2023 Claremore Economic Development Annual Report

THE STARTS HERE

With strategic focus, grit, and perseverance, we are creating a regional powerhouse of economic potential.

New Inside:

Business Attraction, Expansion, Retention

Talent Development

Small Business

Airport

About Us

Letter from the Chair

Jerry Schivally

As we bid farewell to another notable year, I reflect with immense pride and enthusiasm on the remarkable achievements of our community in 2023. Throughout the year, we celebrated the addition of new businesses, retained critical legacy businesses, launched innovative talent development programs, and successfully concluded a \$1.2 million infrastructure enhancement initiative at the Claremore Regional Airport.

From providing steadfast support to our local small business partners to expanding our region's booming industrial sector and housing offerings, Claremore Economic Development has evolved to encompass multiple facets. Over the past 75 years, we have cultivated an ecosystem where anyone from global industry leaders to local entrepreneurs can find success and thrive.

The strides our community has taken this year stand as a testament to our unwavering commitment to bridging the past and the future, positioning Claremore for continued growth and enduring success.

We are Claremore Economic Development.... More Starts Here!

The best is yet to come, and I am honored to play a small part in shaping the future of the place I call home.

All my best,

Juny Schwally

Jerry Schivally Chairman | Claremore Economic Development





Business Attraction, Expansion and Retention

More Industrial Innovation Starts Here

Claremore's strategic location, short commute times, access to workforce throughout the Tulsa region, and favorable tax and regulatory environment make it an ideal destination for businesses seeking growth and expansion opportunities. Claremore Economic Development aims to highlight the county's potential and available industrial properties through collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Tulsa Regional Chamber. This process involves the submission of requests for proposals (RFPs), visits to the site, and consultations with local resource providers and government officials. In the last three years, Claremore Economic Development has witnessed a surge in inquiries and requests for information from companies considering relocation or expansion within Oklahoma.



More Opportunity Starts Here

The momentum behind Claremore's retail surge results from our community's strategic positioning to create a holistic economic development program that attracts commercial, business, and residential investment. This year, our community celebrated the much-anticipated opening of Dyne Hospitality Group's Tropical Smoothie Cafe and a new urgent care facility,



partnership with Retail Strategies, Claremore Economic Development works to promote Rogers County as a premium national retail destination. These collaborative efforts have been vital in attracting many of the new shopping and dining locations our residents now enjoy.

Medwise, in early 2024. Through a

*Harbor Freight, Wendy's, ALDI, Tropical Smoothie Cafe, Dutch Bros, Bealls Outlet

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Business Attraction, Expansion and Retention

More Quality of Life Amenities Start Here

Iaremore Economic Development was honored to join the Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Veterans Affairs in August to celebrate the grand opening of Claremore's new 12,000-square-foot VA Outpatient Clinic. The new facility, located at 3001 W Blue Starr Dr, will offer a wide range of crucial health and support services to veterans and their families across 10 surrounding Oklahoma counties. The facility will offer various crucial health and support services to veterans and their families across 10 surrounding Oklahoma counties. Employing 25 clinic staff, the center will also provide valuable job opportunities for Northeast Oklahoma.



2023 IEDC Excellence in Economic Development Awards

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards have 25 award categories to honor organizations and individuals for creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.



Awards are judged by a diverse panel of economic and community developers following a nomination process held earlier this year. IEDC received nearly 600 submissions from 150 organizations across seven countries.

> **Claremore Economic Development Business Retention - Blue Arc Expansion**

> > **City of Claremore Housing Development Initiatives**

Business Attraction, Expansion and Retention

More Housing Starts Here

Claremore falls within the core of one of Oklahoma's most active economic development corridors, supporting talent for megasites within the Tulsa Ports, MidAmerica Industrial Park, and Claremore's own booming manufacturing and healthcare sectors.

To ensure we are positioned to meet future housing needs, Claremore Economic Development partnered with Catalyst Commercial to conduct a comprehensive housing analysis for the community. The study took place over six months and included a series of public engagement sessions with area residents and professionals, data analysis, and driving tours of area neighborhoods.

The nearly 40-page document, which can be viewed online at MoreStartsHere.com, lays a comprehensive groundwork for our community to position its housing development efforts strategically.

Three key takeaways include:

1 Create an infill housing program

This initiative would take advantage of existing infrastructure, reducing the cost of development and encouraging the use of underutilized or vacant properties.

2 Increase the quality of existing residential This recommendation promotes the consideration of a property tax abatement or exemption program that allows owners to offset the cost of

C Encourage Housing Balance

improvements to their property.

Over the past five years, Claremore has had roughly 144 new housing units constructed yearly. While this is significantly higher than in previous years, it still needs to keep pace with the current demand for 451 housing units annually.



Talent Development

Eight years ago, Claremore Economic Development made a strategic shift to focus on developing a robust and business-oriented workforce program. Today, the International Economic Development Council recognizes our talent development initiatives as a global leader in facilitating the elimination of employment barriers and providing companies with a strong talent pool. Our staff leads several impactful county-wide initiatives that provide opportunities to connect businesses with the next generation of workforce, such as the annual Rogers County Job Fair. We also partner to fund and retain important regional initiatives like Oklahoma Boys State and the Northeast Oklahoma Elevate Youth Summit within Rogers County.

More Careers Start Here



In 2022, Claremore Economic Development launched a creative platform to connect prospective employees with available positions in Rogers County. The careers portal on MoreStartsHere. com is a centrally located, user-friendly job board allowing Rogers County businesses and job seekers to advertise and search for open positions at no cost.

