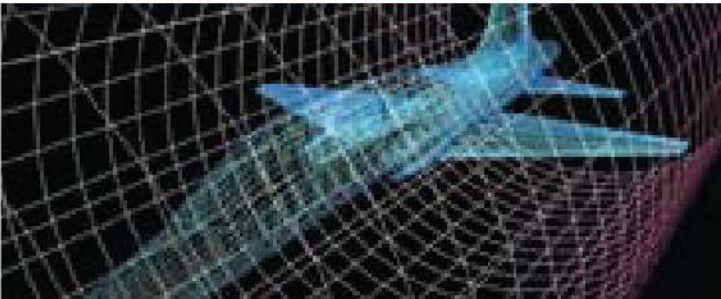


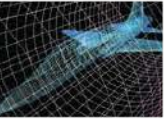


**OKLAHOMA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

# State Agency and Association Partnership

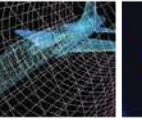
*The example from Oklahoma*





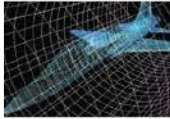
# State Structure

- Oklahoma Department of Commerce
- Cabinet Secretary and Executive Director appointed by Governor
- Mission: Create and deliver high-impact solutions that lead to prosperous lives and communities for all Oklahomans.



# Association Structure

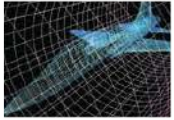
- Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies is a 501 (c) (3) founded in 1966
  - Governed by 18 member Board of Directors
  - Executive Directors of each member agency
- Mission: coordinate anti-poverty efforts with all member CAAs
  - share information and ideas
  - develop statewide policy approaches to address poverty in Oklahoma
  - provide technical assistance, professional development, and training for CAA staff



# Successful Collaborations

## Weatherization, including ARRA

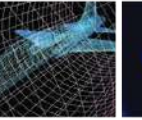
- OKACAA and ODOC worked very closely to develop the procedures and funding allocation process for distribution of the ARRA weatherization funds.
- OKACAA developed an intensive Weatherization Client Education program design and ODOC provided the funding for it to enable CAAs to set up a dedicated client education program throughout the state. Enabled us to reach many more low income families and devote more time with each client by using trained educators instead of putting the client education burden on the Weatherization program director, auditor or inspector.



# Successful Collaborations

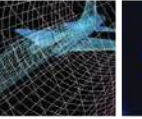
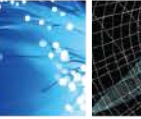
## Weatherization

- OKACAA serves as the state's principal weatherization training and technical assistance provider and is funded directly by ODOC and works hand in hand with ODOC on designing training programs and identifying training needs
- ODOC provided funding for development and implementation of the Oklahoma Weatherization Training Center, one of 17 Regional Training Centers in the nation.



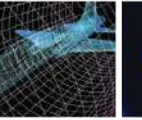
## Weatherization Training Facility





## Weatherization Training Facility



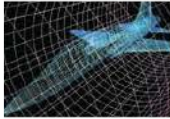


# Successful Collaborations

## Weatherization

- Training on weatherization during ARRA was intensive; ODOC supported our training with funding helped the network succeed during a frenzied period
- Training continues now: >500 individuals trained in all areas of weatherization during 2014-2015
- OKACAA is acting as the state's QCI to inspect 5-10% of our WAP homes via DOE WAP T/TA contract with state office
- This frees state office staff to focus on other programmatic oversight

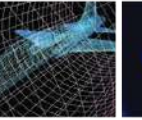




# Successful Collaborations

## Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)

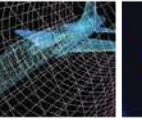
- Updated ROMA training anticipating ROMA Next Generation
- OKACAA RPIC project combined with ODOC CSBG discretionary to fund
  - Training of 5 Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers
    - 2 peer trainers from agencies
    - 2 trainers from ODOC
    - 1 from association
    - 2 NCRTs are currently working on Master Trainer status
  - On-site Introduction to ROMA at every CAA in Oklahoma
  - Contract completed; we continue to present as needed
  - Provides capacity to address Org. Std. 4.3



# Successful Collaborations

## CSBG Organizational Standards Implementation

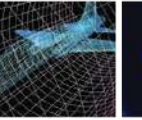
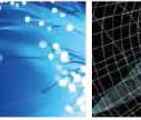
- ODOC announces intent at Board Meeting
    - Two agencies volunteer to pilot assessment
    - Remaining agencies self-assess
  - Questions: CAAs meet, share info, and ask
    - OKACAA produces collective document with questions and ODOC responds, via email
  - OKACAA Conference input session with rollout of draft FAQs
    - Document includes references to available resources
    - Input incorporated; ample opportunity for participation
    - Result: Living document; everyone can update resources
-



# Successful Collaborations

## CSBG Tax Preparation and Asset Development

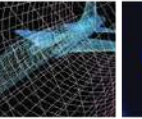
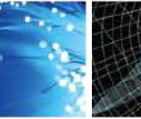
- ODOC CSBG Discretionary Grants to OKACAA for tax preparation complemented OKACAA's OCS EITC grants
  - ODOC grant funded CAAs to operate VITA sites
  - EITC grant funded client financial literacy programs
- Results
  - Low income families saved over \$3,885,000 in preparation costs
  - ODOC continues funding VITA after close of OCS grants



# Successful Collaborations

## CSBG Reporting and More

- ODOC has provided funding to OKACAA to provide Poverty Simulations
- OKACAA hosts and ODOC facilitates meetings for Data Standardization Group to improve consistency of IS reporting
- ODOC subsidizes reporting software
  - 18 of 19 agencies utilize same software
  - Recently updated to online system in preparation for ROMA NG
  - ODOC subsidized data conversion and training on online system



# Successful Collaborations

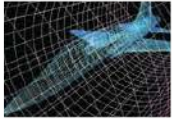
## Head Start

- ODOC receives federal funding for the State Head Start Collaboration Office
  - Has funded operation of that office through OKACAA since 1996.
- ODOC provides state-appropriated funds for
  - training for Head Start programs
  - onsite technical assistance for those programs receiving a federal monitoring review



# Communication

- Key to success: open and clear communication
  - ODOC staff attend monthly meetings
    - OKACAA Board of Directors
    - Weatherization Directors
- Goals and responsibilities clearly defined
  - Proposals result in contracts
  - Contractors Implementation Manual
- Public Hearings for CSBG, Wx and other programs held at OKACAA training facility or in conjunction with OKACAA training conferences



# Contacts

- Michael Jones, Executive Director, OKACAA
    - [michaeljones@okacaa.org](mailto:michaeljones@okacaa.org)
  - Tricia Auberle, RPIC Project Director, OKACAA
    - [homebuyerred@okacaa.org](mailto:homebuyerred@okacaa.org)
  - Marshall Vogts, Director of Programs, ODOC
    - [Marshall.Vogts@commerce.ok.gov](mailto:Marshall.Vogts@commerce.ok.gov)
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