TEAM KENTUCKY®

EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board

Meeting Briefing Book

November 19, 2026

1:30 – 3:30 pm ET / 12:30 – 2:30 pm CT

Location: The Old Carnegie Building

600 West Walnut Street, Danville, KY 40422

Andy Beshear
Governor

Lori Ulrich
Chair

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Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board Meeting Briefing Book

November 19, 2026, 1:30-3:30 pm ET / 12:30-2:30 CT

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Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

Quarterly Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 19th, 2026

Meeting 1:30 – 3:30 pm ET / 12:30 – 2:30 pm CT

In Person: The Old Carnegie Building
600 West Walnut Street, Danville, KY 40422

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84342886958?pwd=a0MwqwDFbSst2iaZXS1EZHFHIlHLal.1
Meeting ID: 843 4288 6958/ Passcode: 657540 / dial via phone: 16465588656

1:30 **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
Welcome/Housekeeping ……*Johnny W. Collett, Vice-Chair*
Deputy Executive Director, UK Human Development Institute (HDI)

1:35 **Roll Call**……*LaChrista Bowman*
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

1:40 **Membership Update** ……*Johnny W. Collett, Vice-Chair*

1:45 **Consent Agenda (Voting Required)**……*Johnny W. Collett, Vice-Chair*

- *August 19, 2026, Minutes*
- *Career & Technical Education (CTE) Certification*

1:50 **Welcome**

- *City of Danville*…….. *Mayor JH Atkins, City of Danville*
- *Centre College*…… *Jess Metzmeier, Vice President of Engagement and Advancement, Centre College*
- *Bluegrass Workforce Development Board*……*Kevin Moore, Workforce Services Manager, BG-WIB*

2:10 **Strategic Plan Updates**…… *Johnny W. Collett, Vice-Chair*

2:25 **WBL Strategy: Kentucky Rural Water Apprenticeships** …… *Heather Stevenson, Director of Workforce Development*
Kentucky Rural Water Association

2:45 **Workforce Participation: Benefit Cliffs** ……*Alexander Ruder, Assistant Vice President Community and Economic Development*
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

3:00 **Workforce Pell Grant** ……*Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director*
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board

3:05 **Education and Labor Cabinet Update** ……*Mike Yoder, PhD., Commissioner*
Department of Workforce Development

- *US DOL Reskilling, Reemploying Dislocated Workers*
- *Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT)*
- *2026 State of the Workforce Funding Report*
- *Credentials of Value*

3:15 **Discussion**…… *Johnny W. Collett, Vice-Chair*

3:25 **Closing Comments & New Business.**……*Johnny W. Collett, Vice-Chair*

3:30 **ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING DATE:
February 18, 2027
Metro United Way
334 East Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Consent Agenda

Quarterly Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
August 27, 2026; 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm ET

IN-PERSON – Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP)
145 Citizens Lane Suite 101, Hazard, KY 41701
with virtual zoom option

1:30 pm ET Call to order

Lori Ulrich, Fleming-Mason Energy, KWIB Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees both in the room and online. She shared that captioning services are available through zoom and reminded online board members and proxies to unmute and enable their cameras for roll call, voting, and comments throughout the meeting.

For those participating in person, Chair Ulrich walked through the use of technology and process to indicate a desire to speak. She mentioned that the board strives to follow Robert's Rules of Order during meetings. The consent agenda and board materials were provided in the KWIB Quarterly Briefing Book. She stated that meeting minutes and presentations would be available on the KWIB website (kwib.ky.gov) under the date of the meeting. Any further questions could be directed to Debbie Dennison, (debbie.dennison@ky.gov).

Roll call was held, and quorum was confirmed.

KWIB (Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lori Ulrich, Chair	Business	X	Dr. Aaron Thompson (proxy: Leslie Sizemore)	Partner	X
Gov. Andy Beshear (proxy: Ray Perry)	WIOA CORE	X	Dr. Ryan Quarles (proxy: Jessie Schook)	Partner	X
Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman	WIOA CORE		George Nichols	Labor Representative	X
Beth Davisson (proxy: Callie Miracle)	Business	X	Heidi Margulis	Business	X
Sen. Gary Clemons	Legislative	X	Avral Thompson	Labor Representative	X
Sec. Jamie Link (proxy: Deputy Commissioner Michelle DeJohn)	Partner	X	Kevin Middleton	Workforce	X
Sec. John Hicks	Partner		Kevin Nolan (proxy: Rocki Rockingham	Business	X
Sec. Jeff Noel (proxy: Kristina Slattery)	Partner	X	Kevin Smith (proxy: Rena Sharpe)	Business	X
Rep. Bobby McCool	Legislative	X	Lyndon Pryor	Workforce	X
Commissioner Robbie Fletcher	Partner	X	Robert Shelton	Labor Representative	
Commissioner Mike Yoder	Partner	X	Ryan Holmes	Business	X
Judge Owen McNeil	Local Elected Official		Selma Owens	Business	
Mayor James (J.H.) Atkins	Local Elected Official	X	Suhas Kulkarni	Business	
Johnny W. Collett	Business	X	Tom Lilienthal	Business	X

Dr. J.C. Gregory	WIOA CORE	X	Jim Flynn	Education	
Alice Houston	Business		Susan Hershberg	Business	X
Annissa Franklin	Workforce Representative		David Hall	Business	X
Susie Edwards	WIOA CORE	X	Adam Caswell	Business	
Dianne Owen	Workforce Representative		Sharon Price (proxy: John Catron)	Workforce Representative	X
Kim Menke	Business	X	William Downey	Business	X

In-person guests attending: Travis Winkler, Justin Suttles, Megan Eldridge, Todd Schmiedeler, Bridget Back, Becky Carnes-Miller, Dylon Baker, Laurent Rawlings, Kristen Thompson, Arthur Jaramillo, Addison McCoun, Ashley Coleman, Tesa Turner, Paul Dole, Chris Ritchie, Jordon Phipps, Tonya Collins, Katheryn French, Sharon Poff

Online attendance: Joe Bringardner, Ben Reno-Webber, Tammy Hyde, Robert Arnett, Anthony Hellmueller, Myra Wilson, Crissy Sexton, Aveana Jackson, Jackie Masterson, Jill Blevins, Tom Thompson, Dennis Messer, Katie Houghlin, Jeremy Lewis, Katie Bale, Tami Hatfield, Mikeal Fannin, Ben Collier, Becki Wells, Peyton Coleman, Michael Gritton, Brent Sturgill, Sheila Clark, Tiffanie Reeves, Elizabeth Daniels, Kim Asbury, Jacob Sartin, Tom Sholar, Alexis Matthews

KWIB Staff: Alisher Burikhanov, Debbie Dennison, Sara Jaggers, and LaChrista Bowman

KWIB Membership Update

The membership update recognized departing members Todd Dunn, Senator Jimmy Higdon, and Cora McNabb and expressed appreciation for their service to the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board. Kevin Nolan, William Downey, Representative Bobby McCool, and Judge Executive Owen McNeil were recognized following reappointment to the Board. New members welcomed included Avral Thompson, Senator Gary Clemens, and Ray Perry, who will serve as a proxy for Governor Andy Beshear.

Consent Agenda (Voting Required)

Lori Ulrich, Chair noted that the Consent Agenda was an action item requiring a formal vote, and that all related materials were included in the Briefing Book provided. Items included:

- May 21, 2026, Minutes
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certification Approvals

Chair Ulrich called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. *Kim Menke made the **motion**, which was **seconded** by John Catron*. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously, with no opposition.

Work-Based Learning Definitions (Voting Required)

Johnny W. Collett, Vice Chair, provided an update regarding work-based learning definitions. Work-based learning was identified as a key priority within the 2026–2029 KWIB Strategic Plan and an area of focus for both the Education Committee and Employer Engagement Committee. The Education Committee's work includes expanding seamless opportunities for students to participate in work-based learning, while the Employer Engagement Committee is developing a business-to-business work-based learning guide and best practices.

The Education Committee identified a need for clear and consistent terminology related to work-based learning. Input and resources were gathered from organizations represented throughout the Board and other partners. Following review, the Education Committee recommended adoption of the work-based learning terms and definitions incorporated by reference in **705 KAR 4:041** as a foundational, common understanding for implementation of the strategic plan.

Chair Ulrich called for a motion to approve the work-based learning definitions as presented. *Heidi Margulis made the **motion**, which was **seconded** by Kim Menke*. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously, with no opposition.

Meeting Host and Local Workforce Development Board Spotlight: EKCEP

Chair Ulrich introduced **Becky Carnes-Miller, Executive Director, and Bridget Back, Deputy Executive Director, of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP)** and thanked them for hosting the meeting.

An overview of EKCEP was provided, including its role as one of 10 workforce boards in Kentucky and its service area covering 23 eastern Kentucky counties, with recovery and reentry services extending to 58 counties. Services include career counseling, training, credentials, job placement, work-based learning, youth services, recovery and reentry, supportive services, and business services. Prosper Appalachia was highlighted for serving more than 4,000 high school juniors and seniors, placing more than 2,000 youth in unsubsidized employment, and engaging more than 700 employers.

EKCEP reported a $2.33 return for every $1 invested in WIOA, with projected taxpayer benefits of $102 million. Additional program-level returns included $12.94 for every $1 invested in recovery and reentry services and $13.47 for every $1 invested in adult services. National performance rankings included eighth for adult participants served, fifth for measurable skills gains, and tenth for adults trained, with approximately 12,000 individuals served during the year.

A new AI-supported system developed by EKCEP was presented as a tool designed to standardize and strengthen career services. The system includes career exploration, resume development, job-specific resume customization, mock interviews, training resources, financial literacy, digital literacy, and work-readiness modules. The system is intended to enhance the work of career advisors and provide consistent services across EKCEP locations rather than replace career advisors.

Discussion following the presentation addressed the use of AI in workforce services and the importance of maintaining accessibility and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as technology and hiring practices continue to evolve.

Appalachian Regional Health (ARH) Talent Strategy Overview

Dylon Baker, Vice President of Talent Strategy, Appalachian Regional Health (ARH), provided an overview of ARH's talent strategy and workforce development efforts. ARH is a nonprofit healthcare system with more than 140 locations across eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia and more than 6,700 employees. Its talent strategy encompasses talent development, attraction, recruitment, onboarding, engagement, advancement, and retention.

ARH's workforce development efforts serve diverse populations, including youth, adult learners, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals in recovery or reentering the workforce, and individuals transitioning from incarceration or foster care. Work-based learning opportunities include job shadowing, volunteering, internships, externships, and registered apprenticeships across clinical and non-clinical career pathways. ARH also highlighted the ARH Access Project, an employer-led K-12 career awareness initiative that provides age-appropriate exposure to healthcare careers and includes work-based learning opportunities for high school students.

Additional initiatives include programs supporting recovery and reentry, healthcare training partnerships, and the ARH Allied Health Training Academy in Hazard. ARH also reported investments in scholarships, tuition assistance, employee development, and other efforts to support recruitment and retention.

Discussion focused on the importance of age-appropriate career exposure, connecting classroom learning to career opportunities, and introducing students to career options without placing them on a specific pathway too early. Additional discussion addressed potential opportunities for ARH to become a SkillBridge employer and expanding healthcare pathways for individuals with military experience.

HealthCorps: Healthcare Workforce Pipeline

Todd Schmiedeler, President and CEO of Thumbprint Consulting, and **Megan Eldredge, Vice President of Family Scholar House HealthCorps Programs**, presented an overview of the HealthCorps healthcare workforce pipeline. The program provides paid, cohort-based experiences and support for individuals pursuing healthcare careers, with a focus on reducing barriers to education and employment.

HealthCorps began in Kentucky through a Public Health AmeriCorps grant and has expanded to seven states. Over four years, the program served 602 participants across 31 host sites, with 44 percent continuing into healthcare employment and 62 percent continuing healthcare education. Kentucky's grant was renewed for three years, providing 125 participant slots annually through 2029.

The presentation highlighted the importance of addressing barriers such as transportation, housing, food insecurity, and financial challenges and strengthening partnerships among healthcare providers, workforce development boards, educational institutions, and community organizations. *Serve Kentucky* representatives encouraged continued coordination with local workforce boards to connect participants with healthcare education and employment opportunities.

