**Northeast Oklahoma partners join Philadelphia Fed’s Cohort Program Focused on Removing Barriers to Inclusive Workforce**

For immediate release

April 13, 2022 — The Northeast Workforce Development Board (NEWDB) is proud to announce its participation in the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s third annual Reinventing Our Communities Cohort Program. The program is focused on strengthening regional economies by addressing race-based economic inequities in rural and small urban regions across the country.

This yearlong program is aimed at helping Northeast Workforce Development Board and partners

* address the structural barriers that limit the full potential of workers and communities of color.
* ensure that workforce development programs lead to jobs that pay living wages and upward economic mobility.
* partner with local employers to support workforce development strategies.
* learn best practices for attracting and retaining talent to foster inclusive economic growth in rural and small urban areas.

“An important aspect of the Federal Reserve’s work is to maintain full employment,” said Theresa Singleton, senior vice president of the Community Development and Regional Outreach Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. “The cohort program supports the Fed’s work by helping local communities realize the full potential of their talent pipeline and provide investments and innovation that support workers.”

The Northeast Workforce Development Board and partners will engage in workforce development webinars, coaching from national workforce leaders, peer learning, and racial equity training. The Northeast Workforce Development Board will also develop a multiyear plan to expand economic opportunities for local workers and communities of color. The Northeast Oklahoma cohort is being supported locally by the Oklahoma City Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Michelle Bish, Executive Director of the Northeast Workforce Development Board said “The NEWDB team and our partners are committed to the work ahead of us focused on racial equity and local solutions. We are hopeful that the work we are embarking on will strengthen the regional economy and the workforce system as a whole. The change necessary can only come about as we gain a greater understanding of the root causes of race-based economic inequities and work collaboratively to build community-led structural change.”

Visit [philadelphiafed.org](http://www.philadelphiafed.org/) for more information about the 2022 ROC Cohort Program

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