More Training Starts Here

To support those seeking a new career opportunity, Claremore Economic Development joined forces with Northeast Tech and Rogers State University (RSU) to provide cost-free training opportunities for Rogers County residents looking to further their education beyond high school.



The Rogers County Technical Training Program allows students ages 16 and up to complete a tuition-free course at Northeast Tech, equipping them for numerous in-demand local career roles. The RSU Micro-Credential Scholarship Program will enable residents to advance their careers and bolster their resumes with specific skill sets. A micro-credential is a short, competency-based training that will enable individuals to showcase their expertise in a particular field.

Talent Development

aving awarded over 75 scholarships in 2023, Claremore Economic Development is poised to provide its residents with over \$100,000 in additional career training opportunities in 2024.



More Internships Start Here

Through a rigorous application and interview process with economic development, education, and industry leaders, ten students within Northeast Tech's Pre-Engineering Program were selected to participate in a new program provided as part of the Rogers County Center of Manufacturing Excellence, where they had the unique opportunity to gain indepth exposure to the career and its specialties.





The four-week Center of Excellence Engineering Summer Internship highlighted engineering Northeast Oklahoma. opportunities across Students explored and connected with business and industry leaders employing some of the top engineering minds in our state. In addition, participants completed extensive training in industrial maintenance, welding, and professional development, learned more about the secondary education institutions offering degrees in various engineering fields, and received valuable certifications, including first aid/CPR and OSHA10.

Small Business

More Small Business Starts Here

Claremore Economic Development's small business efforts were crafted to help business owners overcome the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19. Today, they have evolved into a key resource for individuals looking to grow and operate a business in Rogers County. Whether still in the idea stage or fully-operational, Claremore Economic Development offers unique, customized solutions to help businesses on every step in their business journey.

Small Business by the Numbers



More Sales Tax Growth Starts Here



Small business growth has been most prevalent in Claremore's historic downtown, The Lilac District, including the opening of popular new downtown destinations, such as Gibby C's, and historic revitalization efforts in the former Twin Oaks Hotel and the former Ann's Cleaners building. Claremore Economic Development has facilitated the sale or lease of over 1.5 million dollars of property in this area alone. Over the past three years, Claremore Economic Development has had a total community economic impact of \$3,820,800, with more than \$5 million in additional pending projects.. The program placed seven new small business operations in properties recently vacated due to the pandemic.

Small Business

Claremore's Entrepreneurial Efforts Internationally Recognized

Claremore's small business endeavors provide tailored and inventive solutions to support businesses at every stage of their journey, whether in the idea phase or fully operational. The program's commitment to addressing the specific requirements of entrepreneurs has been recognized with the highest honor at the annual Excellence in Economic Development Awards by the International Economic Development Council.

> GOLD RANK

- Claremore Economic Development Business





Claremore Regional Airport

ocated on 565 acres, the Claremore Regional Airport is a top destination for aviators across Northeast Oklahoma. Home to 43 hangar buildings and 90 base aircraft, the airport saw approximately 12,700 operations in 2023.



More Aviation Enthusiasm Starts Here

The Claremore Regional Airport hosted the second annual Green Country Aero Fest, hosting over 100 aircraft and 300 aviation enthusiasts and guests. Thank you to the Rogers State University AeroCats Stem Team for assisting with the drone obstacle course and the Pryor High School Innovation Center for leading the flight simulation stations in our Kids' Zone.



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Installed a new point-of-sale system allowing customers 24-hour access to Jet A and 100LL fuel

Completed \$1,265,370 Apron Rehabilitation Project

Established airport hangar taxi flow to help minimize disruptions and create a safer environment

The FAA and Oklahoma Department of Aerospace & Aeronautics awarded the facility a grant to support the construction of a 6,000-squarefoot rental hangar, utility access and drainage enhancement.

Claremore Regional Airport Hosts WWII Airborne Demonstration Team

The Claremore Regional Airport was honored to host the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team in June. Their team brought the Wild Kat C49B/DC-3 for a special presentation with the Claremore VA. Our local veterans had the opportunity to visit our facility and view this incredible airplane up close and in person.

About Us

Claremore Economic Development is a public trust organization formed in 1948 under Oklahoma state law. It was established to make sufficient use of economic resources and to stimulate economic growth and development for the City of Claremore and Rogers County. The organization facilitates the recruitment, retention, and expansion of primary industry jobs and the expansion of the sales tax base by recruiting new destination retail businesses.

Trustees



Jerry Schivally, Chairman President/CEO, InServ Integrated Service Company LLC



Brian Green, Vice Chairman President, GC Enterprises



Ryan Neely, Secretary/Treasurer Financial Advisor, Neely Insurance and Financial Services



Gary Collins, Trustee Interim General Manager, CF Industries



Tim Fleetwood, Trustee Owner, Love Air Conditioning, LLC



Amy Stutzman Fortna, Trustee Founder and Managing Director for Waymark Advisors



Bryan Frazier, Trustee Superintendent, Claremore Public Schools

OUR MISSION

Claremore Economic Development drives economic advancements for Rogers County by supporting and recruiting aligned businesses for mutual prosperity.

About Us

Staff



Meggie Froman-Knight Executive Director



Caitlyn Ngare Talent Development



Bailey Thompson Office Manager



Eric Winn Claremore Regional Airport Manager



Jimmy Hensely Claremore Regional Airport Line Attendant



Nathan Trimble Claremore Regional Airport Line Attendant



Kaleigh Hossack Communications Manager



*For more information about the Claremore Economic Development, including financial statements, meeting dates, staff contact information, and other announcements, visit www.MoreStartsHere.com.



www.MoreStartsHere.com