Education and Labor Cabinet Update

Mike Yoder, Ph.D., Commissioner, Department of Workforce Development, , provided an update on statewide workforce initiatives from the Education and Labor Cabinet. The
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan was reported as conditionally approved, pending limited updates from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Updates highlighted continued growth in registered apprenticeships, with Kentucky more than doubling participation since 2016, as well as strong completion rates. Work-based learning and Career and Technical Education efforts continue to expand through registered apprenticeships, FAME, dual credit, and industry certifications, with an emphasis on alignment with key industry sectors and program quality.

The Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT) was discussed as an effort to strengthen coordination among workforce, education, business services, and economic development partners. Updates were provided on the Kentucky National Labor Exchange (NLx), which now includes more than 2,000 approved employers and 10,000 job postings.

The Education and Workforce Collaborative's self-sufficiency work emphasized aligning workforce training and employment with wages that support individuals and families. Workforce Pell was also highlighted following Kentucky's implementation on July 1, 2026, supporting short-term training programs leading to high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand occupations. Continued postsecondary and employer engagement was encouraged to ensure programs meet workforce and employer needs.

Closing Comments & New Business

Chair Ulrich recognized Laurent Rawlings, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at the University of the Cumberlands and announced that the University plans for every student to graduate having experienced an internship. Chair Ulrich concluded with a reminder of the next KWIB quarterly meeting for November 19, 2026, which will be held at Centre College, in the Old Carnegie Building, 600 West Walnut Street, Danville, Kentucky. Future 2027 meeting locations were also noted for Louisville at Metro United Way in February and Bowling Green at the Impact Center in May.

The next KWIB Partner Spotlight was announced for September 2, 2026, with a focus on Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS). Board members were reminded to email KWIB.Projects@ky.gov for information regarding committee participation and travel reimbursement information was included in the KWIB Quarterly Briefing Book.

With no further business to address, Chair Ulrich called for a motion to adjourn. *Mike Yoder* ***made the motion****, and Kim Menke* ***seconded*** *it*. The motion was approved unanimously.

3:31 pm ET Adjournment

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

November 19, 2026

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certification Recommendation

The Business and Education Alignment Taskforce (BEAT) reviewed and recommended the certifications, which were approved by the CTE Certification Review Workgroup on **September 10, 2026,** and the KWIB Education Committee on **September 29, 2026,** *and are now presented to the KWIB for final approval, as outlined in the following certifications:*

Industry Certification Name	Industry Certification Program Area	Recommended Industry Certification List?
Recommended for Approval		
Certiport Project Management Ready (PMI)	Business & Marketing	**Recommended** - standalone certification be aligned with the E-Commerce, Marketing, and Retail Services pathways.
Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt	Health Science	**Recommended**; 6 career pathways and recommends stacking it with current certifications.

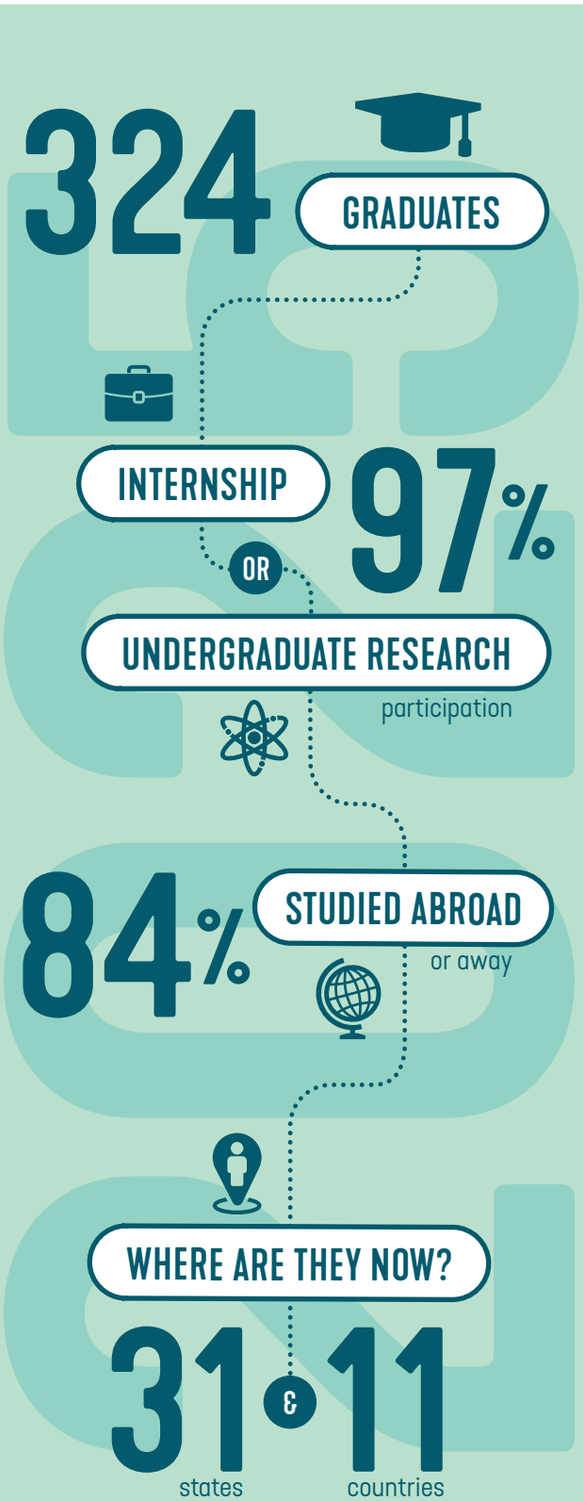
To learn more about the item listed in the consent agenda above, please click the link to access the relevant information on Google Drive. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JDLgb-WPwoIBCRliTdsovi4KBM1-HM91

Kentucky
WORKFORCE
INNOVATION BOARD

Welcome

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Centre College



CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CENTRE COLLEGE

600 West Walnut Street
Danville, KY 40422-1394

CENTRE COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2025

OUTCOMES

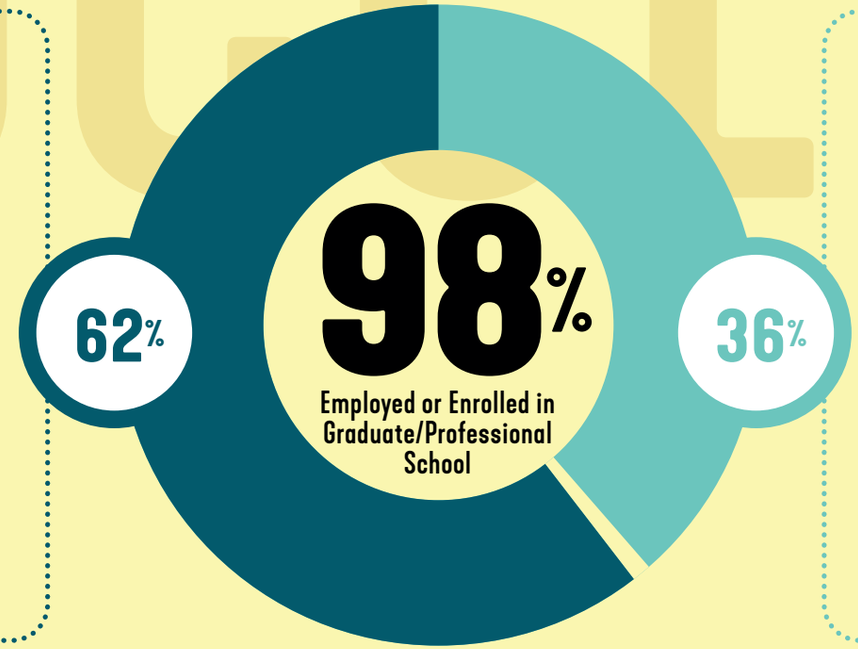
First Destination Report

ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATION

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

- 37% Business & Finance
- 14% Healthcare
- 13% Education
- 6% Science & Research
- 6% Government & Law

Other industries reported: Technology (5%), Psychology/Counseling (5%), Athletics (5%), Non-Profit (4%), Engineering (3%), Arts/Entertainment (2%).



POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- 33% Healthcare
- 16% Business & Accounting
- 11% Law
- 10% Science
- 8% Social Science

Other programs reported: Engineering (6%), Arts (5%), Education (4%), Int'l Affairs (2%), Religion (2%), Sports Administration (1%) Architecture (1%) Technology (1%).

Employed

Featured Employers

Amazon
Baird
Baptist Health
Bloomberg LP
Bowen Engineering
Charles Schwab
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Fidelity Investments
Fulbright
GE
Humana
Lockheed Martin
Memphis Grizzlies
Norton Healthcare
UBS
Yum! Brands

CENTRE.EDU/OUTCOMES

SEE MORE

Enrolled

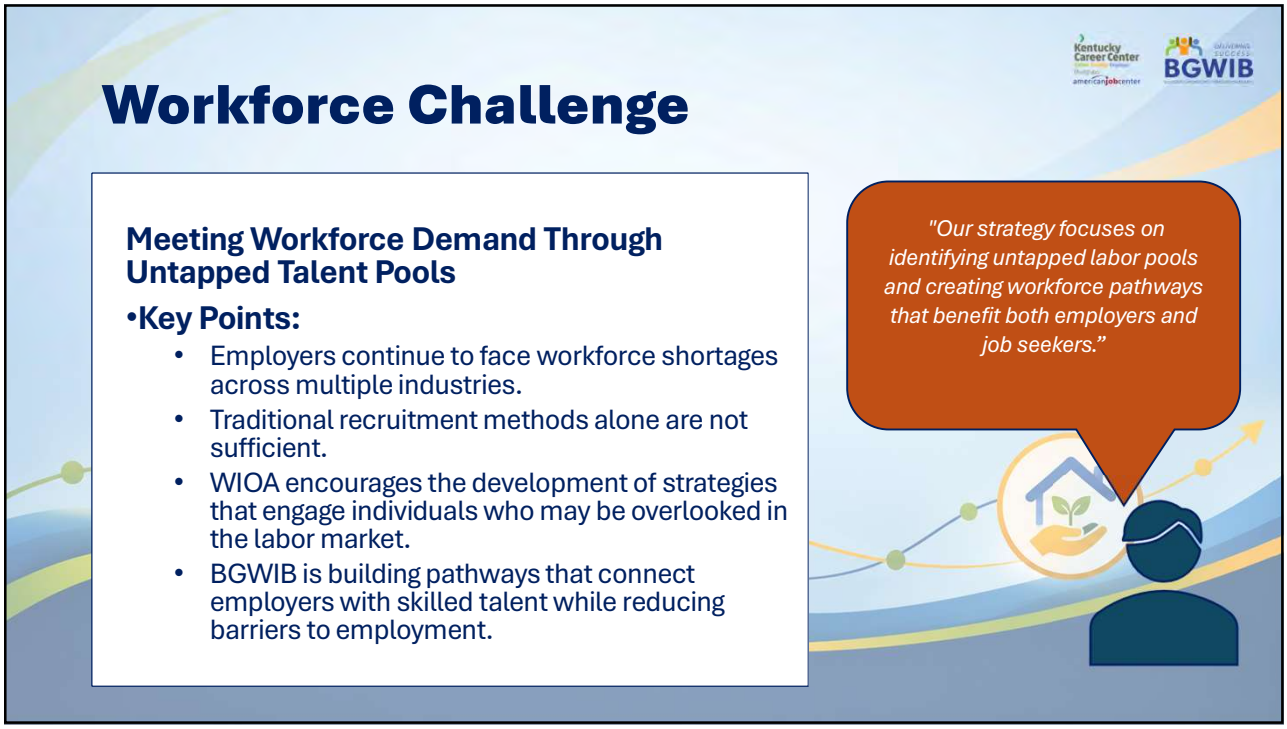
Featured Schools

Auburn University
Boston University
Brown University
Duke University
Georgetown University
Nagoya University (Japan)
Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Notre Dame
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Tech
Washington University
William & Mary

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Bluegrass Workforce Development Board


Kentucky Career Center
Career Training Employer
Bluegrass
americanjobcenter
DELIVERING SUCCESS
BGWIB
BLUEGRASS WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD
Expanding Workforce Opportunities Through Innovative Partnerships
Workforce Development Through Inclusion, Employer Engagement, and Barrier Reduction
Presented by: Kevin Moore, Workforce Services Manager, Bluegrass Workforce Innovation Board


Workforce Challenge
Meeting Workforce Demand Through Untapped Talent Pools
•Key Points:
• Employers continue to face workforce shortages across multiple industries.
• Traditional recruitment methods alone are not sufficient.
• WIOA encourages the development of strategies that engage individuals who may be overlooked in the labor market.
• BGWIB is building pathways that connect employers with skilled talent while reducing barriers to employment.
"Our strategy focuses on identifying untapped labor pools and creating workforce pathways that benefit both employers and job seekers."

