



Small Business Incubator Certification Program

2025 Annual Report



OKLAHOMA
Commerce
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Oklahoma Business Incubator Certification Program

The Oklahoma Legislature created the Small Business Incubators Incentives Act in 1988 to promote economic growth by supporting startups in the state.

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce certifies the incubators to ensure quality and compliance with the state incentives.

What is a Business Incubator?

A business incubator is a program that helps new companies survive and grow during their vulnerable startup phase. They provide vital support services, resources and expert guidance tailored to young firms.

The Goal of a Business Incubator:

To help companies become financially viable and independent (“graduates”) in typically two to three years. These successful firms create jobs, revitalize communities and strengthen the Oklahoma economy.

The State of Oklahoma offers a major incentive to certified incubator clients:

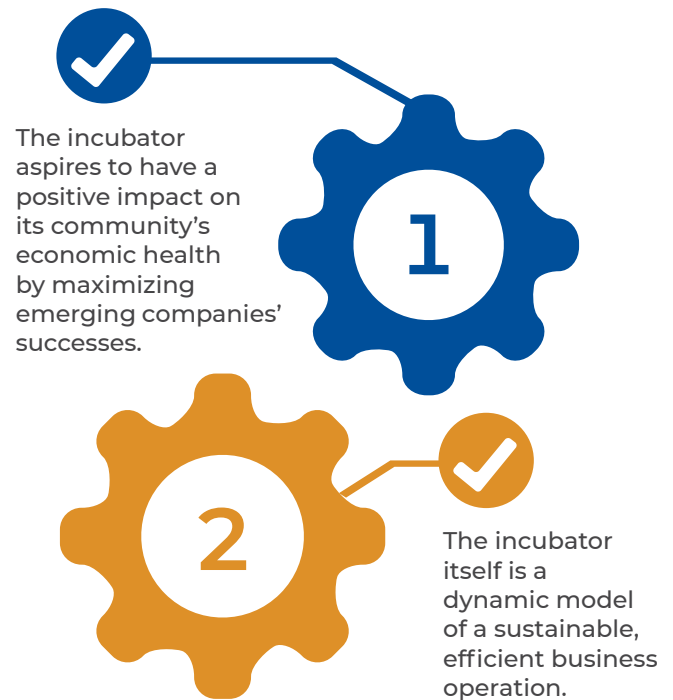
Tax Exemption: Tenants of a certified incubator are exempt from state tax liability on income earned as a result of occupancy.

Long-Term Benefit: This exemption can last for up to 10 years and continues even after a business graduates from the program.

The Oklahoma Business Incubator Association

The Oklahoma Business Incubator Association (OKBIA) provides networking and educational opportunities for the incubator program.

Two Core Principles that Characterize Effective Business Incubation:



The Best Incubators Provide:

- Flexible space and leases
- Office services and equipment
- An on-site incubator manager as a resource for business advice
- Exposure to a network of outside business and technical consultants, often providing accounting, marketing, engineering and legal advice
- Assistance with financing
- Assistance with marketing

Oklahoma Incubator Program Growth

At the end of 2025, there were **27 certified small business incubators** operating in Oklahoma, with tenants ranging from small service companies to high-tech research and development operations and manufacturing entities and retail.

During 2025, Oklahoma incubator managers were asked to complete a questionnaire to document their activities for the current reporting period. The following data represents information received from the responding incubator managers:

514

full-time jobs, 177 part-time jobs and 80 interns are provided by incubator tenants

