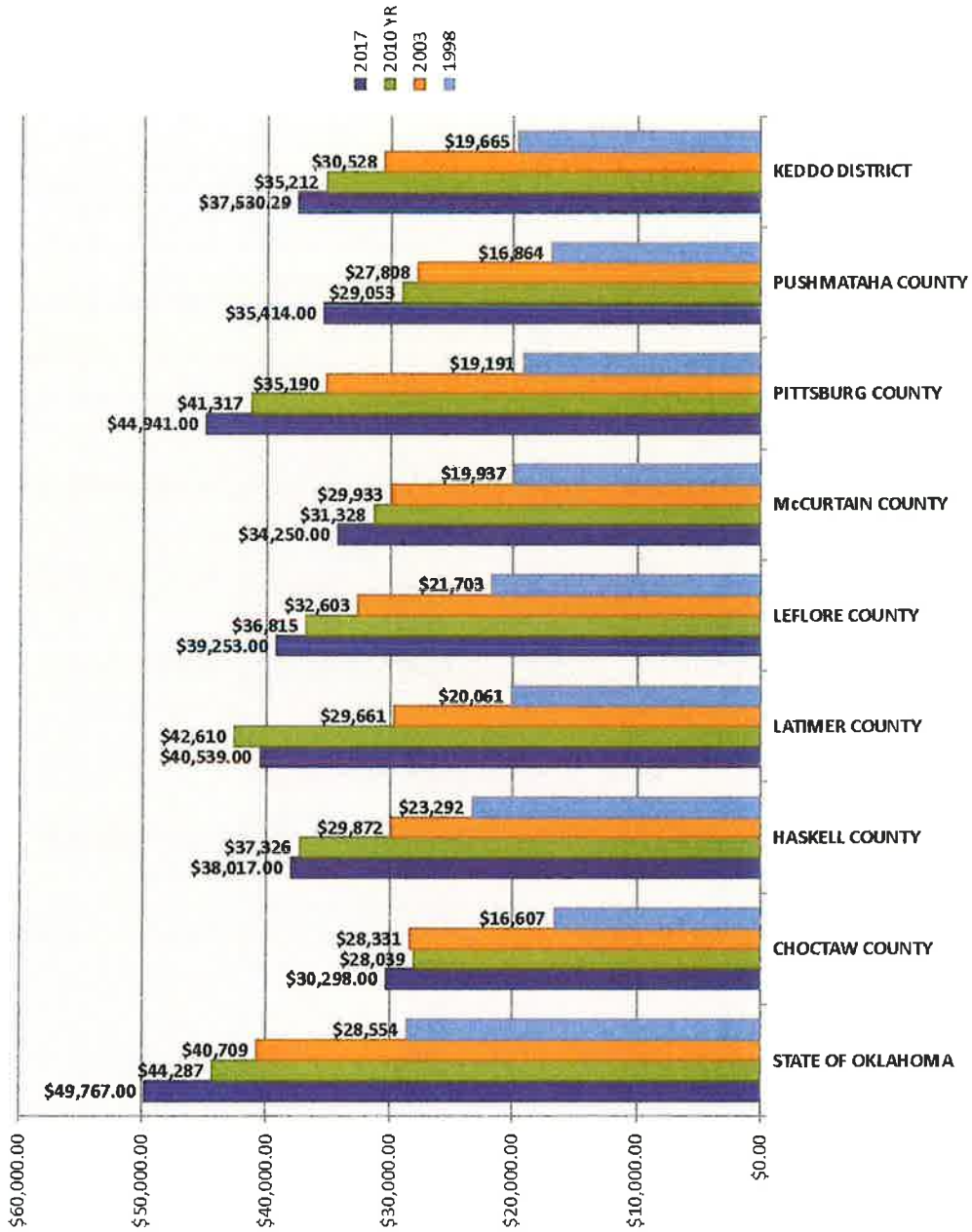


PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE BELOW POVERTY

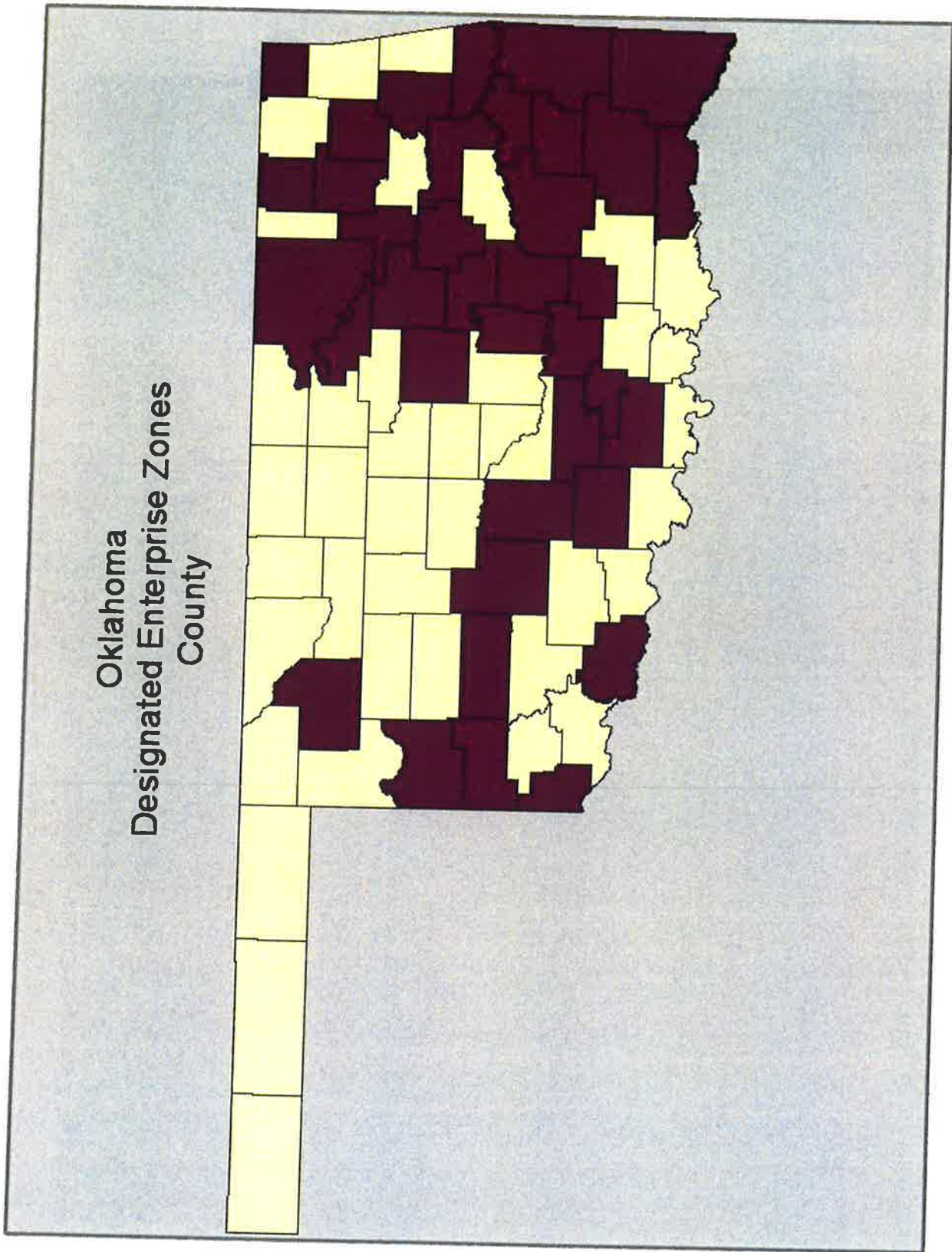


