



**Oklahoma Remote Worker  
Quality Jobs Program**  
2023 Triennial Report



**OKLAHOMA  
Commerce**

# **Oklahoma Remote Worker Quality Jobs Program**

**Triennial Report**  
(as required by Statute)

**March 2023**

**Submitted by:**  
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**Remote Worker Quality Jobs Program  
Triennial Report to the Legislative Body  
Prepared March, 2023**

**Introduction**

The Oklahoma Remote Worker Quality Jobs Program was created in 2021 to attract growth industries and sectors that employ remote workers to Oklahoma through a policy of rewarding businesses with a highly skilled, knowledge-based workforce. The interest in creating such a program was initiated by Kaiser Foundation. The qualifying criteria were modeled after the successful Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program, which was created by legislative action in 1993.

"Remote worker" refers to a work flexibility arrangement under which an employee performs the duties and responsibilities of such employee's position, and other authorized activities, from an approved work site other than the location from which the employee would otherwise work. The remote worker cannot have lived in the State of Oklahoma in the previous twelve months before program participation.

A proxy establishment that facilitates the attraction of remote workers to the State of Oklahoma which meets the qualifications specified in the Oklahoma Remote Quality Jobs Incentive Act may receive quarterly incentive payments for a ten-quarter (two and a half year) period.

The Remote Worker Quality Jobs Program statutes require that the Oklahoma Department of Commerce provide a report on the status of the program on a triennial basis to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Governor. The report is due by March 1, 2023. This report fulfills that legislative requirement.

## **Remote Worker Quality Jobs Program Defined**

The legislative cite for this program may be found at O.S. 68 § 4501 et. seq. The intent of the program is to attract growth industries and sectors that employ remote workers to Oklahoma through a policy of rewarding businesses which attract remote workers that have a highly skilled, knowledge-based work background.

To participate, a proxy establishment must apply to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the Department and shall contain remote workers, the companies that they presently work for, and other such information as may be required by the Department to determine if the applicant is qualified.

"Proxy establishment" means either a public trust which is organized and existing under Section 176 of Title 60 of the Oklahoma Statutes for the benefit of a geographic area which includes a city or county or some combination thereof, and benefits a geographic area where new direct jobs which meet the requirements of the Oklahoma Remote Quality Jobs Incentive Act are created by an establishment, other than the proxy establishment, or an establishment which facilitates the attraction of remote workers to the State of Oklahoma.

By statute, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce is responsible for the initial application, due diligence, approval and contracting with qualified companies. The Oklahoma Tax Commission then facilitates the claims and payment process for the ensuing ten quarters. Both agencies have dedicated staff for this program and work very closely in each aspect of administration and compliance.

## **Applicant Vetting Process**

All applicants are thoroughly vetted by Commerce in a number of areas prior to having their application considered before the approval committee. Areas considered are:

- Proxy Establishment – verify the proxy meets all requirements of statute
- Legal Entity Status at Secretary of State’s Office – verify good standing
- Registration of legal entity at the Tax Commission and Employment Security Commission
- Confirmation that the proxy establishment has all taxes paid to the state and no encumbrances exist
- Health Insurance program for employees in place and all required areas are covered by the insurance

Actual vetting process includes:

- Companies are required to send a representative to appear before the final approval committee to represent themselves. Use of Zoom is permissible.
- All applicants appear before two approval committees-one internal, consists of a CPA, Director of National Recruiting, Staff Economist, Agency Incentives Director, General Counsel, Director of the Oklahoma Development Finance Agency.
- The second approval committee, as required by statute (Executive Director of Commerce, a Tax Commissioner and the Director of Office of Management Enterprise Services) makes the final approval/denial decision.

The Oklahoma Tax Commission continues to verify, before each and every claim is processed, that the participant company has fully paid all of their tax types and is currently eligible to receive program funds.

## Summary

The Remote Worker Quality Jobs Program is still in its infancy. Currently, there is only one company that has expressed interest in the program and they are in the process of applying and obtaining their first contract. Tulsa Remote qualifies as a proxy establishment per legislation and has attracted hundreds of remote workers to Oklahoma.

Comments, questions or general feedback should be directed to:

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