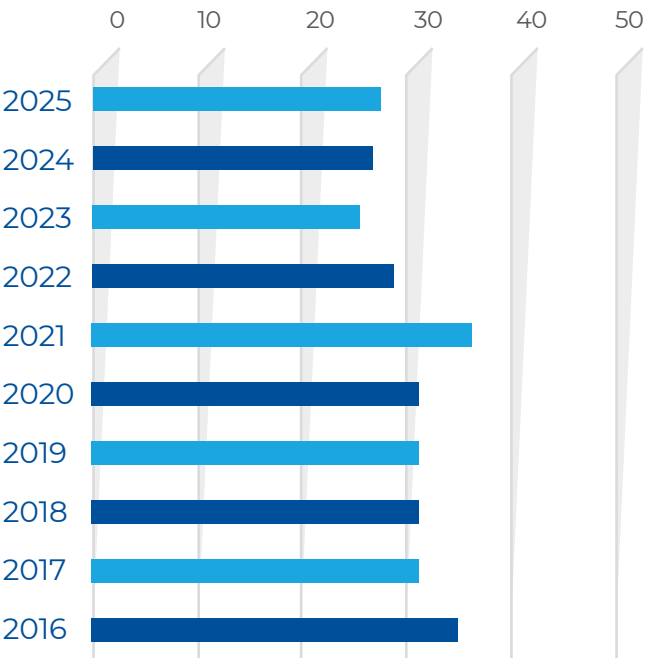
27

certified incubators are operating in Oklahoma

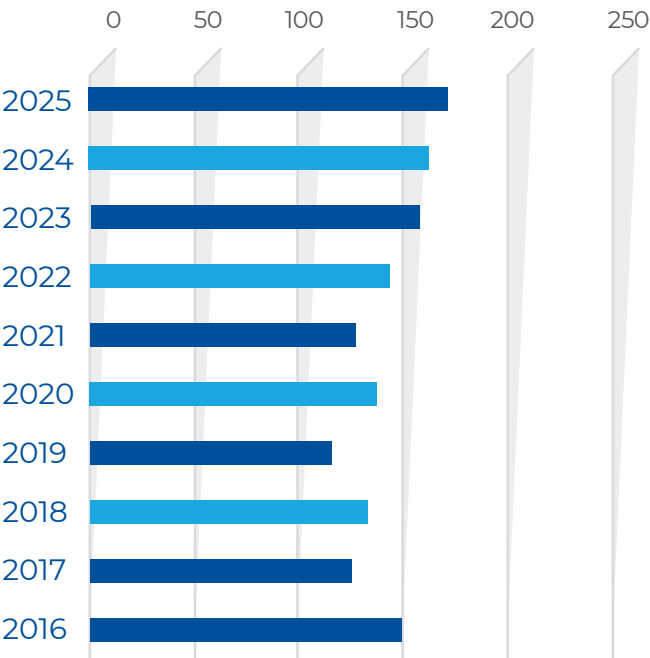
163

small businesses are currently leasing space in Oklahoma’s certified incubators

Number of incubators



Number of small businesses located in incubators



Oklahoma Incubator Program Growth

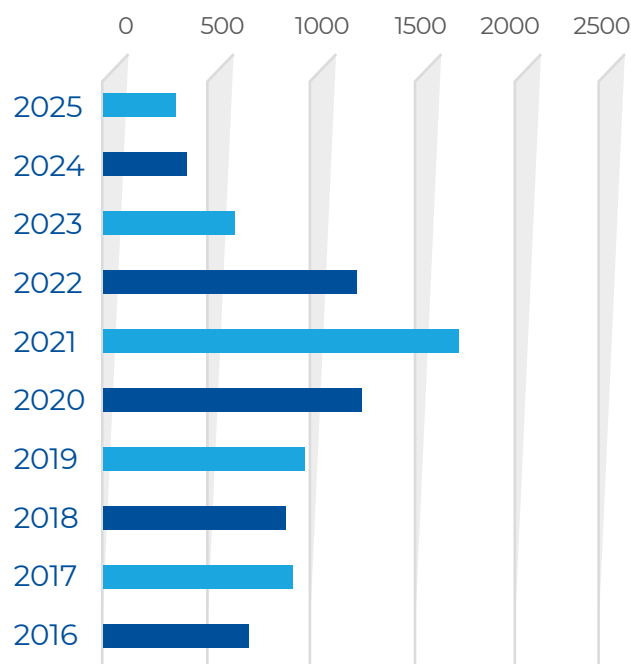
1,000+
small businesses have
located in certified
incubators since the
program's inception

800+
small businesses
have graduated from
the program

313
are currently
employed by former
tenants of the 27
current incubators

\$41,740,837
in total payroll for 2025 tenants, with additional
payments of \$12,453,320 to subcontractors

Number of jobs created by
incubator clients



Current tenants reported sales of \$109,878,477 and other revenue assistance (in the form of grants, loans or other assistance) at \$70,615,084.

The costs of goods and services to the small business tenants was reported at \$87,173,794.

Current tenants reported eligibility for the incubator tax incentive for the tax year 2023 was \$3,018,998 (reported in arrears).

Past tenants reported sales of \$33,040,668, and eligibility for the incubator tax incentive for the tax year 2023 of \$2,425,465 (reported in arrears).

Oklahoma Certified Incubators Map



Cushing

Central Oklahoma Business & Job Development Corporation

Drumright

Central Oklahoma Business & Job Development Corporation
Anderson Drive

Central Oklahoma Business & Job Development Corporation
Settle Drive

Duncan

Duncan Center for Business Development

Edmond

AXIS Powered by Francis Tuttle

★ Vault 405

Enid

★ Strate Business Center at Autry Technology Center

Guthrie

★ Meridian Technology Center Business Incubator - South

★ The Shoppes at Guthrie

Guymon

Artist Incubation, Inc.

Lawton

★ Great Plains Technology Center

Midwest City

★ Rose State College Aerospace and Cybersecurity Incubator

Norman

★ Startup 405

Oklahoma City

Acorn Growth Companies

LX Studio Business Incubator

Project 3810

Sailor & The Dock

★ The Verge

★ The Foundry Business Incubator

Pawhuska

Pawhuska Business Development Center - Tri County Tech Center

Ponca City

Pioneer Technology Center

Sand Springs

The LINK

Stillwater

★ Meridian Technology Center Business Incubator - North

★ Riata Startup Experience - Oklahoma State University

Tonkawa

Tonkawa Business Incubator

Tulsa

★ Gradient Innovation Hub

★ The Forge

★ New Incubator (2025)

★ Click to view success stories



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