SOURCE: US CENSUS 2017

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

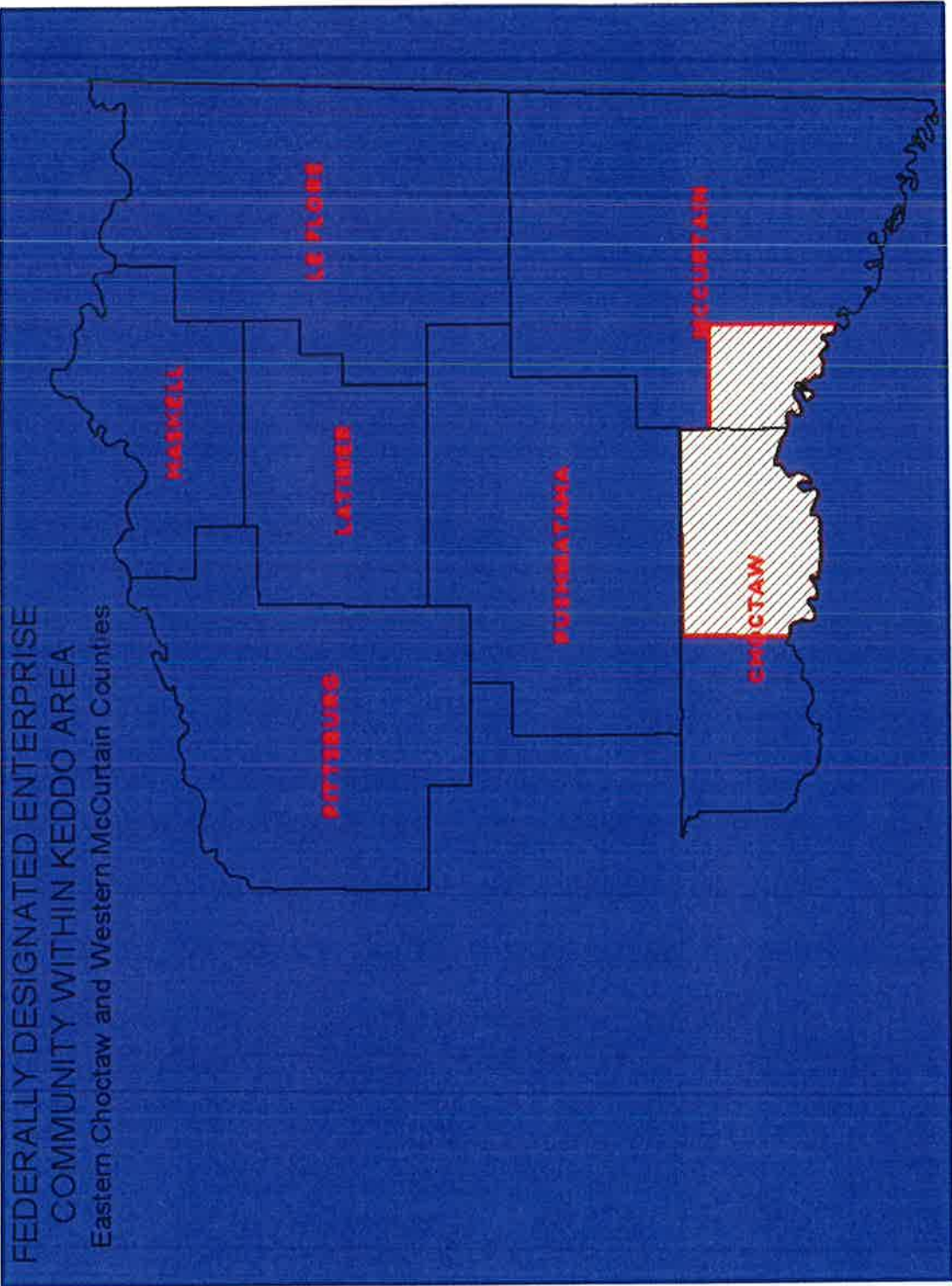


SOURCE: US CENSUS 2017



Oklahoma
Designated Enterprise Zones
County

FEDERALLY DESIGNATED ENTERPRISE
COMMUNITY WITHIN KEDDO AREA
Eastern Choctaw and Western McCurtain Counties