Initiative #1:
McLeod's VIP Career Transition Initiative

Building Employer Networks Through Inclusion

McLeod's VIP Career Transition Initiative

The VIP initiative assists adults with disabilities in developing real workplace skills and connecting them with long-term employment opportunities through expanded employer partnerships.

Workforce Skills Developed

- Customer Service
- Point-of-Sale Operations
- Food Handling
- Workplace Communication
- Team Collaboration
- Workplace Reliability and Professionalism

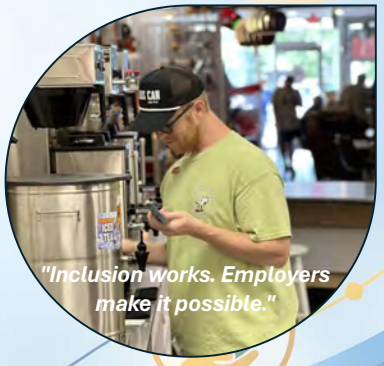
These participants gain hands-on experience through McLeod's Coffee House, creating a talent pipeline for local employers.

Expanding Employer Networks

Why It Matters

The initiative is designed to:

- Introduce employers to a skilled and often underutilized workforce.
- Create direct connections between businesses and work-ready individuals.
- Support customized transition plans into competitive employment.
- Promote workplace diversity and inclusion.
- Strengthen Lexington's regional workforce talent pipeline.



McLeod's VIP Trainee

This initiative demonstrates how employer engagement can transform workplace opportunities while helping businesses fill workforce needs.

Initiative #2: Veteran Stand Down Events

Supporting Veterans Through Workforce Access

Veteran Stand Down Events

- Spring and Fall 2026
- BGWIB partnered with community organizations to host two Veteran Stand Down events focused on homeless and at-risk veterans.
- Services Provided:
  - Workforce and employment services
  - Veterans benefits assistance
  - Career counseling
  - Housing resources
  - Supportive services referrals
  - Community resource connections



Veterans and Job Seekers at July 2026 Stand Down Event.

Untapped Labor Pool Focus

Why Veterans Matter

- Veterans bring:
  - Leadership experience
  - Technical skills
  - Team-oriented work ethic
  - Adaptability and resilience
- Many veterans face barriers such as:
  - Housing instability
  - Transportation challenges
  - Mental health concerns
  - Difficulty translating military experience into civilian careers

Workforce Impact

By bringing workforce services directly to veterans, BGWIB helps remove barriers and reconnect highly skilled individuals to the workforce while supporting employer talent needs.

Initiative #3: Childcare Entrepreneurship Initiative

Removing Barriers Through Childcare Solutions

Childcare Entrepreneurship Program

- Partnership between:
  - Bluegrass Workforce Innovation Board (BGWIB)
  - Child Care Council of Kentucky



Melissa Wren, Owner and Operator of Wren's Nest Child Care shared a testimonial on the success of her daycare thanks to working with the Childcare Initiative.

The initiative addresses one of the region's most significant workforce barriers: access to affordable childcare.

Creating Businesses and Expanding Childcare Capacity

Helping Individuals Become Providers

- Participants receive guidance and support to:
  - Understand childcare licensing requirements.
  - Navigate startup processes.
  - Develop sustainable home-based childcare businesses.
  - Access entrepreneurship and workforce resources.
  - Create new childcare slots within their communities

Dual Impact

This initiative:

- Creates self-employment and small business opportunities.
- Expands childcare availability, allowing more parents to return to work.

Workforce Impact

Removing childcare barriers strengthens labor force participation while simultaneously creating new business owners and increasing access to early childhood care.

Collective Workforce Impact

Three Strategies, One Goal

Initiative	Workforce Outcome
McLeod's VIP	Expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities
Veteran Stand Down	Reconnecting veterans to employment and services
Childcare Entrepreneurship	Removing childcare barriers while creating business ownership opportunities

Common Theme

Identifying Untapped Talent.
Reducing Barriers.
Strengthening the Workforce.

Closing

Workforce Innovation Through Partnerships

- Inclusive employer engagement
- Barrier reduction strategies
- Talent pipeline development
- Community-driven workforce solutions

The BGWIB continues to build pathways that connect people to opportunity while providing employers access to skilled and diverse talent pools.

This flow tells a very strong workforce-development story because it moves from the challenge, to three successful initiatives, and then concludes with measurable workforce-system value rather than simply describing individual programs.

More success stories and testimonials can be found at:
https://www.bgwib.com/successes

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Strategic Plan Updates

TEAM KENTUCKY FORWARD

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL: EDUCATION

PRIORITY 1
Work-based learning: expand access to earn and learn opportunities (learner perspective)

PRIORITY 2
Increasing the teacher pipeline

PRIORITY 3
Expansion of access and achievement in education for all Kentuckians

GOAL: EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

PRIORITY 1
Work-based learning: expand, scale and improve (business perspective)

PRIORITY 2
Expanding talent pools for business hires

PRIORITY 3
Unified business services

GOAL: WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

PRIORITY 1
Addressing barriers to employment and solutions

PRIORITY 2
Employment best practices - a worker perspective

PRIORITY 3
Addressing barriers to hiring - a business perspective

GOAL: COORDINATION AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT

PRIORITY 1
Common Return on Investment (ROI) metrics

PRIORITY 2
Continuous focus on supply and demand

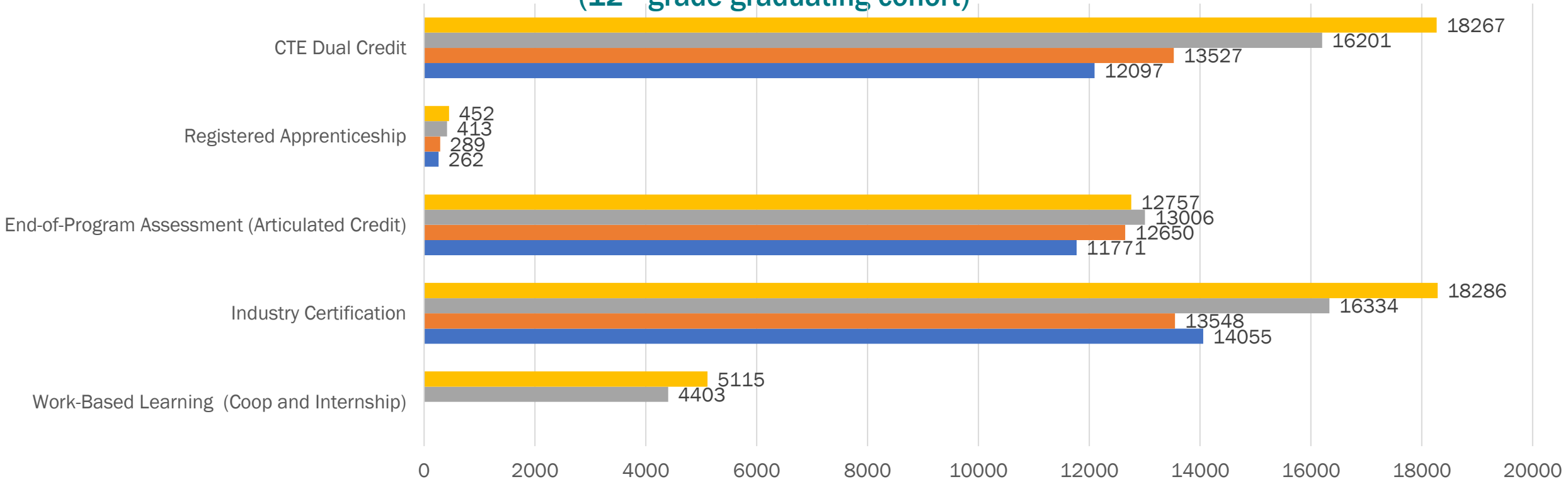
PRIORITY 3
Continuous organizational collaboration

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

TEAM KENTUCKY
EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

Career Readiness by Numbers

(12th-grade graduating cohort)



	Work-Based Learning (Coop and Internship)	Industry Certification	End-of-Program Assessment (Articulated Credit)	Registered Apprenticeship	CTE Dual Credit
2025-2026	5115	18286	12757	452	18267
2024-2025	4403	16334	13006	413	16201
2023-2024		13548	12650	289	13527
2022-2023		14055	11771	262	12097

KENTUCKY CTE EMPOWERED
Today's Career and Technical Education

2025-2026 2024-2025 2023-2024 2022-2023

Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

Data source: State Report Card (SRC) as of 10.15.2026
WBL data was not collected until 2023-2024 for inclusion for accountability

KENTUCKY REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

DATA AS OF 11/13/2026

Federal USDOL Program Year 2026 (10/1/2025-9/30/2026)
Performance Snapshot

At a glance Apprenticeship activity remained broad in PY2026, with more sponsors, programs, occupations and completions, alongside higher entry and completion wages.

5,463	267	$21.24	$33.61
Active apprentices	Active sponsors	Avg. entry wage	Avg. completion wage
-5.4% vs. PY2025	+3.1% vs. PY2025	+5.9% vs. PY2025	+27.7% vs. PY2025

Program-year results

Measure	USDOL PY2025	USDOL PY2026	Year-over-year
New programs	21	**25**	**+19.0%**
New occupations	45	**48**	**+6.7%**
New apprentices	2,384	**2,357**	**-1.1%**
Apprentice completions	943	**1,129**	**+19.7%**
Apprentice cancellations	1,592	**1,539**	**-3.3%**

What stands out

Completion momentum: Completions increased by 186 while cancellations fell by 53.

Employer reach: The system serves 709 current active employers.

Wage progression: The average completion wage is $12.37 above the average entry wage, a **58.2% premium.**

Participation: Year-end active apprentices declined by 313 despite nearly flat new-apprentice volume.

Quarterly signal: Q4 2026 recorded 267 new apprentices and 626 cancellations.

Completion rate: The latest USDOL statewide completion rate is 45.81% for Program Year 2024 and is subject to reporting lag.

Occupation expansion

New occupations span skilled trades and manufacturing, education, healthcare, information technology, public safety, culinary services, retail and digital roles. Examples include residential wireman, K-12 teacher, licensed practical nurse, IT generalist, police officer, CNC operator/programmer and digital marketer.

Source and definitions: Kentucky Apprenticeship Data workbook. PY2025: 10/1/2024-9/30/2025; PY2026: 10/1/2025-9/30/2026. Entry wage reflects new apprentices during the period; completion wage reflects completers during the period. The USDOL completion rate has a significant calculation lag.

Kentucky Registered Apprenticeships

	USDOL PY2025	USDOL PY2026	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Q4 2026
	10/1/2024-9/30/2025	10/1/2025-9/30/2026	10/1/2025-12/31/2025	1/1/2026-3/31/2026	4/1/2026-6/30/2026	7/1/2026-9/30/2026
Active Apprentices	5776	5463	5865	5833	5731	5463
Active Sponsors	259	267	267	267	269	267
Avg Entry Wage*	$20.06	$21.24	$19.82	$21.85	$22.78	$20.39
Avg Completion Wage**	$26.31	$33.61	$28.91	$35.62	$32.83	$31.47
New Programs	21	25	8	6	4	7
New Occupations	45	48	11	17	10	9
New Apprentices	2384	2357	478	605	610	267
Apprentice Completions	943	1129	131	231	474	282
Apprentice Cancellations	1592	1539	258	406	252	626
Current Active Employers	709					
Completion Rate***	45.81%					
(all data as of 11/13/2026)						

*Avg Entry Wage is the avg entry wage of all those who were new apprentices during the period

**Avg Completion Wage is the avg exit wage of all those that completed their apprenticeship during the period.

***Statewide completion rates are calculated by USDOL and have significant lag time due to the formula for calculating the rate. The most up-to-date rate is for USDOL Program Year 2024.