Major Employers in District

| Employer | Employment |
|--|-------------------|
| Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma | 5,000 - 5,250 |
| US Department of the Army, Army Ammunition Plant | 1,750 -2,000 |
| Country Style Health Care Inc. | 1,250 -1,500 |
| Tyson Foods Inc. | 1,000 -1,250 |
| O K Industries Inc. | 1,000 -1,250 |
| McAlester Regional Hospital | 750 -1,000 |
| Franklin Electric | 250 -300 |
| McAlester Public Schools | 500 -600 |

The above information was provided by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. In addition, to the table listed above many other employers such as the State of Oklahoma, Lowes, food chain restaurant list employees in multiple locations across the state which many are within the district.

Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2020 - 2024

KEDDO CEDS (Strategy)



CHAPTER III - STRATEGY

KEDDO SCOPE OF WORK

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024

During the next five years, the Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma (KEDDO) will face conditions that are very similar to those that have existed in the past few years. These conditions in southeastern Oklahoma are higher unemployment than the state and national average coupled with lower income averages than experienced in other regions of the state and nation. Industries that have long been the dominating industries for our district, such as gas and timber, have suffered a decline due to lower gas prices and the housing market debility. The reality that these and other problems still exist indicates the need for the continuation of KEDDO's economic development services adopted specifically to the economic development needs of the area.

The scope of work set for the next five years by the CEDS Committee will continue with the nine (9) major concepts, or E.D. activities, to be performed under the EDA 301(b) planning and administration grant. The following activities are being worked:

1. **Planning Long Range Solutions** - In conjunction with the educational items listed later, the CEDS Committee has determined that KEDDO will assist and strive to train elected leaders and private leaders of each member entity in the need for long range planning and strategy development for their area. This will include developing surveys to evaluate their assets and barriers of economic development and produce strategies to enhance the assets and eliminate the barriers. These strategies can then be used as an ongoing process for the development of the area. A minimum of three of these strategies will be developed this year. The CEDS Committee emphasizes the long range planning of proper solid waste management and environmental activities.
2. **Networking** - The KEDDO organization will work with other organizations and maintain memberships to improve economic opportunities of the district.
3. **Information** - KEDDO staff will maintain an information system as an affiliate of the 2020 census. Information on local and state employment statistics as well as job loss and job creation will be maintained. This information will be disseminated as needed to member entities and other economic development organizations and businesses as needed to aid the area.
4. **Obtain Grants and Loans** - The KEDDO staff will work with any person, private or public, in obtaining financing to further any cause for economic development in the district. This will include the assistance of small businesses with their needs through the University Business Assistance Center, Small Business Administration. Also local governments will be

assisted with any needs that they may encounter through assistance with the EDA and CDBG programs. KEDDO will help with not less than three (3) CDBG-ED applications and not less than three (3) EDA applications during this grant time period.

5. Technical Assistance - Due to the increase in economic development activities in the area, many local officials are easily confused by the complexity and bureaucracy of the programs offered. In the scope of the KEDDO CEDS, staff, with the use of this grant, will strive to improve coordination among economic development programs so that local officials can maximize business expansion opportunities for their area. KEDDO will work closely with all member entities to keep them informed of economic development activities and programs and aid each member entity in its developmental needs and applications for economic development.
6. Education - KEDDO will strive to keep its staff current on as many new and innovative ideas in economic development as possible. This will be done through attendance at seminars and schools for this purpose by the staff. KEDDO will also work toward educating the area in what the CEDS Committee and staff have determined as needed and required for the continuation of development of the area. This will be done by conducting and participating in training sessions and strategy development seminars across the district. Not less than three of the training sessions will be conducted for member entities during this year's scope of work.
7. Diversification of E.D. Opportunities - Under the diversification heading, the CEDS Committee, realizing the agriculture and tourism potential, has added these to this category of work. KEDDO will assist in expansion of agricultural opportunities through dissemination of agriculture information. KEDDO will assist the tourism industry of the area by aiding in the improvement of facilities, resources, and marketing of southeastern Oklahoma. KEDDO will also assist in the diversification of manufacturing by helping in the creation, location and expansion of manufacturing firms in the region.
8. Energy Conservation - In the economic development planning process, energy conservation measures and programs will be initiated and followed in order to learn how to best complete projects and conserve energy.
9. Reports - The KEDDO staff, with the CEDS Committee, will develop all reports required by EDA and submit such reports in a timely manner. The State Economic Development Representative will be notified of major happenings in the District to include industry opening and closing, and expansions or reductions which involve a gain or loss of fifteen or more jobs. Reports to the EDR will be submitted monthly so that information may be transmitted to the Regional and Washington offices. The KEDDO staff, as directed by its Board and Committees, will also continue to work with state

legislators and Congressional members to further the economic development activities of the state and our region.

Some short term/immediate goals that have been developed by the CEDS Committee are:

1. To continue technical assistance provision to communities in the district with current EDA Public Work Grants and applications in progress.
2. To expand efforts to aid in the growth of local industries and businesses that will create additional employment opportunities.
3. To aid in the determination of immediate training requirements for area residents that will lead to long term employment.
4. To provide any technical assistance to county and municipal governments to secure funding for infrastructure needs.

Long term/ultimate goals that have been established are:

1. The continued overriding goal and pervasive thought process that is embodied in all activities sponsored by KEDDO is the evaluation of the area's lifestyle for present and future generations.
2. The expansion of and growth of a depressed tax base, enabling the area to afford programs and provide services.
3. The exploration of the potential to create new opportunities in employment in mid to high tech areas and in the information age.
4. The continued development of opportunities that provide for further processing and marketing of Oklahoma products.

The criteria under which the unemployment and underemployment are to benefit from these goals and the kinds of economic activities that are to be the focus of development and investments are stated in the goals set up by the committee above. The geographic locations at which these activities take place will be determined by the individual needs of each area in the KEDDO district. Each activity will be sponsored by the most efficient and appropriate method for that activity. This will involve the local elected officials of the area concerned, KEDDO and any other entity involved.

Any of these programs that require federal assistance will meet the federal guidelines for that program.

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

KEDDO uses every available resource to find potential projects. As potential projects develop, the KEDDO staff, Board members, and other agencies involved begin to evaluate the project. Potential projects are discussed quarterly by the Executive Committee (acting as the CEDS Committee). Projects are then prioritized by funding types, application deadline dates and merit of the project. The OMEGA Team is kept informed and input from that office is utilized on possible EDA funded projects. KEDDO staff then pursues the best and most rapid application process for funding to get the project underway.

Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2020 - 2024

KEDDO CEDS (Coordinating Program Activities)

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**CHAPTER IV
COORDINATING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Listed are organizations with which the KEDDO staff has developed working relationships for benefit of the KEDDO district:

1. Rural Enterprises Incorporated
 - Financing for Industry
 - Prospects Financial Packaging
 - Industrial Recruitment
2. Workforce Investment Act and Kiamichi Technology Center
 - Training for Industry and Prospective Industry
3. Oklahoma Department of Commerce
 - Financing, Planning, Packaging and Recruitment
4. Oklahoma Department of Mines
 - Seminars for Export and Marketing
5. Choctaw Country

Tourism Planning Seminars and Strategies

6. Oklahoma Department of Tourism

Grantsmanship and Planning

7. Oklahoma Department of Health

Training and Planning

8. County Commissioners Organizations

Redistricting and Planning

9. Local Economic Development Association and Industrial Authority

Planning and Grantsmanship

10. Local Municipal and County Governments

Planning and Grantsmanship

11. U.S. Department of Census

Record Keeping and Dissemination

12. Oklahoma Conference of Mayors

Planning and Training

13. Oklahoma University Center for Business & Economic Development

Intern Programs

14. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Grantsmanship, Planning and Community & Economic Development

Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

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KEDDO CEDS (Environmental Section)

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CHAPTER V
KEDDO CEDS
Environmental Section

In this environmental section of the KEDDO CEDS, the information presented is by member counties with specific problems of any city or town in the county discussed along with the county information.