Kentucky's Key Sectors

	PY2025		PY2026	
Total	5812		5463	
Construction	4067	69.98%	3815	69.83%
Education	245	4.22%	232	4.24%
Healthcare	146	2.51%	116	2.12%
Manufacturing & Logistics	490	8.43%	422	7.72%
Professional, etc.	47	0.01%	54	0.01%
Other (nearly all is utilities)	817	14.06%	824	15.08%

New Occupations - DOL Program Year 2025	New Occupations - DOL Program Year 2026
Operating Engineer	Residential Wireman
Heavy And Tractor Trailer Truck Driver	Electrician, Maintenance
Plumber	Computer Support Specialist-Desktop Support Tech
Millwright	Production Cook
Tool Maker	Landscape Management Technician
Pipe Fitter (Construction)	Pharmacy Technician, Retail Store
Teacher Aide I	Retail Operations Specialist
Electrician, Substation	Graphic Designer
Line Maintainer (Alternate Title: High Voltage Electrician)	Teacher Aide I
Construction Craft Laborer	Dry-Wall Applicator
Float Nurse	Glazier
Pharmacy Technician, Retail Store (Revised)	Mechanical Engineering Technician
Carpenter	Cloud Operations Specialist 1
K-12 Teacher	Drafter, Civil
Peer Specialist	Early Childhood Educator
Tool And Die Maker	Mechanical Engineering Technician
Electrician, Maintenance	Fire Alarm Inspection Test Maintenance Technician
Fire Fighter, Crash, Fire	Construction Equipment Mechanic
Mechanical Engineering Technician	Electrician, Maintenance
Fire Fighter	K-12 Teacher
Landscape Management Technician	Operating Engineer (Alternate Title: Heavy Construction Equipment Mechanic)
Nurse, Licensed Practical	CNC Operator and Programmer
Teacher Aide I	Electrician (Alternate Title: Interior Electrician)
E-Commerce Specialist	IT Generalist
Automotive Technician Specialist	Tool And Die Maker
Police Officer (Alternate Title: Military Police)	Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
Line Maintainer (Alternate Title: High Voltage Electrician)	Electrician (Alternate Title: Interior Electrician)
Public Affairs	Computer Support Specialist-Desktop Support Tech
Early Childhood Educator	Operating Engineer
Industrial Maintenance Mechanic	Veterinary/Lab Animal Tech (Alternate Title: Animal Care Specialist)
Digital Marketer	Sous / Head Chef
Cook (Any Ind) Â(Alternate Title: Nutrition Care Specialist)	Cook, Pastry (Hotel & Restaurant)
CNC Operator - Milling	Cook
K-12 Teacher	Cook
Community Health Worker	Industrial Manufacturing Technician (Nof)
Tool And Die Maker	Fence Erector
IT Generalist	Operating Engineer
Early Childhood Educator	Hair Stylist (Existing Title: Cosmetologist)
Machine Repairer, Maintenance	Pipe Fitter (Existing Title: Pipe Fitter (Construction))
Mold Maker, Die-Cast & Plastic	Numerical Control Machinist Oper
K-12 Teacher	Heating & Air-Conditioner Install/Ser
Diesel Mechanic	Public Affairs
Cook (Any Ind) Â(Alternate Title: Nutrition Care Specialist)	Information Assurance Specialist
Maintenance Technician	Pharmacy Technician, Retail Store (Existing Title: Pharmacist Assistant)
Early Childhood Student Support Specialist	Teller (Financial)

NEW STATEWIDE STUDY

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

College + Career: Work-Based Learning Helps Kentucky Students Finish

327,000+ first-time students tracked at Kentucky public universities and KCTCS colleges, fall 2010 to fall 2021

STAY IN SCHOOL

Participants are less likely to leave

Risk of stopping out each term

KCTCS

6% participants

10% non-participants

Public universities

3% participants

5% non-participants

START EARLY

Early starters are more likely to stay enrolled

Students who begin in their first semester or second year, compared with similar students who have not started

+16 pts KCTCS

+9 pts Public universities



ROOM TO GROW

About 1 in 4 students participate today

26% of 2021 entrants took an elective work-based learning course within normal program time.

FINISH THE EXPERIENCE

Students who pass are far more likely to graduate

Completion within 150% of program time (%) KCTCS Public universities



CLOSING GAPS

Completion roughly doubles for early participants

Pell Grant recipients

24% → **49%**

First-generation students

25% → **51%**

MANY WAYS TO LEARN

Work-based learning opportunities

Primary

- Internships and work study
- Cooperative education
- Undergraduate research and capstones
- Practica and clinicals
- Apprenticeships
- Credit for prior learning

Secondary

- Job shadowing
- Company tours
- Employer-integrated projects
- Simulations
- Service learning

The study measured credit-bearing internships, co-ops and practica. CPE supports the full range of opportunities.

The goal: every Kentucky college graduate completes a work-based learning experience.

READ THE REPORT

cpe.ky.gov/data/publications

JOIN THE WEBINAR

Monday, Nov. 16, 2 p.m. ET (1 p.m. CT)

Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System (KPEDS). Findings describe associations, not proof of cause.

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

WBL Strategy: Kentucky Rural Water Apprenticeships

KENTUCKY RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
APPRENTICESHIP

Developing Kentucky's next generation of water and wastewater operators through paid, structured training, mentorship, and a path to professional licensure.

58 Active Apprentices	**41** Program Graduates	**46** Participating Employers	**23** New Apprentices Fall 2026

How the program works

KRWA acts as the state sponsor of the DOL registered, employer-based "earn and learn" pathway for drinking water and wastewater occupations. Participating utilities employ and pay apprentices; experienced operators mentor them on the job; and KRWA coordinates technical instruction, progress documentation, and preparation for Kentucky operator licensure. Training combines live online classes, in-person events, and approved self-paced coursework.

What it delivers

- **A practical solution for small utilities.** Employers can grow local talent and transfer critical operational knowledge instead of relying solely on hiring already-certified operators.
- **A recognized path to credentials.** Kentucky Operator Certification recognizes approved apprenticeship training for educational substitution toward operator certification eligibility, subject to applicable rules.
- **Early career exposure and access.** KRWA works with schools, veterans' organizations, workforce partners, internships, and career events to introduce candidates to water careers.
- **Incentives that reduce barriers.** Eligible rural nonprofit employers may qualify for up to $20,000 through the NRWA employer incentive program; awards depend on eligibility and available funds. Apprentices and mentors may qualify for training stipends.

Connecting with Kentucky's workforce priorities

KRWA's model advances KWIB priorities for employer-led work-based learning, expanded earn-and-learn opportunities, access to untapped talent, and better coordination of workforce investments. Its current partnerships include Kentucky apprenticeship staff, regional workforce boards, Kentucky Career Centers, and community partners.

Opportunity for collaboration

KRWA welcomes stronger statewide referral pathways between local workforce boards, career centers, schools, and rural utilities; coordinated support for apprenticeship training costs and employer participation; and shared measures of credentials, retention, and advancement.

Contact Heather Stevenson | Director of Workforce Development | h.stevenson@krwa.org

KENTUCKY RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
APPRENTICESHIP

Beyond Apprenticeship: Building Kentucky's Water Workforce

Measurable Progress and Workforce Outcomes

- **Record enrollment:** 23 new apprentices joined in Fall 2026, KRWA's largest fall cohort to date.
- **Program momentum:** 37 new registrations and nine completions during the 2025-26 program year.
- **Licensure advancement:** Seven apprentices or graduates earned Kentucky operator licenses in July-September 2026.
- **Leadership pipeline:** Graduates are returning as mentors to train new operators.
- **Financial support:** KRWA helps eligible apprentices, mentors, and rural employers access training stipends and incentives.

Partnerships That Strengthen Kentucky's Workforce

Workforce development and Career Centers. KRWA works with the Kentucky Office of Apprenticeship, Kentucky Career Center-Bluegrass, GRADD, EKCEP, and other regional partners to connect job seekers with utilities and coordinate eligible training assistance.

Veterans and nontraditional talent. Through KY Valor, KRWA connects veterans and transitioning service members with water and wastewater career opportunities.

Youth outreach and career exploration. KRWA collaborates with schools and utilities on internships, facility tours, career events, and virtual reality experiences. Examples include Ashland Water WORCs and a skilled-trades event attended by more than 2,500 students.

Industry, state, and national collaboration. Engagement with NRWA, EPA, ASDWA, and the National Skills Coalition connects operator apprenticeship with certification, capacity development, and workforce policy.

Innovation and Continued Investment

KRWA is expanding hybrid instruction, self-paced coursework, hands-on learning, and immersive virtual reality training. Collaborative curriculum initiatives aim to serve apprentices completing related technical instruction and certified operators pursuing continuing education.

Building on Success

We have opportunities to strengthen connections between Kentucky's workforce system and its essential water infrastructure employers. Coordinated recruitment, workforce funding, training, and mentorship can expand career opportunities while protecting public health and reliable water and wastewater services.

BUILD YOUR WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE!

Partner with the NRWA Apprenticeship Program to Develop Skilled

WATER SYSTEMS OPERATION SPECIALIST
WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATION SPECIALIST



PROGRAM BENEFITS

2-Year Registered Apprentice

Classroom & On-the-Job TrainiJ

U.S. Department of Labor Certification

No-Cost or Low-Cost for Employers

A TRAINED & RELIABLE TALENT POOL

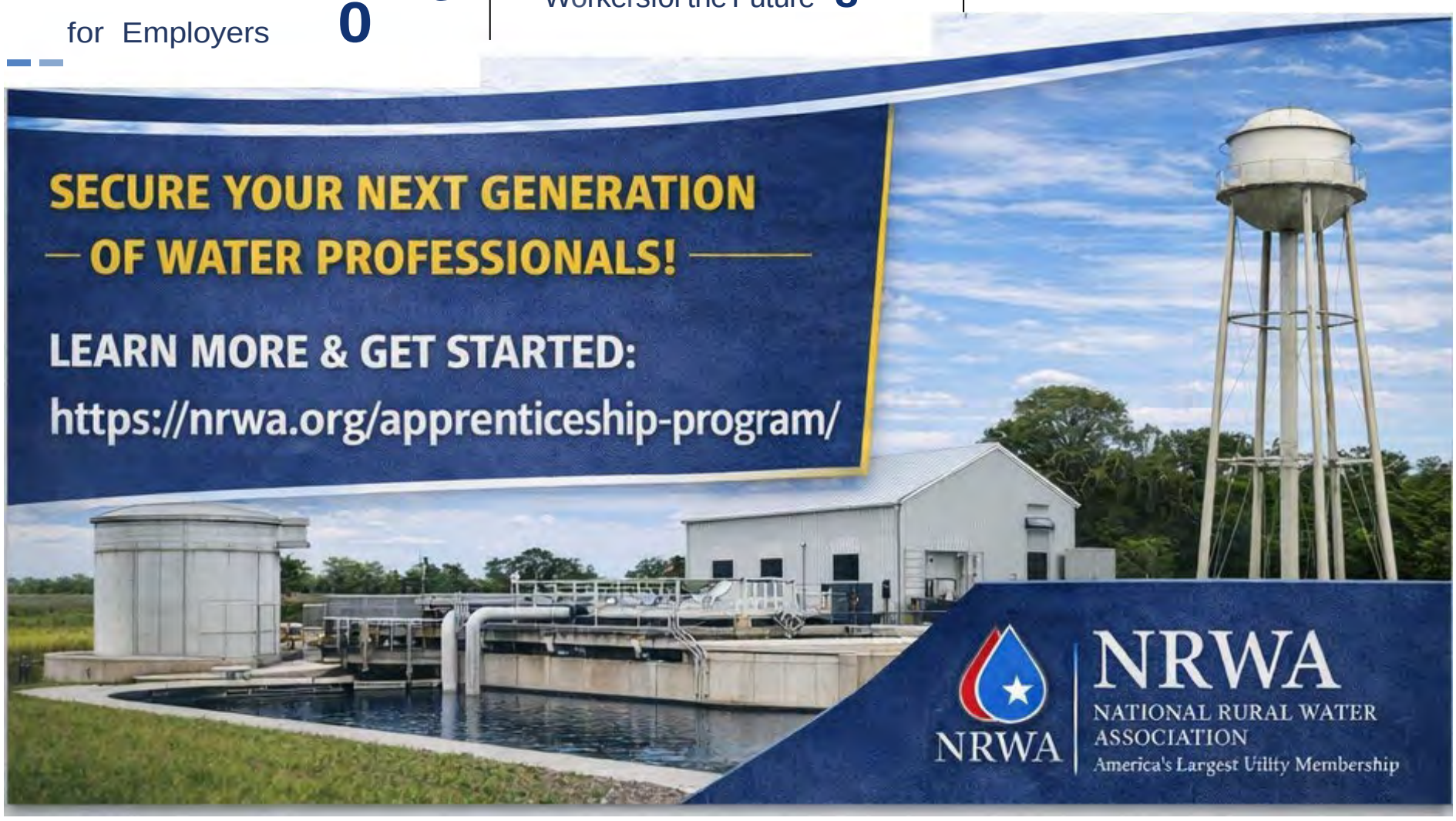
- Fill Critical VacancieS- & Reduce Turnover
- Transfer Knowledge from Experienced Staff
- Build Loyal, Skilled Workersfor the Future

EARN-WHILE-YOU-LEARN MODEL

4000+ Hours of **OJT**

288 Hours of Technical Instruction

Develop Certified Water & Wastewater Specialists



Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

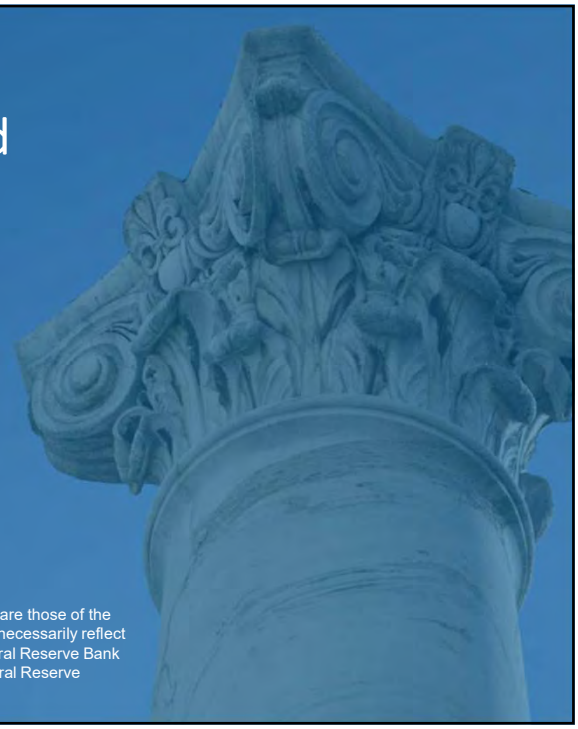
Benefits Cliffs Along In-Demand Occupations in Kentucky

Benefits Cliffs Along In-Demand Occupations in Kentucky

Alex Ruder

Presentation to Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board

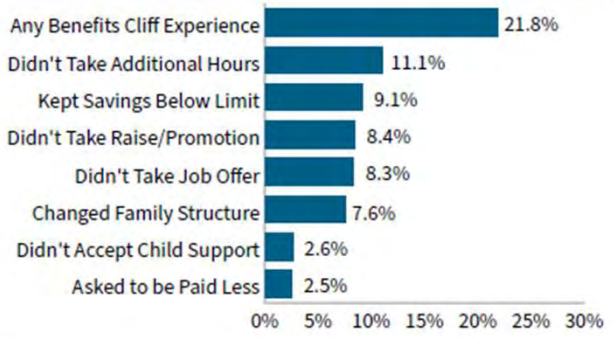
November 2026



The views expressed are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta or the Federal Reserve System.

Why do benefits cliffs matter in a workforce context?

FIGURE 1
Worker Responses to Benefits Cliffs and Asset Limits



Note. $N = 1{,}174$ participating in any public program.

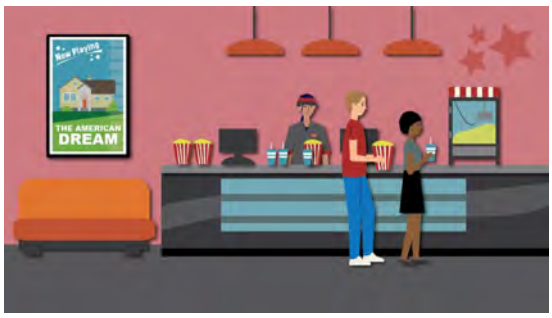
Source: Roll, Miller, and Despard (2025): Available at https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/csd_research/963/

An Application: Meet Leia

Leia is a 25-year-old single mother. She has two young children ages 3 and 5.

Leia receives several public assistance programs to help make ends meet: tax credits, food assistance, children's healthcare, and subsidized childcare.

She is working full-time in a near-minimum wage job and wants to enter an in-demand occupation in Jefferson County, Kentucky.



Which occupations should she consider? Select Examples from KY





Healthcare
- Registered Nurse
- Medical and Health Services Manager

Manufacturing/Logistics
- Machinist
- Truck Driver

Construction
- Laborer
- Carpenter

Education
- Elementary teacher
- Secondary teacher

Professional Services
- Computer User Support Specialist
- Paralegal and legal assistant

Key Question for Today

Accounting for benefits cliffs, what is the short-, medium-, and long-term payoff for Leia if she enters an in-demand occupation?

Key Question for Today

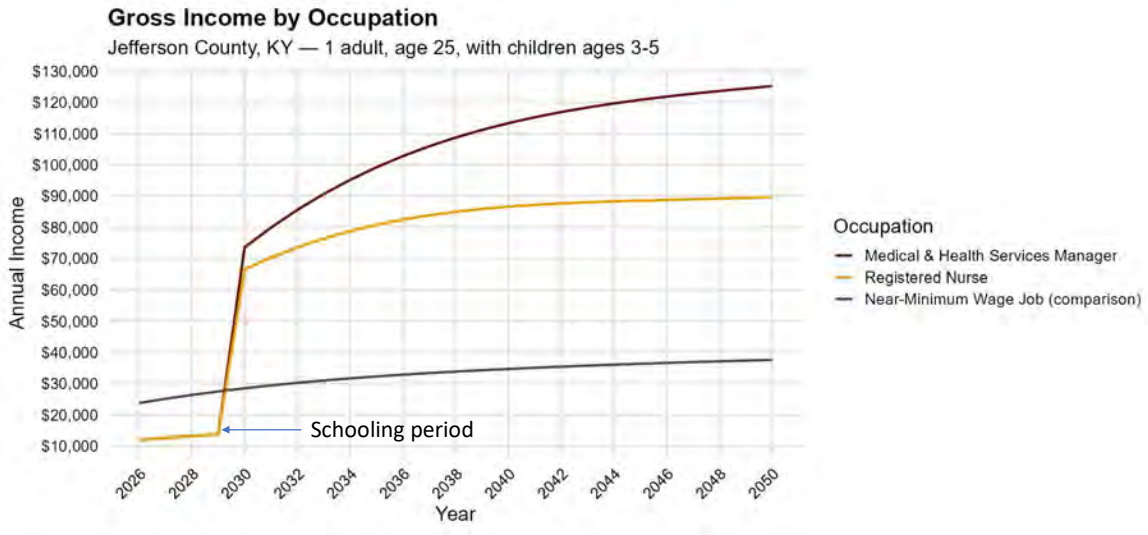
Two Measures:

Annual Income: Annual Salary from Occupation

Net Resources: After-tax income + public assistance - expenses

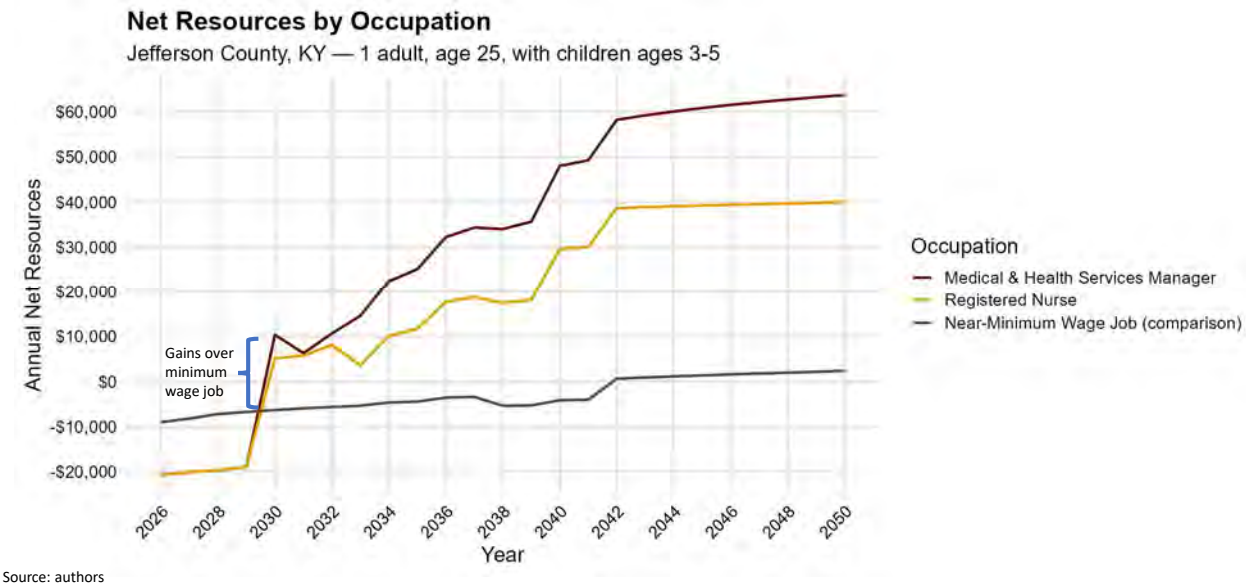
Expense estimates based on the United for ALICE Survival Budget

Healthcare Sector: Annual Income for the RN and Medical Services Manager



Source: authors

The Net Resources View Shows a Challenging Period Starting in 2030.