A. Land Use

1. Haskell County - There are four (4) main environmentally sensitive issues in the area around Stigler and Haskell County. First, there are numerous large areas of strip mines remaining that impede farming and disfigure the land. Some are being reclaimed and studies have been done for alternate uses. Second is the wetland issues. The third issue is dealing with solid waste without a landfill. Stigler is collecting trash in a transfer station and hauling it sixty miles one way which is very expensive to the city. Much of the county is rolling hills used for grazing livestock with the northern edge containing prime farm land along the Canadian River.

2. Latimer County - Latimer County is predominantly a mountainous area with the San Bois Mountains across the northern edge and the Winding Stair Mountains on the south. This county also contains numerous open strip pits from earlier coal mining; and Latimer County also has numerous underground mine shafts present. Some of these early mining activities have produced water runoff of high mineral content that poses some environmental problems. As a result of the recent gas boom in the county, a number of disposal or injection wells have been established that may cause problems in the future. Some of the old abandoned mine shafts around the

City of Wilburton have started collapsing and have created severe structural problems in some cases. Along the north central border adjoining Haskell County, lies the habitat of an endangered insect that has caused some problems with development in that area.

3. LeFlore County- Is very diverse in its topography. With rugged hills, narrow valleys and productive farmland, there is a gentle blending of modern days and old ways. Many of the towns were established as a result of railroad expansion. Tourism is an important aspect of the LeFlore County economy. The Heavener Runestone and Spiro Mounds are well known historic sites, as are stops on the old Butterfield Trail. Hailed as the first transcontinental link between East and West, several stops are still found in the northern part of the county. The Ouachita National Forest, including the Talimena Scenic Drive, dominates the southern half of the county.
4. Pittsburg County - The northern portion of this county is comprised of the Canadian River and Lake Eufaula areas which include prime farm land and some designated wetland areas. The southern area is covered with the Pine and Jack Fork Mountains and is mainly used for cattle grazing. Pittsburg County has the same problems as listed above for Haskell and Latimer Counties, regarding mining and gas field operations.
5. McCurtain County - Another large land mass with diversified soil types and terrain, McCurtain County is LeFlore County turned upside down. There is an area of prime farm land in the south along the Red River with rolling hills on the west and central sections and the Ouachita Mountains in the northern half. The largest concerns are with the timber industry and the concentrated poultry feeding operations. There is a large area of the Little River basin designated as a wet land and natural wildlife refuge.

6. Choctaw County - Choctaw County is a relatively flat agricultural county. Much of the south along the Red River is farm land and the north contains large cattle grazing areas. Only the northeastern corner is timber covered. This county contains some mining of aggregate rock and limestone, and some areas of wet land designations.

7. Pushmataha County - This is a large sparsely populated area of timber and grazing land containing mountains and wide valley areas. One main concern is that the upper Kiamichi River, upper Little River and the upper Glover River in McCurtain County contain an endangered species of mussel (shell fish) and Darter (small minnow type fish) that may inhibit development in those areas.

B. Public Utilities

Southeastern Oklahoma has an abundance of surface water with numerous large lakes, many of which are utilized for municipal and rural water systems. However, there are still areas where treated water is not available to the residents, and some systems have consent or administrative orders that restrict expansion of those systems.

The largest problem identified under this section deals with solid waste disposal. Every municipally owned landfill except Broken Bow and Idabel, has been closed due to regulation requirements and lack of funding. Additional public closures have left the cost of disposal, and the people, at the mercy of large, private landfill companies.

Highway systems are adequate, but all could be improved. Highway 70 across the south edge of the KEDDO district is under construction to become a four lane highway. A study

is underway to extend the Tulsa/Muskogee turnpike to Poteau.

Other significant problems identified include, but are not limited to, historical and archeological review dealing with the fact that Southeastern Oklahoma has been inhabited since prehistoric times. This is illustrated by the Spiro Mounds Archeological Site, the Broken Bow Prehistoric Creature Site, the Heavener Runestone and other numerous finds. This results in an extended process in location of sites such as landfills, sewer lagoons, etc. There being many floodplains, wetlands, and critical habitats (listed earlier by county) and a few endangered species, some areas of the KEDDO district is restricted in the types of development that may occur.

Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

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KEDDO CEDS (Needs Assessment)

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CHAPTER VI
KEDDO NEEDS ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT

The KEDDO Needs Assessment was developed by staff using input from several sources in the District. A survey has been conducted over the past five (5) years through holding numerous public meetings throughout the district followed by individual meetings with many community officials which allowed more input. Additionally, KEDDO utilized data sent to us by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality on water/wastewater systems within the district that received a notice of violation, consent orders or any other form of non-compliance correspondence. From these items definite needs can be identified. Also used in this process are the local industrial authorities, conservation districts, and CEDS Advisory Committee along with municipal and county government officials.

**NEEDS ASSESMENT
for
KIAMICHI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA
(KEDDO)**

CHOCTAW COUNTY

| | |
|---|-------------|
| City of Hugo Wastewater Collection System | \$3,000,000 |
| RWD #1 Water lines | \$1,000,000 |
| Boswell Wastewater Collection | \$500,000 |
| City of Hugo Water Treatment Plant | \$500,000 |
| Town of Soper Sewer Line Rehabilitation | \$1,500,000 |
| City of Hugo Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$1,500,000 |
| Town of Ft. Towson Water Treatment | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of Ft. Towson Water Tower | \$1,000,000 |
| Choctaw County Hospital Improvements | \$2,000,000 |
| City of Hugo Airport Improvements | \$500,000 |

HASKELL COUNTY

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Keota Port Improvements | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of Keota Water Distribution System | \$1,500,000 |
| City of Stigler Water Treatment Plant | \$3,500,000 |
| City of Stigler Wastewater Facility | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of McCurtain Water Tower Rehab | \$100,000 |
| Haskell County Water Authority | \$2,000,000 |
| City of Stigler Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$500,000 |
| City of Stigler Hospital Improvements | \$5,000,000 |

LATIMER COUNTY

| | |
|---|-------------|
| City of Wilburton Airport Hanger | \$500,000 |
| City of Wilburton Wastewater Collection | \$3,000,000 |
| Latimer County Rail Road spur into Industrial Park | \$250,000 |
| Latimer County Solid Waste & Recycling | \$500,000 |
| Town of Red Oak Water | \$500,000 |
| Town of Red Oak Wastewater | \$500,000 |
| Latimer County Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Wilburton Airport Improvements | \$250,000 |

LE FLORE COUNTY

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Town of Panama Waterlines | \$2,500,000 |
| City of Poteau Wastewater Treatment | \$2,000,000 |
| Town of Spiro Water Treatment Plant | \$3,500,000 |
| Town of Spiro Wastewater | \$2,000,000 |
| Town of Talihina Water Treatment Plant | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of Talihina Wastewater Collection | \$2,000,000 |
| RWD #14 Waterline Improvement | \$2,000,000 |
| RWD #1 Waterline Improvement | \$1,000,000 |
| RWD #3 Waterline Improvement | \$500,000 |
| Spiro East Water Association Waterline Improvement | \$500,000 |
| Poteau Valley Improvement Authority | \$750,000 |
| Town of Fanshawe Water Tower | \$200,000 |
| Town of Wister Water | \$500,000 |
| Town of Wister Wastewater Plant | \$500,000 |
| City of Poteau Industrial Park Rail Service | \$2,500,000 |
| City of Poteau Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$3,000,000 |
| City of Poteau Airport Improvements | \$500,000 |