Source: authors

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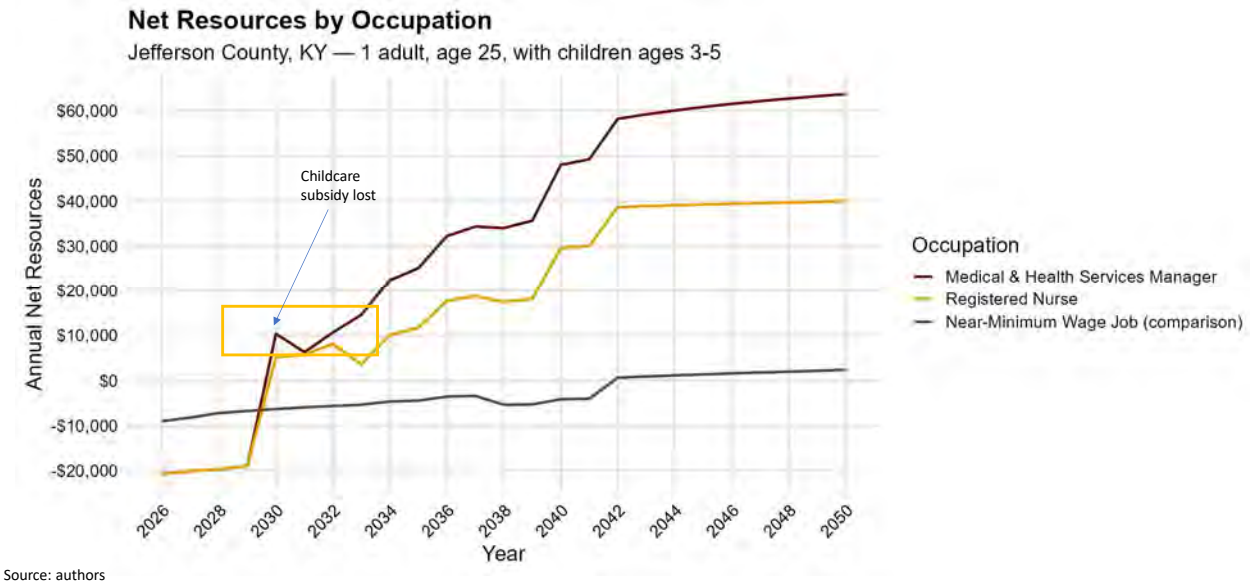

Source: authors

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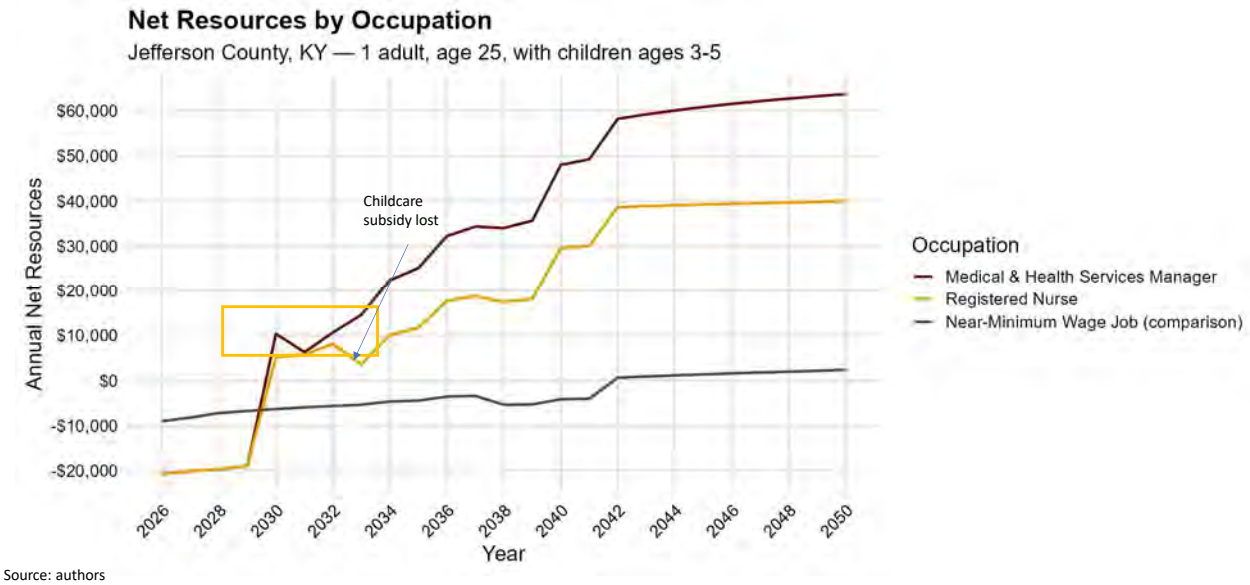
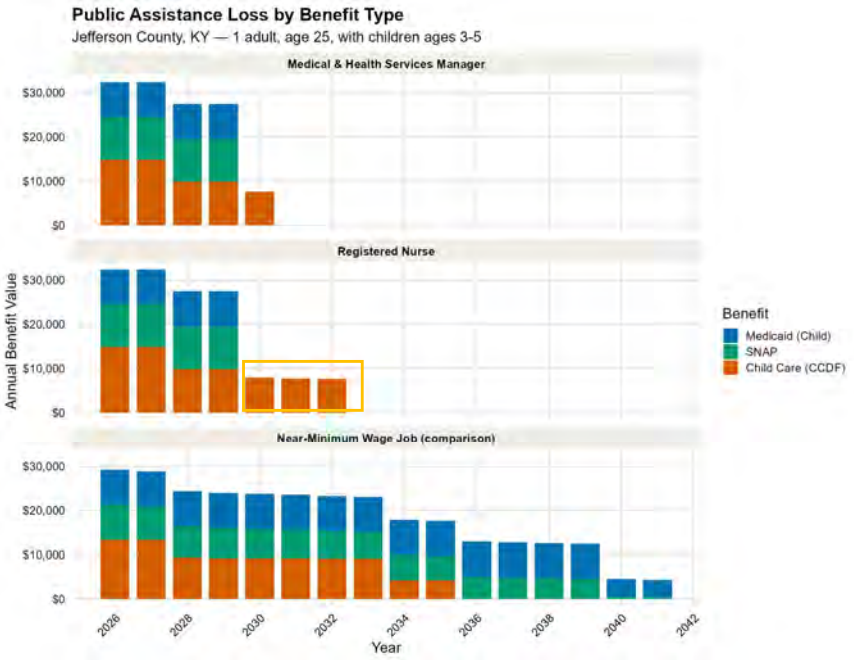


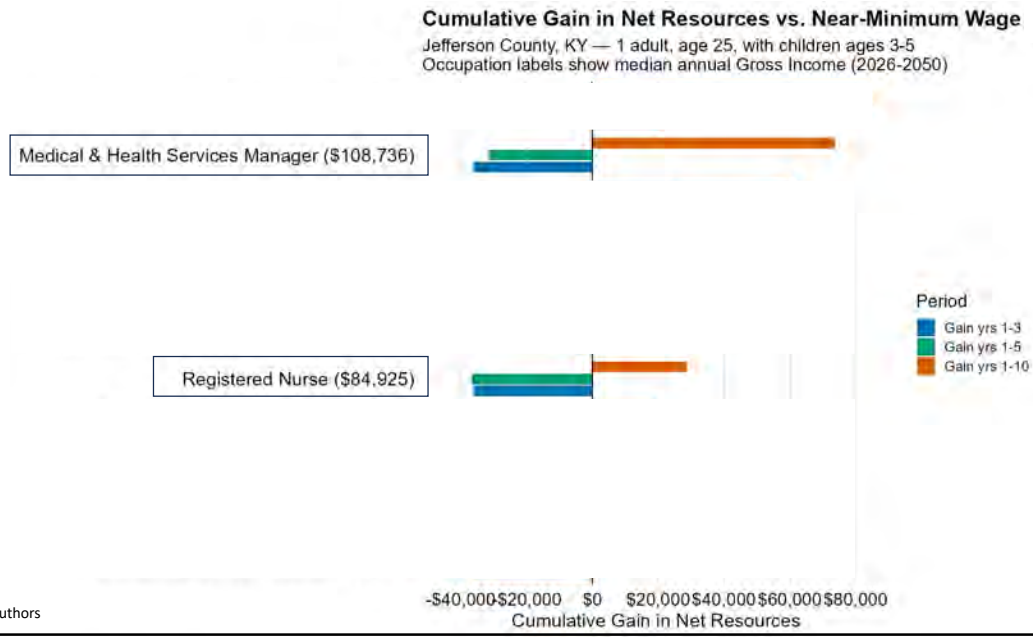
Source: authors

The Public Assistance View: Child care loss affects both careers.



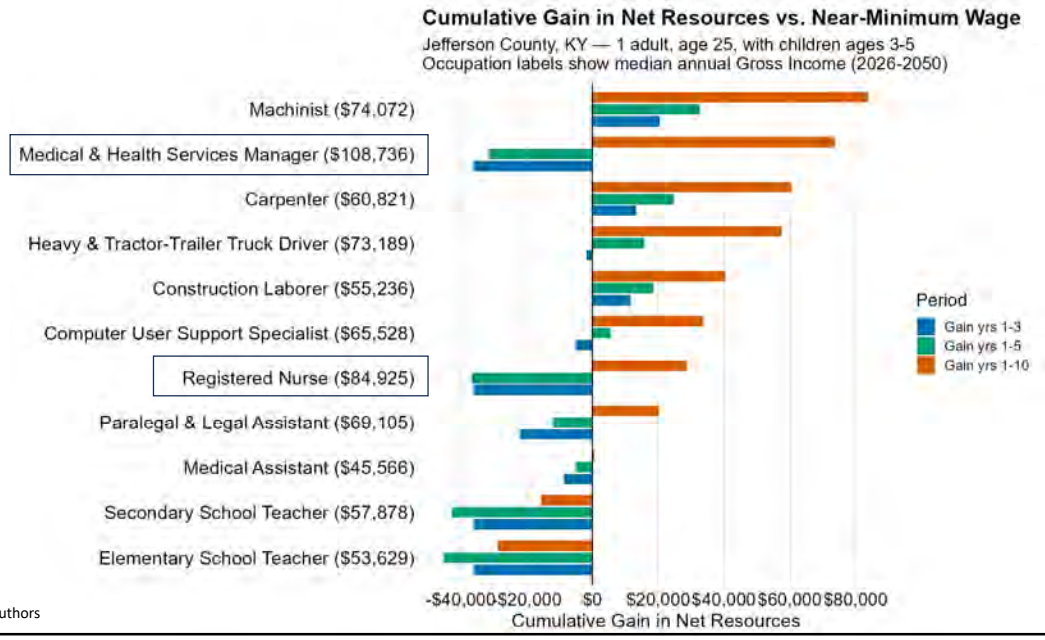
Source: authors

Worker ROI by Occupation and Time: Programs with more training years take longer to experience positive ROI.



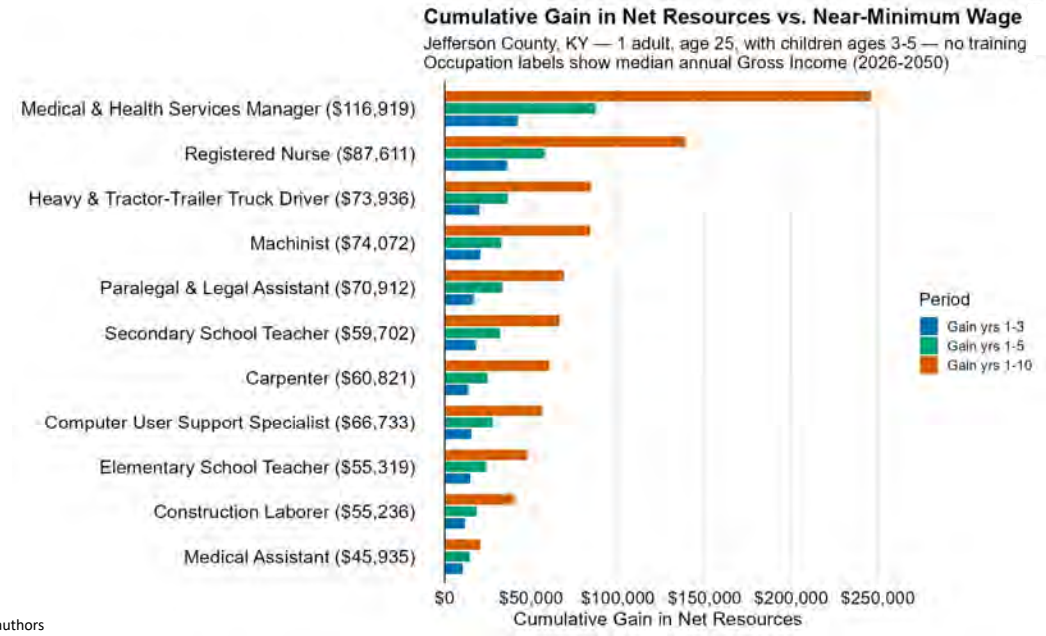
Source: authors

Worker ROI by Occupation and Time: Programs with more training years take longer to experience positive ROI.