McCURTAIN COUNTY

| | |
|--|-------------|
| City of Idabel Wastewater Treatment | \$3,000,000 |
| City of Broken Bow Landfill Improvements (equipment & Expansion) | \$2,500,000 |
| City of Idabel Water Treatment | \$3,500,000 |
| City of Broken Bow Wastewater | \$3,000,000 |
| Town of Valliant Wastewater Collection System | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of Millerton Wastewater | \$500,000 |
| RWD #9 Water Lines | \$500,000 |
| Town of Wright City Wastewater Treatment Facility | \$3,000,000 |
| RWD #7 Waterlines | \$2,000,000 |
| RWD #1 Waterlines | \$2,000,000 |
| Town of Haworth Wastewater | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Broken Bow Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Broken Bow Water Tower Storage | \$4,000,000 |
| City of Broken Bow Water Plant Improvements | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Idabel Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$3,000,000 |
| City of Idabel Airport Improvements | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Idabel Landfill improvements | \$5,000,000 |
| McCurtain County Event Center | \$5,000,000 |
| McCurtain Rural Dist. #6 | \$2,000,000 |
| McCurtain Rural Dist. #5 | \$1,000,000 |
| McCurtain Rural Dist. #2 | \$1,000,000 |
| McCurtain Rural Dist #8 | \$2,000,000 |
| City of Broken Bow Airport | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of Garvin Waterlines | \$500,000 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Town of Garvin Wastewater Lagoon | \$500,000 |
| Town of Smithville Wastewater Collection & Plant | \$3,000,000 |
| McCurtain Memorial Hospital Improvements | \$2,000,000 |

PITTSBURG COUNTY

| | |
|---|-------------|
| City of McAlester Water Treatment Plant | \$1,000,000 |
| City of McAlester Waterlines | \$2,000,000 |
| City of McAlester Wastewater | \$5,000,000 |
| City of Krebs Water Treatment | \$2,500,000 |
| City of Haileyville Wastewater | \$1,000,000 |
| RWD #7 Waterlines | \$320,000 |
| Pittsburg County Public Works Authority Water Treatment | \$2,000,000 |
| Town of Crowder Wastewater | \$500,000 |
| Longtown RWD #1 Water Treatment | \$500,000 |
| Town of Canadian Water | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of Canadian Wastewater | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Hartshorne Wastewater | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Hartshorne Water | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Hartshorne Streets | \$2,500,000 |
| Town of Kiowa Water Treatment | \$2,500,000 |
| Town of Kiowa Wastewater | \$500,000 |
| Town of Quinton Water | \$1,500,000 |
| Town of Quinton Wastewater | \$1,000,000 |
| Kiowa Streets | \$1,390,000 |
| City of McAlester Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Hartshorne Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$500,000 |
| Choctaw Manufacturing Development Corporation Industrial Park | \$1,000,000 |
| City of McAlester Recycling Center | \$2,000,000 |

PUSHMATAHA COUNTY

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Town of Clayton Water | \$1,000,000 |
| Sardis Water Authority | \$3,000,000 |
| RWD #1 Waterlines | \$1,000,000 |
| RWD #3 Intake Structure & Lines | \$1,500,000 |
| RWD #5 Water Lines | \$500,000 |
| City of Antlers Waterlines | \$1,000,000 |
| City of Antlers Wastewater | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of Albion Wastewater | \$2,000,000 |
| Town of Rattan Wastewater | \$2,000,000 |
| City of Antlers Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$1,000,000 |
| Town of Clayton Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement | \$300,000 |
| City of Antlers Airport Improvements | \$500,000 |
| Pushmataha Hospital Improvements | \$1,000,000 |