Source: authors

Worker ROI by Occupation and Time – No Training Period Opportunity Cost



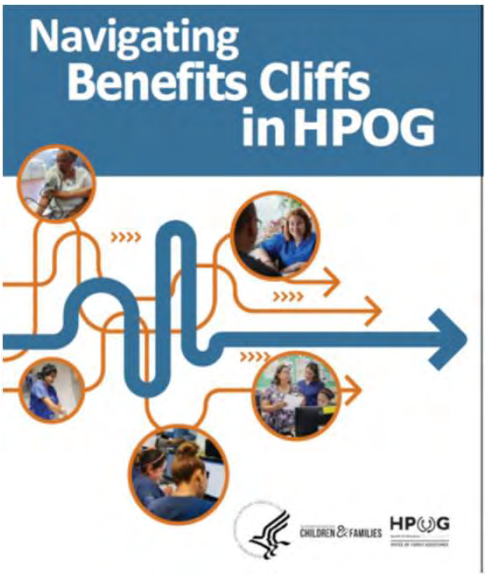
Source: authors

Next Steps

Two general approaches to help workers:

- Coaching and workforce-based strategies
- Policy and programmatic changes that mitigate the cliffs

Recommendations from HPOG Workforce Pilot



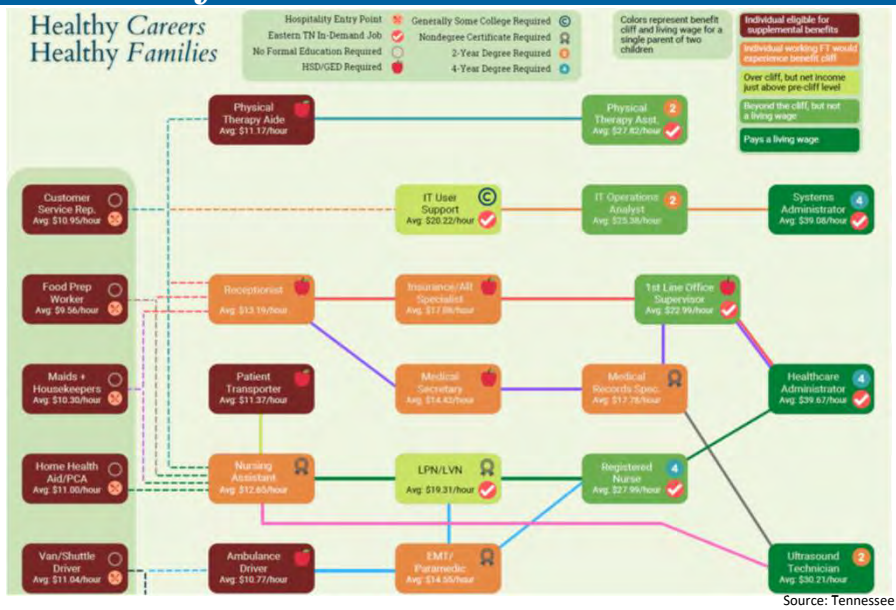
1. Help navigate the benefits system
2. Find other resources to make up for loss
3. Reframing loss as a positive step forward
4. Emphasize long-term goals
5. Be realistic about circumstances

Figure 12: Questions to Discuss with Individuals Facing a Benefits Cliff



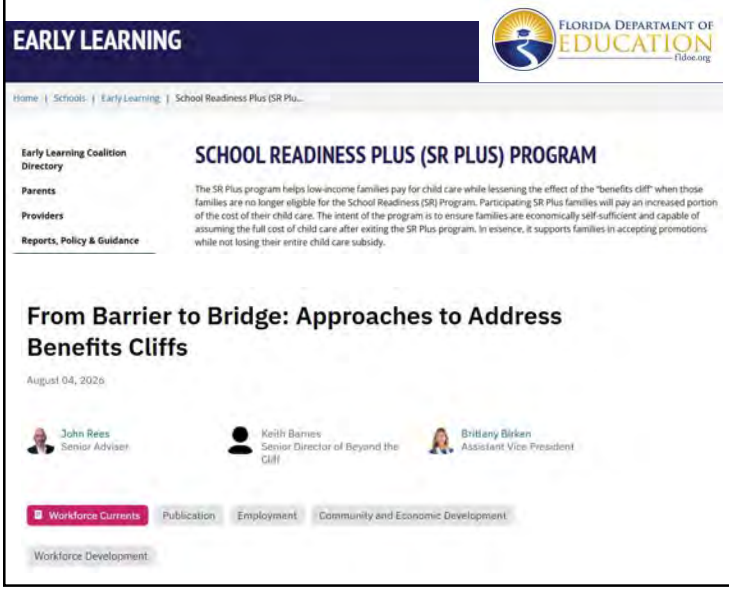
Source:
www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/hpog_8_state_benefit_cliff_report_20201006_508.pdf

Example: Mapping Benefits Cliffs for Priority Career Pathways



Source: Tennessee ETHRA Workforce Board

Policy and Practice Examples

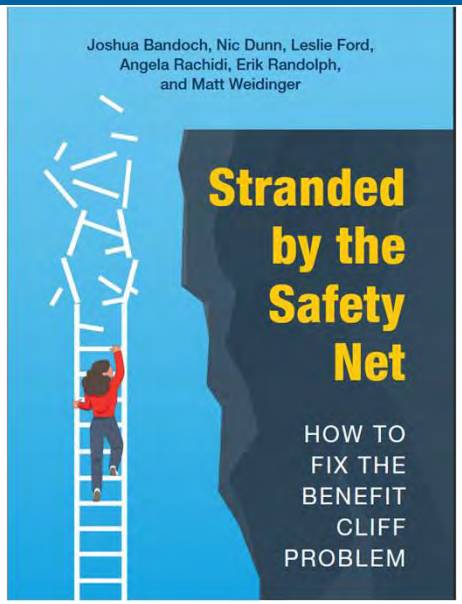


From Barrier to Bridge: Approaches to Address Benefits Cliffs

August 04, 2026

John Rees, Senior Adviser
Keith Barnes, Senior Director of Beyond the Cliff
Brittany Birken, Assistant Vice President

Workforce Currents | Publication | Employment | Community and Economic Development | Workforce Development



For additional background on research and tools, please visit: www.atlantafed.org/economic-mobility-and-resilience/advancing-careers-for-low-income-families

alexander.ruder@atl.frb.org

Kentucky
WORKFORCE
INNOVATION BOARD

Workforce Pell Grant

KENTUCKY WORKFORCE PELL GRANT

About the Workforce Pell Grant

Kentucky's Workforce Pell Grant Program outlines the approach to identifying, evaluating, and recommending short-term workforce training programs for state approval under 787 KAR 2:050E.

Program Eligibility Standards

- Be offered at a Higher Education Act Title IV eligible postsecondary institution
- Have 8 -14 weeks of instruction
- Have 150 - 599 clock hours
- Lead to a recognized stackable and portable credential (or sole recognized credential)
- Train for a Kentucky high-wage, high-skill, or in-demand occupation
- Align with employer hiring needs
- 70% completion and 70% job placement
- Provide academic credit toward a related certificate/degree
- Meet value-added earnings requirement (beginning 2030–2031)
- Meet requirements for at least one year



Learn More and Apply

Visit the Office of the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board website to learn more and access resources including:

- "Workforce Pell Application" July 2026
- "Workforce Pell Report", July 2026 & Data Dictionary
- Kentucky Workforce Pell Regulation: 787 KAR 2:050E
- US Department of Education Workforce Pell Final Rule

For any questions or more information, please contact kwib.projects@ky.gov

Kentucky Career Center
Career Training Employer

TEAM KENTUCKY
EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

Kentucky Workforce Pell Grant Applications
Executive Summary

Overview
As of November 2026, four Workforce Pell Grant program applications have been reviewed and processed. Two applications are currently under review and meet Workforce Pell standards, one for Nail Technician and one for Utility Technician.

Application Status

In Review:

- Training Provider: Employment Solutions dba College for Technical Education
  Occupation: Nail Technician (Resubmitted)
  Submitted: October 8, 2026
  Status: Meets WFP standards

- Training Provider: Jefferson Community and Technical College
  Occupation: Utility Technician
  Submitted: September 4, 2026
  Status: Additional info on stackability provided by training provider on 10/21; Meets WFP standards

Standards Not Met:

- Training Provider: Lavish Beauty Academy
  Occupation: Esthetician
  Submitted: August 17, 2026
  Status: Denied because program length exceeded allowable limits; denial letter issued September 8, 2026.

- Training Provider: Employment Solutions dba College for Technical Education
  Occupation: Nail Technician
  Submitted: August 7, 2026
  Status: Denied due to lack of stackability; denial letter issued September 8, 2026

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Education and Labor Cabinet Updates

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

News Release

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AWARDS $95.5M IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR RESKILLING, REEMPLOYING DISLOCATED WORKERS

Funding will help dislocated workers access training and employment services

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the award of $95.5 million in funding to support the creation of innovative models of training and employment services that connect workers affected by layoffs to high-growth industries.

Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, Rapid Reskill Dislocated Worker Grants support 20 projects across 17 states to quickly connect workers affected by layoffs to employment and training services that lead to high-wage, in-demand occupations in industries expected to grow, including domestic manufacturing, aerospace, energy production, construction, and other occupations important to reindustrialization.

Reskill DWG projects are designed to swiftly assess participants' prior experience and existing skillsets and chart a course to an in-demand occupation or industry. Participants will gain industry-specific skills and credentials to speed their reemployment while projects will develop and share innovative approaches for connecting workers impacted by layoffs with careers in America's growth industries.

"The Rapid Reskill Grants support our commitment to ensuring displaced workers have the skills they need to pursue the American Dream," said Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling. "They also help ensure a workforce for the Golden Age of reindustrialization and empower workers to stay rooted in their hometown."

Reskill DWGs aim to rapidly place dislocated workers into paid work, whether full-time unsubsidized employment, a Registered Apprenticeship, or other paid, structured on-the-job training in their target occupation or industry within six months of enrollment. Toward that end, these innovative projects incorporate short-term, intensive training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials and skills development aligned with industry-specific or occupational training.

Supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, National Dislocated Worker Grants provide funding assistance to temporarily expand the service capacity of dislocated worker programs at the state and local levels.

Recipients of the Rapid Reskill Employment Recovery Grants are as follows:

Recipient	State	Amount
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development	AK	$2,472,413
California Employment Development Department	CA	$4,326,860
Workforce Alliance Inc.	CT	$2,290,839
Florida Department of Commerce	FL	$6,593,407
Kentucky Department of Workforce Development	KY	$2,554,831
The Boot	LA	$6,585,696
Maine Department of Labor	ME	$5,576,341
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity	MI	$6,593,407
Capital Area Workforce Development Board	NC	$5,797,825
Nebraska Department of Labor	NE	$4,120,810
New Hampshire Department of Business & Economic Affairs	NH	$6,593,407
New York Department of Labor	NY	$3,708,710

Recipient	State	Amount
Per Scholas Inc.	NY	$2,719,671
Pursuit Transformation Company Inc.	NY	$4,697,749
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services	OH	$6,593,407
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission	OK	$3,296,611
Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training	RI	$4,945,009
Adaptive Construction Solutions Inc.	TX	$6,593,357
SER-Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast Inc.	TX	$2,884,511
Washington Employment Security Department	WA	$6,593,407

Agency: Employment and Training Administration

Date: October 19, 2026

Release Number: 26-1537-NAT

Media Contact: Lorynn Holloway

Phone Number: (202) 693-4652

Email: holloway.lorynn.n@dol.gov

Media Contact: Christine Feroli

Phone Number: 301-793-3023

Email: feroli.christine.e@dol.gov

Share This

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Appendix

AmeriCorps & Serve Kentucky



Update & Next Steps

- Thank you to all of you and your teams that have taken the time to meet with Beth Malcom and/or Ben Reno-Weber. We are so appreciative of you sharing your busy schedules!
- Our next steps: we would like to know from the WIBs of **any industry gatherings we could attend** to help people understand AmeriCorps and the resources available when they hire AmeriCorps graduates.
  - Examples include: board meetings, Regional Business Service Team meetings, HR group meetings, Consortium meetings or events, and any event with local business owners.
- Please email Ben (ben@essentialinno.com) or Beth (beth@essentialinno.com) with any leads or information.
- Again, thank you for all your support. We are looking forward to creating a strong partnership between AmeriCorps graduates and our Kentucky employers!

KENTUCKY RURAL
HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

A healthier rural Kentucky. Built to last.

Our chance for a future where every person reaches their full human potential and all communities thrive.



Five programs, each targeting a specific transformation in rural health, *all designed to work together.*

The Kentucky Rural Health Transformation (KY RHT) is a locally led, state-coordinated effort designed to create immediate impact while strengthening rural communities for generations to come.

Here's what that looks like in practice:

- Tailored support for mom and baby, from pregnancy through the first year.
- Investing in dental care availability where it's needed most.
- Shifting crisis response toward coordinated, lasting mental health care.
- Turning fragmented chronic care into connected networks of support.
- Redefining emergency and trauma response.

TEAM KENTUCKY
CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

KENTUCKY RURAL
HEALTH TRANSFORMATION
ruralhealthplan.ky.gov

A better way to care for rural Kentucky.

Over 1.8 million Kentucky residents live in a rural community.
Getting care can mean long drives, limited options, and too many gaps in support.
That's what this program is built to change.

Five connected programs. Locally led, state-coordinated, and built to deliver the care rural Kentucky deserves.



PoWERing Rural Maternal and Infant Health

Supporting mother and baby, from pregnancy through year one

For too many pregnant women in rural Kentucky, pregnancy can feel isolating, with no nearby delivery provider and no one to call between appointments. KY RHT is working to change that by bringing coordinated care teams directly into these communities.



Rooted in Health

Expanding dental care where it's needed most

Dental care has been out of reach in too many rural communities for too long. KY RHT is training dentists, hygienists, and assistants where they are needed most, so dental care does not require a long drive or months-long wait.



Crisis to Care

Matching every emergency to the care it needs, every time

When a crisis hits in rural Kentucky, help can be far away and the path to recovery even farther. KY RHT is working to expand the emergency responder workforce, connecting responders with hospital teams in real time, and strengthening community-based care so people receive support beyond the emergency itself.



Rural Community Hubs

Turning fragmented chronic care into connected care

Rural Kentucky has the organizations, the providers, and the programs needed to make a real dent in diabetes and obesity. KY RHT is building the network and infrastructure to link local partners, align care, and reduce fragmentation, so managing chronic disease in rural Kentucky becomes coordinated, consistent, and easier for the people who rely on it.



Rapid Response to Recovery

Turning crisis response into lasting mental health care

A mental health crisis should not end at the emergency room with nowhere to turn next. KY RHT is working to connect mobile crisis teams, behavioral health providers, and recovery services because stabilizing someone in the moment is not the same as helping them heal over time.

Five programs. One promise.

A healthier rural Kentucky. Built to last.

See how to get involved at ruralhealthplan.ky.gov

This project is 100% funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for a total of $212.9 million in budget year 1 with 100% by CMS/HHS. The RHT grant spans five budget periods aligned with federal fiscal years (FY2026–FY2030). Funding is disbursed annually by CMS based on achievement of performance metrics. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government. View the Notice of Funding Opportunity from CMS.

2027 Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board Quarterly Board Meetings

February 18 – Metro United Way
334 East Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202

May 20 – IMPACT Center for Leadership and Innovation
830 Cumberland Trace Road, Bowling Green, KY 42103

August 19 – Location TBD

November 18 - Location TBD

All meetings are scheduled for 1:30-3:30 pm ET / 12:30 - 2:30 pm CT and will be conducted in-person with a virtual option.

Board Membership Travel Reimbursement Information

Per the By-Laws of the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, Article III, Section 2, Members of the Board and non-members serving on committees or workgroups, shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with their duties in accordance with state travel expenses and reimbursement administrative regulation.

Regulation and Travel Expense and Reimbursement: The reimbursement rate is determined using the American Automobile Association (AAA) Daily Fuel Gauge Report for Kentucky for regular unleaded gasoline. The gasoline cost used for the calculation is located on the AAA website at http://gasprices.aaa.com/?state=KY.

The rate shall be adjusted on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 each calendar year based on the average retail price of regular grade gasoline for the week beginning on the second Sunday of the prior month as follows:

	AAA Average Weekly Fuel Cost	Reimbursement Per Mile
a.	$ .01 to $1.499	36 cents per mile
b.	$1.50 to $1.699	37 cents per mile
c.	$1.70 to $1.899	38 cents per mile
d.	$1.90 to $2.099	39 cents per mile
e.	$2.10 to $2.299	40 cents per mile
f.	Greater than $2.299	41 cents plus 1 cent for every 20 cent increase

Mileage for in-state travel shall be based on the "Kentucky Official Highway Map", MapQuest website, Google Maps website, or similar web mapping service. Out-of-state mileage shall be based on the most recent edition of the "Rand McNally Road Atlas", MapQuest website, Google Maps website, or similar web mapping service.

Current rate through December 31, 2026, is $0.49/ mile.

Education and Labor's financial office requires board members to create a vendor account on: https://vss.ky.gov This allows for direct deposit, after the event has occurred, and "voucher" paperwork has been submitted and approved.

If you will follow the prompts in the link and then let KWIB staff know what your "vendor number" is, KWIB staff can set up the "voucher" that will calculate your reimbursable expense and prompt the process for payment. Email kwib.projects@ky.gov for more information or questions.

Futuriti
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Commonwealth Education Continuum



Futuriti helps Kentuckians understand the state's 5 high-demand workforce sectors.

Kentucky's in-demand career sectors offer many opportunities to build rewarding careers while supporting the state's growing economy. These sectors, approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, provide stability and growth and allow you to make meaningful contributions to your community.

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Healthcare

Healthcare practitioners and healthcare support workers play vital roles in maintaining and improving people's health. Practitioners, such as doctors and nurses, diagnose, treat, and manage illnesses, while support workers assist with daily care, administrative tasks, and patient comfort.

Manufacturing and Logistics

Workers in manufacturing build and assemble goods, from cars and electronics to clothing and food products, often using advanced machinery and technology. Logistics professionals prioritize and manage the supply chain, ensuring that materials are transported efficiently.

Construction

Construction careers contribute to all aspects of Kentucky life, from building homes and schools to developing roads and bridges. With opportunities ranging from entry-level positions to skilled trades and leadership roles, the industry offers a clear pathway for growth and specialization.

Education

Education careers require patience, creativity, and strong communication skills to engage learners and guide them toward success. Beyond the classroom, education offers opportunities in curriculum development, educational technology, and administration, providing numerous paths.

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

Professionals in these fields may specialize in designing cutting-edge technology, conducting scientific research, managing finances, or offering legal and business advice. These roles require knowledge, analytical thinking, and a commitment to staying ahead of industry trends.

Kentucky Career Center
Career Training Employer

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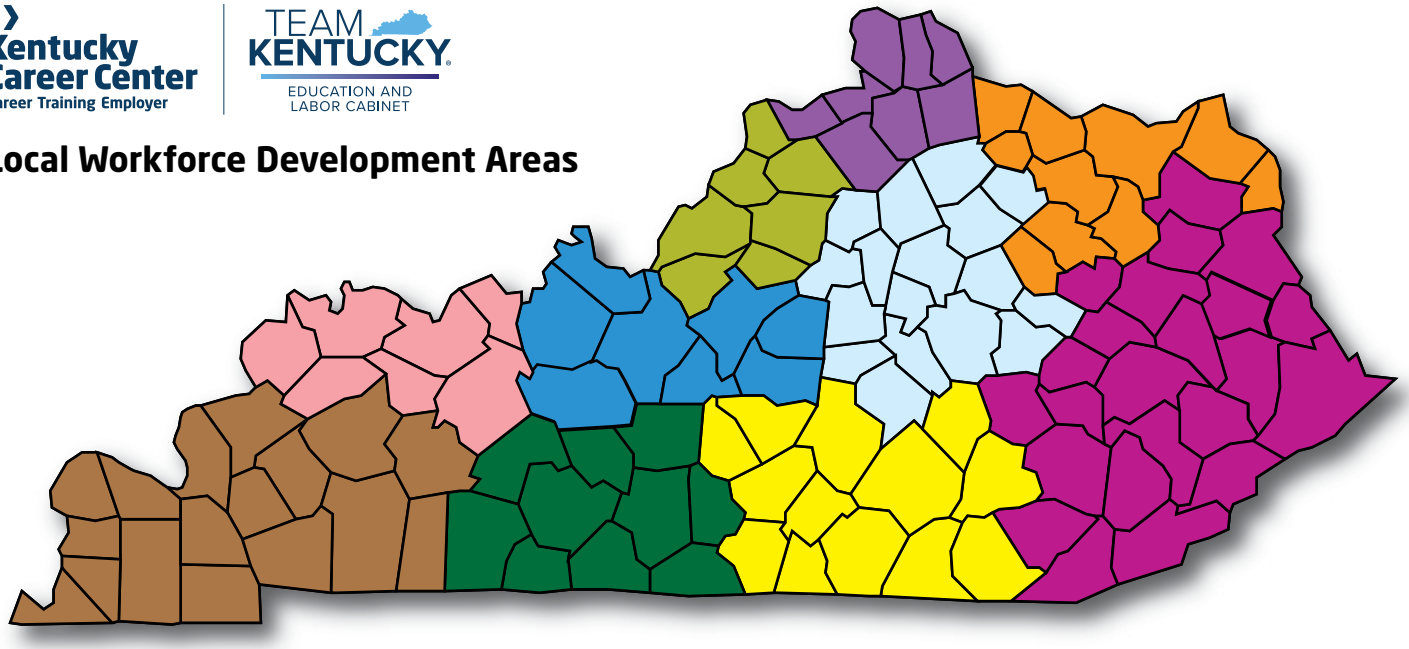
EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

Local Workforce Development Areas



Bluegrass
Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Woodford
Tiffanie Reeves, Director
699 Perimeter Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40517
859-810-2536
ckycareers.com
treeves@bgadd.org

Cumberlands
Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne, Whitley
Myra Wilson, Director
PO Box 1570
Russell Springs, Kentucky 42642
270-866-4200
cumberlandsworkforce.com
myra@lcadd.org

EKCEP
Bell, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Wolfe
Becky Carnes-Miller, Director
145 Citizens Ln, Ste 101
Hazard 41701
606-436-5751
jobsight.org
bmiller@ekcep.org

Green River
Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, Webster
Michelle Drake, Director
3108 Fairview Drive
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303
270-852-1312
gradd.com
michelle.drake@ky.gov

KentuckianaWorks
Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble
Michael Gritton, Director
410 West Chestnut Street, Suite 200
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
502-574-2500
kentuckianaworks.org
michael.gritton@kentuckianaworks.org

Lincoln Trail
Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Washington
Jackie Masterson, Interim Director
PO Box 604
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42702
270-769-2393
ltcareercenter.org
jackie@ltadd.org

Northern Kentucky
Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen, Pendleton
Correy Eimer, Director
22 Spiral Drive
Florence, Kentucky 41042
859-488-1854
nkcareercenter.org
correy.eimer@nkadd.org

South Central
Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, Warren
Jon Sowards, President/CEO
2355 Nashville Road, Suite C101
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101
270-846-6707
southcentralworkforce.com
jon@southcentralworkforce.com

TENCO
Bath, Boyd, Bracken, Fleming, Greenup, Lewis, Mason, Montgomery, Robertson, Rowan
Justin Suttles, Director
201 Government Street, Suite 300
Maysville, Kentucky 41056
606-956-2634
tencocareercenter.com
justin.suttles@ky.gov

West Kentucky
Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg
Sheila Clark, Director
300 Hammond Drive
Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42240
270-886-9484
wkworkforce.work
sheila.clark@ky.gov

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EDUCATION
Align and build a lifelong education system to meet the future of work

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Shape a business-led workforce system

COORDINATION & ROI
Consistently improve the system and increase return on workforce investment

Business and community leaders, educators, and government professionals interested in serving, email us at kwib.projects@ky.gov.

Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601
kwib.ky.gov

Kentucky WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD