

Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16th, 2026

Meeting 1:30 pm-3:30 pm EST (1 pm Networking)

IN-PERSON - 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY: 4th floor Conference Room
Via Zoom Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS:

GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR (PROXY: SECRETARY JOHN HICKS)	GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY	
SECRETARY JEFF NOEL (PROXY: KRISTINA SLATTERY)	CABINET FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	X
SECRETARY JAMIE LINK (PROXY: MIKE YODER)	EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET	X
SECRETARY STEVEN STACK, MD (PROXY: TABAN HERRINGTON)	CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES	X
SECRETARY KEITH JACKSON (PROXY: NATALIE BURIKHANOV)	JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET	X
JUDGE ORBREY GRITTON	ANDERSON COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE	X
MYRA WILSON (PROXY: JON SOWARDS)	LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	X
MYKAL LESLIE (PROXY: JOHNNY W. COLLETT)	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE	X
RYAN QUARLES (PROXY: EMILY SAYERS)	KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (KCTCS)	X
LORI ULRICH, CHAIR	KENTUCKY WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD	X
AMANDA CURRY (PROXY: NICK HAW)	JOB CORPS	
CHRIS WOOLDRIDGE	CPE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS, MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY	
COMMISSIONER ROBBIE FLETCHER (PROXY: BETH HARGIS)	KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	X
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVEN BULLARD	KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON MILITARY AFFAIRS	
ASHLI WATTS (PROXY: LAKISHA MILLER)	KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	X
WINSTON MILLER (PROXY: ELERI GESLER)	KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION	
AARON THOMPSON (PROXY: LESLIE SIZEMORE)	COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION	X
TOM UNDERWOOD	KENTUCKY NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS	

ATTENDEES: Emily Abramson, Matt Berry, Michelle Drake, Matteo Ferrantelli, Cissy Fox, Misael Galdamez, Aveana Jackson, Becky Miller, Kevin Middleton, Alexander Ruder, Tom Thompson, Becki Wells

STAFF: Alisher Burikhanov, Debbie Dennison, LaChrista Ellis, Elishah Taylor

1:30 pm CALL TO ORDER

The Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative Board meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. Roll call was conducted, and those in attendance are listed above.

Welcome and Overview

Commissioner Mike Yoder, Ph.D., Department of Workforce Development, Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet (ELC), welcomed members and thanked participants for their continued engagement and collaboration. He emphasized the importance of alignment among Kentucky's education, workforce, and economic development partners, that include employers.

He reviewed the meeting agenda and provided an overview of the items scheduled for discussion.

2026 Education & Workforce Collaborative Self-Sufficiency Report

Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB), provided an overview of the [2026 Self-Sufficiency Report](#), which was developed in accordance with the [Executive Order](#) establishing the Education and Workforce Collaborative. The report examines wages and the income levels necessary for Kentuckians to achieve self-sufficiency.

The report incorporates information from multiple data sources and methodologies to provide a comprehensive view of self-sufficiency, including:

- [The Living Wage Institute/MIT Living Wage Calculator](#);
- [United Way's ALICE \(Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed\) framework](#);
- [Kentucky Center for Statistics \(KYSTATS\) occupational wage data](#); and
- [Benefits cliff analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta](#).

The presentation noted that the various methodologies generally indicate that a sustainable wage for a single individual in Kentucky falls within an approximate range of **\$20 to \$23 per hour**. The report also examines county-level, workforce development area, metropolitan, and micropolitan data.

Misael Galdámez, Data Manager, Living Wage Institute, shared the methodology behind the MIT Living Wage Calculator. The model examines costs across all U.S. counties and considers different household compositions. Major cost components include childcare, food, healthcare, housing, internet and mobile access, transportation, other household expenses, and taxes.

Mr. Galdámez emphasized that the Living Wage Calculator is intended to provide locally relevant information and that different self-sufficiency models serve different purposes. He noted that the various approaches complement one another and collectively provide a more complete picture of the financial challenges facing working families.

Kevin Middleton, President, United Way of Kentucky, discussed the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) framework and its application to Kentucky. The ALICE model examines both a [household survival budget](#), representing the bare minimum needed to get by, and a [household stability budget](#), representing a more sustainable level of financial security.

Mr. Middleton's presentation highlighted that approximately 43% of Kentucky households were below the ALICE survival threshold based on the most recent data discussed. ALICE data is available at the state, county, and ZIP-code levels and can be used by employers, policymakers, workforce organizations, and community partners to better understand the financial challenges facing Kentucky families.

The group discussed the importance of considering households with children, childcare expenses, and older adults.

Alexander Ruder, Assistant Vice President at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, provided an overview of benefits cliffs and the Federal Reserve's workforce-development-focused research and tools. Mr. Ruder explained that benefits cliffs can occur when an individual's increased earnings result in a loss or reduction of public benefits, potentially leaving the individual with fewer net resources despite earning more. He emphasized the importance of considering benefits cliffs when developing career pathways and providing career coaching.

The Federal Reserve's tools can be used to:

- Increase awareness of benefits cliffs;
- Assess the impact of career pathways and in-demand occupations;
- Support individualized career coaching; and
- Analyze potential policy changes.

Participants discussed the importance of using multiple data sources and perspectives when evaluating self-sufficiency, noting the connection between education, short-term credentials, career pathways, and access to higher-paying employment.

The group also discussed Kentucky's efforts to increase wage requirements associated with economic development incentives, with current incentive projects averaging approximately \$32 per hour compared with a target of \$29 per hour before benefits.

A ***motion was made*** by Kristina Slattery to approve the 2026 Education & Workforce Collaborative Self-Sufficiency Report, and ***seconded*** by Leslie Sizemore, with no further discussion. Stakeholders may use the report to inform workforce and economic development efforts, and the self-sufficiency analysis will be revisited in 2028 in accordance with the Executive Order.

Kentucky Workforce Development Updates

Workforce Pell

The framework for [Kentucky's Workforce Pell program](#) became effective July 1, 2026.

The program provides an opportunity for eligible individuals to pursue short-term credentials connected to in-demand, high-wage, or high-skill occupations. Eligible programs are generally 8 to 14 weeks in length and are designed to result in credentials that are stackable and portable. Programs must demonstrate a minimum 70% completion rate and a minimum 70% job placement rate.

Applications are being accepted from eligible higher education institutions and training providers. The program is intended to expand access to short-term, industry-relevant credentials and create pathways to additional education and career advancement. Members discussed the importance of making Workforce Pell available to individuals through partner agencies and helping students navigate the FAFSA process when required for grant eligibility.

KWIB Strategic Plan

The [KWIB Strategic Plan](#) was adopted at the previous KWIB meeting and extends through 2029. The plan is organized around four primary goals:

- **Education** – Expand work-based learning, strengthen the teacher pipeline, and increase access to and achievement in education for all Kentuckians.
- **Employer Engagement** – Increase employer participation in talent development, expand apprenticeships and work-based learning, and broaden talent pools.
- **Workforce Participation** – Address barriers to employment and upskilling and place workers at the center of workforce development efforts.
- **Coordination and Return on Investment (ROI)** – Improve coordination across workforce partners, demonstrate the value of workforce investments, and align education and training supply with employer demand.

Discussions included the importance of paid work-based learning opportunities. **Leslie Sizemore, Vice President, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)** shared that recent research found that students participating in work-based learning demonstrate stronger essential skills and greater retention and longevity with employers. Additional research and technical assistance resources for employers are expected to be released by CPE soon.

Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT)

The [Statewide Workforce and Talent Team \(SWATT\)](#) is focused on local integration. A retreat is planned for team members to come together and work through identified needs and develop tools, processes, procedures, and resources to support a more consistently, integrated workforce system.

The goal is to develop a practical playbook that can be used by state and local partners to improve coordination and service delivery.

Kentucky Reentry Campus

Natalie Burikhanov, Executive Director, Team Kentucky Office of Reentry Services, provided updates regarding Kentucky's reentry efforts and the development of a Kentucky Reentry Campus. She shared successes in work being done on [Second Chance](#) initiatives and in the signing of HB5. The discussion emphasized the importance of connecting individuals exiting incarceration and returning to communities with education, workforce training, employment, and supportive services to improve successful reentry and long-term employment outcomes.

A [video from the Jobs on Day One initiative](#) focused on investing in skilled trades pre-apprenticeship programs was shared, featuring the Ironworkers Local 70.

Serve Kentucky

Taban Harrington, Chief of Staff, Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) shared the opportunities found within [Serve Kentucky](#). She highlighted the role that service and volunteerism provide in supporting workforce development and community engagement. She also discussed the connection between workforce development and public assistance programs and the importance of transitioning individuals toward self-sufficiency and reducing reliance on public assistance.

Members were encouraged to continue identifying opportunities to connect service activities with workforce and education initiatives.

Jon Sowards, South Central Kentucky Workforce Development Board shared resources related to workforce and education that are being highlighted in their region, including [The Language Gap](#) and [Lightcast's "The Rising Storm"](#) report.

Becky Miller, Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) announced that Kentucky will host the [SETA conference](#) for eight southeastern states at the Omni in Louisville. Members were encouraged to register and participate.

2026 State of the Workforce Funding Report

Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director, KWIB, provided an overview of the upcoming 2026 State of the Workforce Funding Report.

The previous report identified approximately:

- 565 workforce funding streams;
- \$2.8 billion in workforce funding;
- Approximately 186,000 individuals served; and
- An average wage of approximately \$21.31 per hour.

The 2025 State of the Workforce Funding Report can be [found here](#).

The Collaborative will collect updated information for **Program Year 2025 (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026)**, including funding streams, expenditures, individuals served, job placements, and associated hourly wages. To support the development and timely completion of the report, the following action items and deadlines were identified:

- Partner agencies will receive requests for updated workforce funding information.
- Agencies should provide requested information within the approximately one-month turnaround period.
- Agency performance updates are due by **August 21, 2026**.
- The information will be used to demonstrate the return on investment (ROI) of workforce development programs and support future workforce policy and funding discussions.

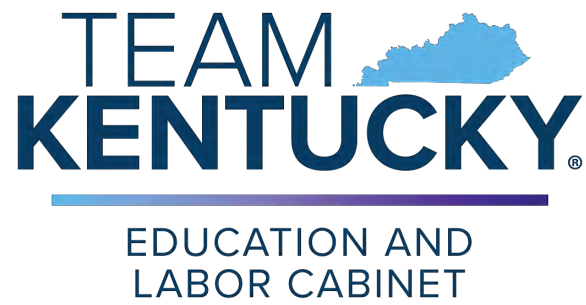
Commissioner Yoder and members emphasized the importance of continuing collaboration beyond the formal meetings of the Education and Workforce Collaborative. Members were encouraged to maintain communication with one another and identify opportunities to align resources, programs, and services. The meeting concluded with appreciation for the participation and continued partnership of members and stakeholders.

Upcoming Dates

Next Collaborative Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2026

Location: 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky

3:30pm Adjournment



Kentucky Education & Workforce Collaborative Board
Meeting Briefing Book

July 16, 2026

1:30 – 3:30 pm ET

Location: 412 NC, Fourth Floor Conference Room
500 Mero St. Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

This page is intentionally left blank

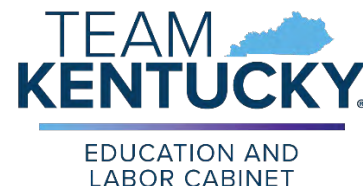


Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative Meeting

July 16, 2026, 1:30-3:30 pm ET

Table of Contents

	Page
Agenda	4
Meeting Minutes	6
2026 Self-Sufficiency Report	8
Workforce Pell	38
KWIB Strategic Plan	40
Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT)	42
Kentucky Reentry Campus	45
Serve Kentucky	48
2026 State of the Workforce Funding Report	55
Appendix	
State of the Workforce Funding Report 2025	58
Public Workforce System	62
Career Development Office	64
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation	65
Adult Education	66
Workforce Talent Project Team	67
Office of Industry and Apprenticeship Services	68
Kentucky Employers	69



Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Meeting 1:30 pm-3:30 pm ET (1 pm Networking)

IN-PERSON - 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY: 4th floor Conference Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81033281075?pwd=LDIxQlF06t37r5KQYFqhV2OJlUmiwL.1>

Meeting ID: 810 3328 1075

Passcode: 768495

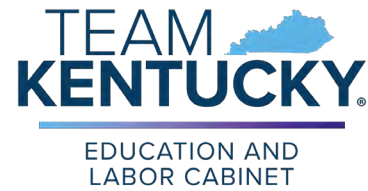
-
- 1:30 pm **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 1:35 pm **Roll Call**.....LaChrista Ellis
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
- 1:40 pm **Welcome**.....Mike Yoder, PhD.
Commissioner, Department of Workforce Development
Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet (ELC)
- 1:45 pm **Overview: Education & Workforce Collaborative - 2026 Self-Sufficiency Report**..... Alisher Burikhanov
Executive Director, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
- 2:30 pm **(Voting Item) Education & Workforce Collaborative - 2026 Self-Sufficiency Report**.....Mike Yoder, Commissioner
- 2:35 pm **Kentucky Workforce Development Updates**.....Mike Yoder, Commissioner
- Workforce Pell
 - KWIB Strategic Plan
 - Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT)
 - Kentucky Reentry Campus
 - Serve Kentucky
- 3:00 pm **Request: 2026 State of the Workforce Funding Report**..... Alisher Burikhanov
- Agency Performance Updates Due: 8/21

3:15 pm Collaborative Discussion and Workforce Development Opportunities..... Mike Yoder, Commissioner

3:25 pm Closing Comments – Upcoming Dates

Next Meeting: October 15, 2026 @ 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601

3:30 pm Adjournment



Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday, April 16th, 2026

Meeting 1:30pm-3:30pm ET (1pm Networking)

VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON

ATTENDEES:

GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR	GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY	
SECRETARY JEFF NOEL (PROXY: KRISTINA SLATTERY)	CABINET FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	X
SECRETARY JAMIE LINK (COMMISSIONER MIKE YODER)	EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET	X
SECRETARY STEVEN STACK, MD (PROXY: TABAN HERRINGTON)	CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES	X
SECRETARY KEITH JACKSON (PROXY: NATALIE BURIKHANOV)	JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET	X
JUDGE ORBREY GRITTON	ANDERSON COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE	
MYRA WILSON	LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	X
DR. MYKAL LESLIE (JOHNNY W. COLLETT)	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE	X
DR. RYAN QUARLES	KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (KCTCS)	
LORI ULRICH	KENTUCKY WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD CHAIR	X
AMANDA CURRY	JOB CORPS	X
CHRIS WOOLDRIDGE	CPE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS, MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY	X
COMMISSIONER ROBBIE FLETCHER	KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	X
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVEN BULLARD	KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON MILITARY AFFAIRS	
ASHLI WATTS (PROXY: CALLIE MIRACLE)	KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	X
WINSTON MILLER (PROXY: ELERI GESLER)	KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION	X
DR. AARON THOMPSON	COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION	
TOM UNDERWOOD	KENTUCKY NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS	

GUESTS: Rocky Adkins, David Potter, Kim Brannock, Amanda Houle, JH Atkins, Jim Flynn, Tiffanie Reeves, Jess Fortner, George Nichols, Michael Overby, Elizabeth Daniels, Leslie Sandusky, Jacqueline Korengel, Becki Wells, Cathy Hoehn, Susan Cornelius, Cassie Bertram, Sheila Clark, Todd Blanton, Michelle Whitis, Kevin Middleton, Sara Tracey, Jackie Masterson, Tara Estes, Tonia Godfrey, Joe Copeland, Tom Thompson, Dianne Owen, Connor Campbell, Anissa Franklin, Bridget Back, Michelle Drake, Kim Menke, William Downey, Jim Flynn, Tom Lilienthal, Kevin Smith, Kevin Middleton, George Nichols, Jessica Fortne, Jon Sowards, Beckie Wells, Justin Suttles

STAFF: Alisher Burikhanov, Debbie Dennison, Elishah Taylor, LaChrista Ellis

The Education and Workforce Collaborative (Collaborative) members participated in the discussions held within the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) quarterly meeting. Minutes for that meeting can be found [here](#). Upon adjournment of the KWIB meeting, the Collaborative meeting officially conducted its business as follows:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER 3:20 PM

The Education and Workforce Collaborative meeting was called to order. Roll call was conducted, and **Mike Yoder, Ph.D., Commissioner, Department of Workforce Development, Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet (ELC)**, thanked members, guests, and workforce partners for their participation.

Next Meeting: July 16th, 2026, 1:30 PM, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601 (IN-Person and Virtual)

ADJOURNMENT 3:22 PM

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

Self-Sufficiency Report

Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative

2026 Self-Sufficiency Report

Background

[Executive Order 2020-551](#) established the Education and Workforce Collaborative and assigned it a set of specific deliverables to strengthen the commonwealth's workforce development system. Section VIII directs the Collaborative to conduct a Self-Sufficiency and Benefit Cliff Analysis, an examination of the income thresholds at which Kentucky workers achieve financial stability and the barriers created when rising wages trigger sudden loss of public benefits.

This report fulfills Section VIII mandate. It draws on three primary sources: the 2026 Living Wage Index Benchmark Series published by the Living Wage Institute; the 2025 State of ALICE Report (United Way of Kentucky, 2023); and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Policy Rules Database Dashboard tool, which provides a nationally validated framework for modeling benefit cliffs.

Section VIII of the order specifically requires the Collaborative to assess the self-sufficiency standards for households of various compositions and must reflect what is needed to adequately meet the basic needs of Kentucky citizens in representative regions of the state absent public or private assistance. It is also required to have the ability to analyze the benefit cliff with regard to individuals who are receiving state assisted benefits in comparison to the determined self-sufficiency wage via the private sector.

Executive Summary

As this report provides wages for the commonwealth and then reviews the benefit cliffs that many Kentuckians face, it is important to highlight the wages that stand out. The hourly living wage for the entire state is \$20.21/hr. for a single Kentuckian (*Living Wage Institute, 2026*). The stability budget as described in the ALICE report is \$22.99/hr. for a single Kentuckians (*United for ALICE, 2025*). The benefit cliffs that are modeled for Lee County (most hardship) and Oldham County (least hardship) for single Kentuckians amount to \$44,000 annual salary as the point where all public assistance programs are phased out. That annual salary at an hourly rate is roughly \$21.50/hr.

Moreover, part of the workforce development definition of a high-wage occupation is whether the occupation exceeds Kentuckians median occupational wage, which is \$22.99/hr. The definition of high-wage occupations impacts investments in training, education, and career coaching across the continuum of education and workforce development.

The conclusion that can be drawn from this report is that a sustainable living wage in the commonwealth would be anything higher than \$20-\$23/hr.

Section I: Living Wage Index by Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA)

The 2026 Living Wage Index Benchmark Series (Living Wage Institute) provides county- and LWDA-level estimates that a full-time worker requires on an hourly basis to cover the costs of their family's basic needs where they live without relying on additional private or public assistance the hourly wage. The estimates are modeled into two family types: a single working adult with no children (1A0C), and a two-adult household with three children (2A3C).

Furthermore, the cost components are based on collected data on the cost of basic needs for each family type. Eight basic needs are incorporated: childcare, civic engagement, food, healthcare, housing, internet and mobile, transportation, and other necessities that offer a minimum but adequate standard of living without reliance on public assistance. Together, these eight basic needs make up the underlying cost components of the living wage. The full breakdown of the calculation for the 2026 *Living Wage Benchmark Series* can be found in the [Technical Documentation](#).

2026 Living Wage Benchmarks – Kentucky

Statewide	Family Size	Family Description	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
Kentucky	1	One working adult with no children	\$20.21	\$42,040
Kentucky	5	Two working adults with three children	\$28.06	\$116,742

Local Workforce Development Area	Family Size	Family Description	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
KentuckianaWorks	1	One working adult with no children	\$21.51	\$44,744
Northern Kentucky	1	One working adult with no children	\$21.14	\$43,969
Lincoln Trail	1	One working adult with no children	\$20.22	\$42,058
South Central	1	One working adult with no children	\$20.01	\$41,627
Green River	1	One working adult with no children	\$19.93	\$41,448
Bluegrass	1	One working adult with no children	\$19.81	\$41,207
West Kentucky	1	One working adult with no children	\$19.60	\$40,772
TENCO	1	One working adult with no children	\$19.37	\$40,285
Cumberlands	1	One working adult with no children	\$18.69	\$38,869
EKCEP	1	One working adult with no children	\$18.63	\$38,742

Local Workforce Development Area	Family Size	Family Description	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
Northern Kentucky	5	Two working adults with three children	\$30.94	\$128,699
KentuckianaWorks	5	Two working adults with three children	\$30.27	\$125,935
Bluegrass	5	Two working adults with three children	\$28.61	\$119,014
Lincoln Trail	5	Two working adults with three children	\$27.52	\$114,501
Green River	5	Two working adults with three children	\$26.59	\$110,618
South Central	5	Two working adults with three children	\$26.57	\$110,524
West Kentucky	5	Two working adults with three children	\$25.80	\$107,328
TENCO	5	Two working adults with three children	\$25.35	\$105,471
EKCEP	5	Two working adults with three children	\$24.94	\$103,767
Cumberlands	5	Two working adults with three children	\$24.04	\$100,028

Source: [Living Wage Institute, Inc.](#) “Living Wage Benchmark Series”, 2026

Breakdown of county level and statistical area benchmarks for Kentucky can be found in Appendix A and B of this report.

Section II: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Framework

The ALICE framework, “Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed,” was developed by United Way and is supported in Kentucky by the United Way of Kentucky. It provides a more complete picture of financial hardship than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) alone.

This ALICE framework provides a comprehensive look at the population called ALICE, households that have income above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but struggle to afford household basics. Two pillars of the ALICE measures are household costs and income. The ALICE Household Survival Budget calculates the cost of household essentials for each county in Kentucky and relies on a wide range of public data sources for the budget items of housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare, and technology, plus taxes and cost overruns estimated at 10% of the budget. Household Survival Budgets are calculated at the county level, as counties are the smallest jurisdiction for which there is reliable data across the country. Household costs are compared to income to determine if households are below the ALICE Threshold. This

category includes both households in poverty, with income below the FPL, and those that are ALICE, with income above the FPL but below the cost of basics.

ALICE Household Survival Budget – ALICE in Kentucky

Name	Single Adult	One Adult One Child	One Adult One Childcare	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults Two Childcare	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing	\$664	\$729	\$729	\$729	\$912	\$912	\$664	\$729
Childcare	\$0	\$248	\$661	\$0	\$496	\$1,380	\$0	\$0
Food	\$423	\$715	\$642	\$775	\$1,300	\$1,147	\$389	\$713
Transportation	\$422	\$557	\$557	\$662	\$950	\$950	\$352	\$522
Healthcare	\$175	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$668	\$668	\$531	\$1,061
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$86	\$116	\$116	\$116	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$177	\$277	\$311	\$271	\$444	\$517	\$202	\$314
Taxes	\$305	\$268	\$352	\$408	\$400	\$585	\$369	\$666
Monthly Total	\$2,252	\$3,311	\$3,769	\$3,392	\$5,286	\$6,275	\$2,593	\$4,121
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$27,024	\$39,732	\$45,228	\$40,704	\$63,432	\$75,300	\$31,116	\$49,452
Hourly Wage	\$13.51	\$19.87	\$22.61	\$20.35	\$31.72	\$37.65	\$15.56	\$24.73

Source: ALICE Household Survival Budget, 2023

The ALICE Household Stability Budget incorporates the higher costs for maintaining a more financially stable household overtime, including a 10% savings category that can be used in an emergency or for longer-term goals like additional education or buying a home.

ALICE Household Stability Budget – Kentucky

Name	Single Adult	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults Two Childcare
Housing	\$910	\$1,141	\$1,336	\$1,336
Childcare	\$0	\$0	\$569	\$1,602
Food	\$654	\$1,219	\$2,218	\$1,890
Transportation	\$885	\$1,122	\$1,534	\$1,534
Healthcare	\$193	\$467	\$740	\$740
Technology	\$86	\$116	\$116	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$273	\$407	\$651	\$722
Savings	\$273	\$407	\$651	\$722
Taxes	\$557	\$743	\$945	\$1,129
Monthly Total	\$3,831	\$5,622	\$8,760	\$9,791
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$45,972	\$67,464	\$105,120	\$117,492
Hourly Wage	\$22.99	\$33.73	\$52.56	\$58.75

Source: ALICE Household Stability Budget, 2023

Key findings from the [State of ALICE in Kentucky](#) report finds that for Kentucky's 1,808,144 households in 2023, 17% earned below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and 28% were ALICE, households that earned above the FPL, but not enough to afford the ALICE Household Survival Budget for their household composition and location. Combining these two groups, 44% of households in Kentucky were below the ALICE Threshold. In Kentucky, average basic costs in the ALICE Household Survival Budget were \$27,024 for a single adult and \$75,300 for a family of four with two adults and two children in childcare, much higher than the FPL (\$14,580 for an individual and \$30,000 for a family of four).

Regarding public assistance, programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Care Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid and CHIP, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provide a critical safety net for households below the ALICE Threshold. Yet public assistance does not reach all households in need. For example, only 43% of all Kentucky households in poverty and 15% of all ALICE households participated in SNAP in 2023 (*ALICE in Kentucky: A Study of Financial Hardship 2025 Report*).

Section III: Benefit Cliffs

Benefit cliffs occur when increased wages lead to a reduction in governmental social benefits, resulting in a net loss for families. The cliff effect occurs when a worker's wage increase pushes household income above an eligibility threshold for public assistance, triggering loss of benefits whose combined value can exceed the wage gains, leaving the worker financially worse off for having earned more.

To demonstrate the impact of benefit cliffs, this report adopts the framework developed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Moreover, the graphics used below are from Atlanta Fed's Policy Rules Database (PRD) which has a repository of federal, state, and local public assistance program rules integrated into a single database.

The PRD integrates the eligibility rules for 12 public assistance programs and multiple tax credits. Its minimum household budget baseline is directly drawn from the ALICE Household Survival Budget creating an alignment between the ALICE self-sufficiency framework and the benefit cliff analysis. For Kentucky, the PRD covers both federal program rules and Kentucky-specific state variations.

According to ALICE, the below three counties are in face the biggest hardship in the commonwealth:

- Lee County, 2,606 households or 75% of households are below ALICE threshold
- Wolfe County, 2,545 households or 73% of households are below ALICE threshold
- Fulton County, 2,494 household or 69% of households are below ALICE threshold

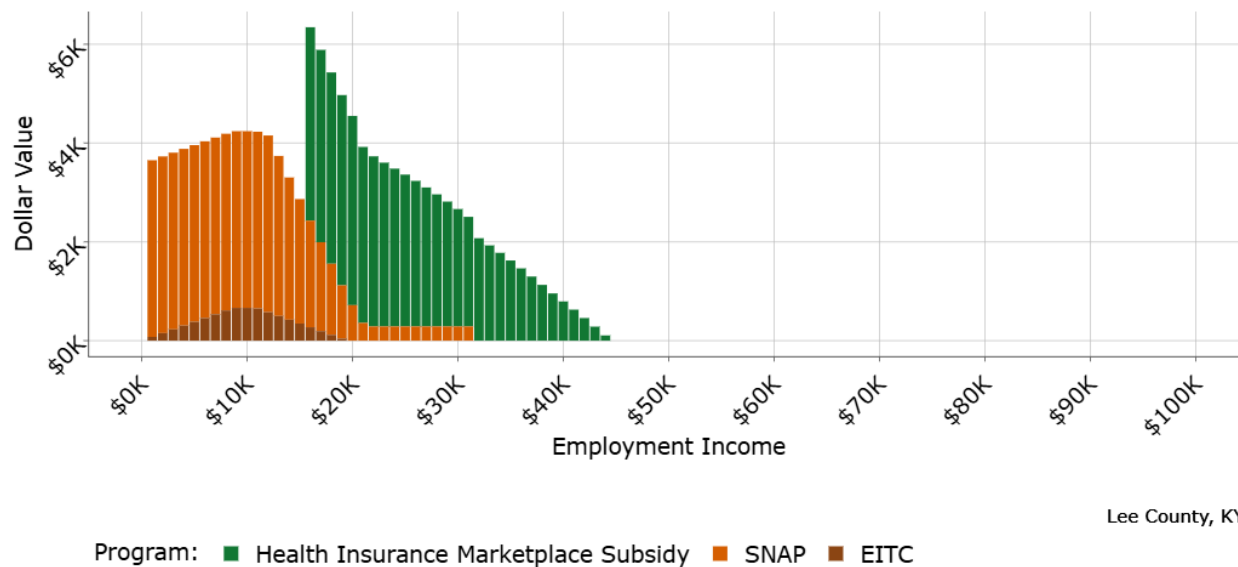
While these three counties have the lowest hardship in the commonwealth:

- Oldham County, 22,457 households or 25% of households are below ALICE threshold
- Spencer County, 7062 households or 31% of households are below ALICE threshold
- Campbell County, 40,425 households or 31% of households are below ALICE threshold

The charts below model benefit cliffs Lee County (most hardship) and Oldham County (least hardship) for single individual and for a family of five.

Lee County (single adult)

The charts below show the dollar value and composition of public assistance at different income levels. As income increases, the value of each selected public assistance program changes. For some programs, the value of public assistance gradually phases out, while for others the loss is sudden. At roughly \$44,000 annual income, all of the public assistance programs are phased out.



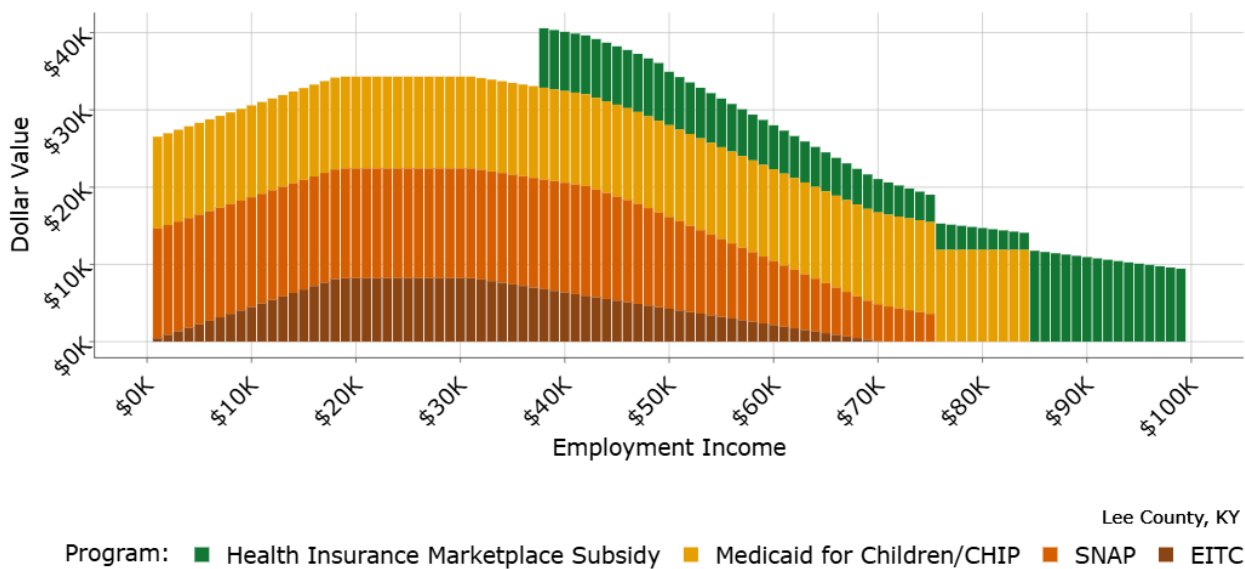
The second chart in shows how changes in income affect family net financial resources. As income increases, the programs shown in the chart above phase out. As a result, the net financial resources may flatten or even dip (reflecting a benefits cliff) as income increases. This effect is better illustrated in a household that is larger than one individual



At roughly an income of \$25,000, the single Lee County resident will be net positive.

Lee County (2 adults married, 3 children)

The situation is different when it's two adults with three children as benefits continue to be provided with a cliff occurring at \$84,000 with the loss of CHIP. However, even at \$100,000 income, public assistance programs (specifically the Health Insurance Marketplace Subsidy) are still available.

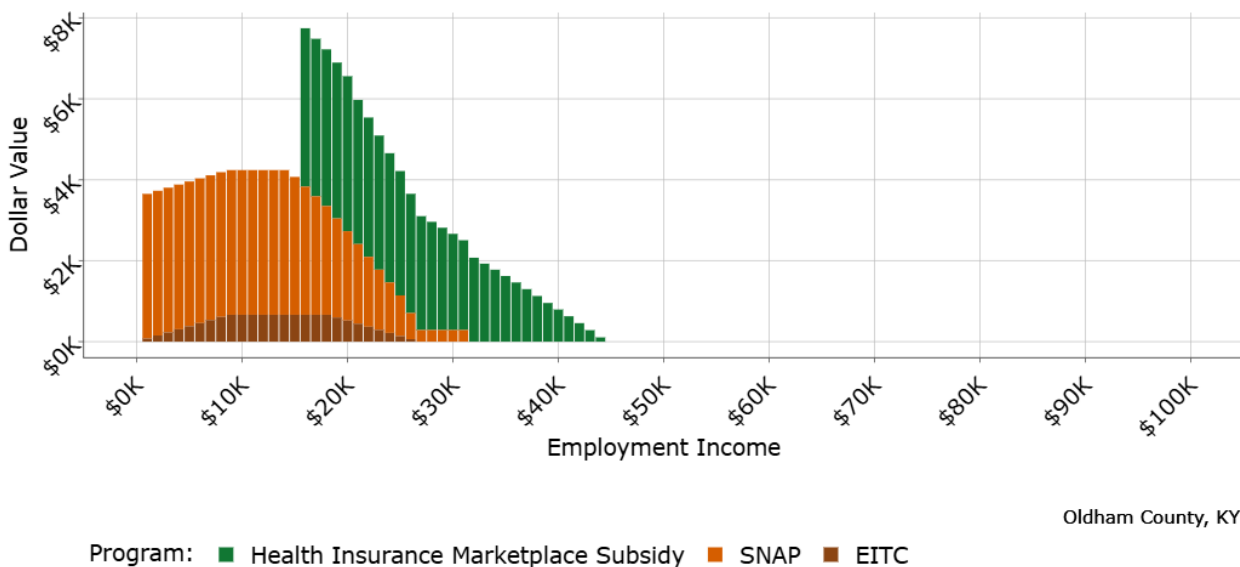


And since the charts limit income to \$100,000, this family of 5 does not see net positive in the modeled chart below. In fact, there is a plateau of net resources from \$38,000 to \$78,000 as increase in wages results in decrease in benefits resulting in no gains or losses.

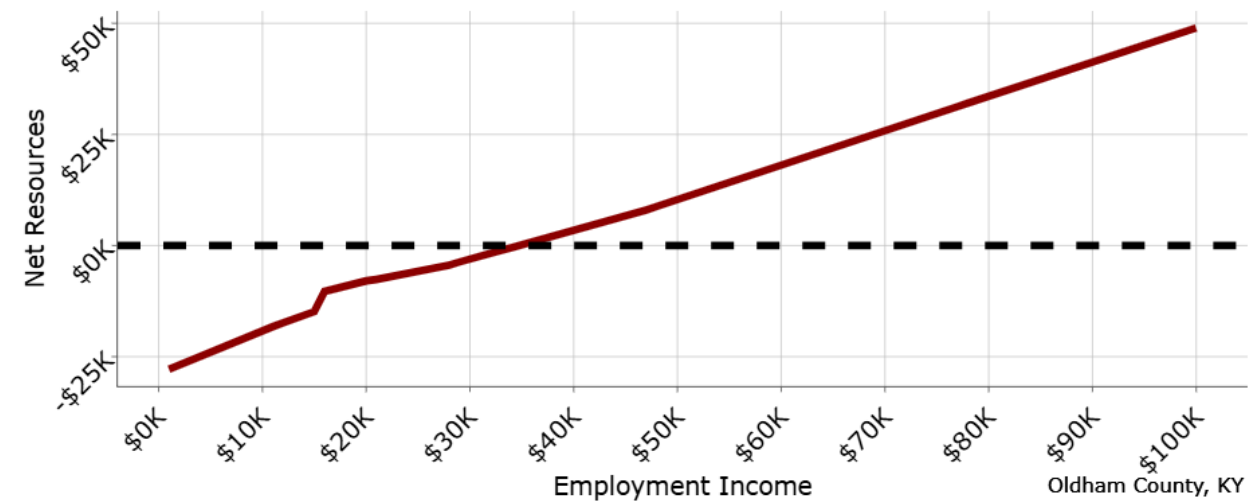


Oldham County (single adult)

Similar story is seen for a single adult in Oldham County. The charts below show the dollar value and composition of public assistance at different income levels. As income increases, the value of each selected public assistance program changes. For some programs, the value of public assistance gradually phases out, while for others the loss is sudden. At roughly \$44,000 annual income, all of the public assistance programs are phased out.

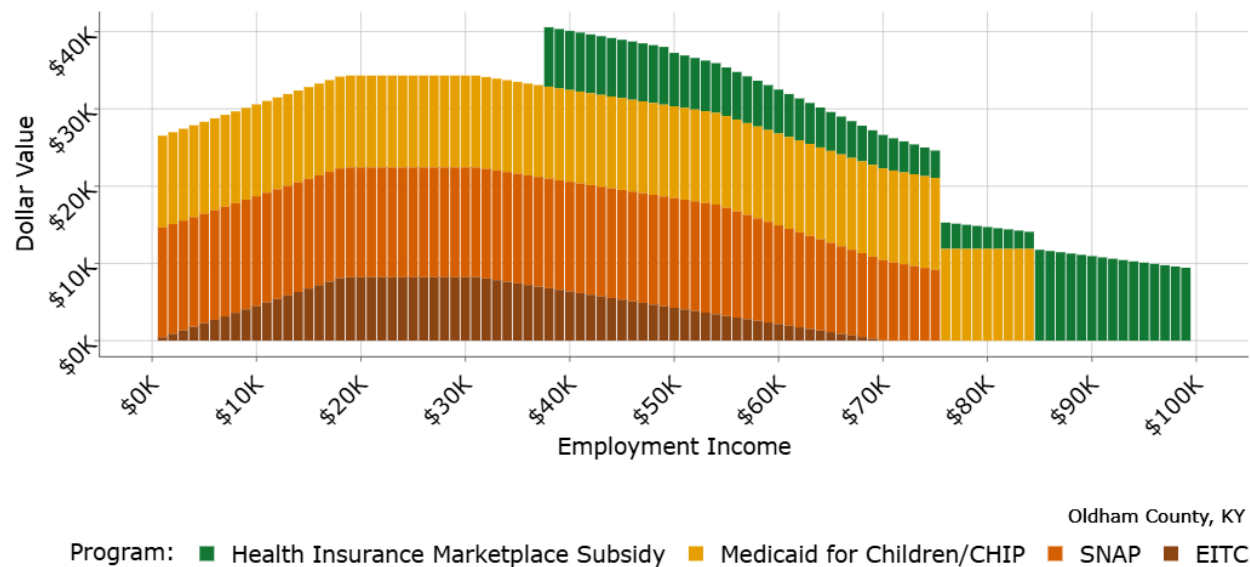


The second chart in shows how changes in income affect family net financial resources. As income increases, the programs shown in the chart above phase out. As a result, the net financial resources may flatten or even dip (reflecting a benefits cliff) as income increases. This effect is better illustrated in a household that is larger than one individual.



Oldham County (2 adults married, 3 children)

Similar to the charts for Lee County, Oldham County households face the same phase out of public assistance programs that result in plateau and benefit cliffs demonstrated in the two charts below.





Source: *The Policy Rules Database Dashboard*. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
<https://federalbankofatlanta-prd-dashboard.share.connect.posit.cloud/>

Sources Cited

1. Kentucky Executive Order 2020-551
<https://web.sos.ky.gov/execjournalimages/2020-MISC-2020-0551-268390.pdf>
2. [Living Wage Institute, Inc.](#). “Living Wage Benchmark Series”, 2026
3. ALICE in Kentucky: A Study of Financial Hardship 2025 Report
<https://unitedforalice.org/introducing-ALICE/Kentucky>
4. 'The Policy Rules Database.' Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.
Available at: <https://github.com/Research-Division/policy-rules-database.git>

APPENDIX

Appendix A – County-Level Living Wage Benchmark (2026)

Living Wage Institute, Inc. “Living Wage Benchmark Series”, 2026.

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Adair County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.94	\$39,401
2026	Adair County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.66	\$102,600
2026	Allen County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.58	\$42,796
2026	Allen County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.66	\$115,065
2026	Anderson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.98	\$41,551
2026	Anderson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.16	\$112,998
2026	Ballard County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.14	\$43,966
2026	Ballard County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.40	\$113,974
2026	Barren County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.82	\$39,147
2026	Barren County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.18	\$104,756
2026	Bath County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.16	\$39,849
2026	Bath County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.93	\$107,881
2026	Bell County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$17.94	\$37,325
2026	Bell County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$23.82	\$99,077
2026	Boone County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$22.66	\$47,140
2026	Boone County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$32.45	\$135,005
2026	Bourbon County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.98	\$39,477

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Bourbon County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.75	\$119,612
2026	Boyd County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.05	\$41,702
2026	Boyd County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.31	\$105,304
2026	Boyle County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.95	\$39,422
2026	Boyle County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.22	\$113,221
2026	Bracken County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.91	\$41,417
2026	Bracken County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.86	\$111,724
2026	Breathitt County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.41	\$38,299
2026	Breathitt County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.59	\$106,443
2026	Breckinridge County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.91	\$41,412
2026	Breckinridge County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.01	\$116,510
2026	Bullitt County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.26	\$44,215
2026	Bullitt County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.09	\$116,843
2026	Butler County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.68	\$40,929
2026	Butler County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.20	\$113,142
2026	Caldwell County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.11	\$39,752
2026	Caldwell County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.50	\$106,080
2026	Calloway County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.97	\$41,531
2026	Calloway County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.72	\$106,986

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Campbell County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.17	\$44,039
2026	Campbell County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$31.17	\$129,656
2026	Carlisle County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.46	\$40,481
2026	Carlisle County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.92	\$107,844
2026	Carroll County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.25	\$40,030
2026	Carroll County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.98	\$120,576
2026	Carter County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.04	\$41,680
2026	Carter County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.81	\$111,548
2026	Casey County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.78	\$39,056
2026	Casey County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$23.85	\$99,203
2026	Christian County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.35	\$44,406
2026	Christian County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.95	\$112,097
2026	Clark County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.89	\$41,379
2026	Clark County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.75	\$119,610
2026	Clay County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.07	\$39,668
2026	Clay County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.98	\$103,929
2026	Clinton County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.76	\$39,012
2026	Clinton County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$23.96	\$99,658
2026	Crittenden County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.24	\$40,019
2026	Crittenden County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.94	\$107,891

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Cumberland County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.44	\$38,364
2026	Cumberland County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.32	\$101,168
2026	Daviess County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.49	\$42,617
2026	Daviess County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.02	\$112,385
2026	Edmonson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.48	\$42,605
2026	Edmonson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.54	\$114,558
2026	Elliott County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.87	\$39,257
2026	Elliott County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.79	\$107,267
2026	Estill County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.23	\$40,008
2026	Estill County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.76	\$119,660
2026	Fayette County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.32	\$42,263
2026	Fayette County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$29.54	\$122,870
2026	Fleming County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.98	\$39,475
2026	Fleming County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.83	\$107,449
2026	Floyd County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.83	\$39,166
2026	Floyd County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.58	\$106,433
2026	Franklin County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.36	\$40,273
2026	Franklin County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.39	\$109,781
2026	Fulton County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.43	\$38,332
2026	Fulton County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.40	\$105,672
2026	Gallatin County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.04	\$41,680

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Gallatin County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$30.58	\$127,221
2026	Garrard County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.69	\$40,950
2026	Garrard County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$29.17	\$121,332
2026	Grant County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.49	\$42,627
2026	Grant County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$29.98	\$124,733
2026	Graves County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.77	\$39,035
2026	Graves County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.04	\$104,169
2026	Grayson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.66	\$40,903
2026	Grayson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.31	\$113,597
2026	Green County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.29	\$40,120
2026	Green County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.72	\$102,845
2026	Greenup County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.66	\$42,974
2026	Greenup County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.98	\$108,087
2026	Hancock County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.68	\$43,020
2026	Hancock County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.13	\$117,021
2026	Hardin County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.55	\$42,754
2026	Hardin County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.46	\$114,251
2026	Harlan County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.87	\$39,239
2026	Harlan County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.08	\$100,184
2026	Harrison County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.00	\$39,518

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Harrison County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$29.39	\$122,257
2026	Hart County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.99	\$39,509
2026	Hart County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.42	\$109,911
2026	Henderson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.38	\$40,304
2026	Henderson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.86	\$107,566
2026	Henry County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.87	\$43,416
2026	Henry County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.20	\$117,300
2026	Hickman County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.85	\$41,287
2026	Hickman County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.78	\$111,418
2026	Hopkins County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.40	\$40,342
2026	Hopkins County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.01	\$108,182
2026	Jackson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.51	\$38,511
2026	Jackson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.81	\$103,189
2026	Jefferson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.21	\$44,125
2026	Jefferson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$30.90	\$128,535
2026	Jessamine County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.49	\$42,629
2026	Jessamine County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$29.41	\$122,337
2026	Johnson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.39	\$38,242
2026	Johnson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.33	\$105,382

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Kenton County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.63	\$42,910
2026	Kenton County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$30.56	\$127,128
2026	Knott County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.54	\$38,566
2026	Knott County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.14	\$104,593
2026	Knox County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.38	\$38,240
2026	Knox County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$23.78	\$98,909
2026	Larue County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.49	\$42,629
2026	Larue County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.34	\$117,879
2026	Laurel County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.53	\$38,538
2026	Laurel County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.08	\$100,166
2026	Lawrence County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.16	\$39,863
2026	Lawrence County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.15	\$104,628
2026	Lee County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.86	\$39,230
2026	Lee County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.36	\$105,478
2026	Leslie County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.94	\$39,400
2026	Leslie County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.10	\$108,561
2026	Letcher County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.55	\$38,584
2026	Letcher County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.62	\$106,566
2026	Lewis County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.76	\$39,017
2026	Lewis County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.48	\$106,000
2026	Lincoln County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.77	\$39,051

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Lincoln County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.81	\$115,702
2026	Livingston County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.59	\$44,917
2026	Livingston County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.69	\$115,176
2026	Logan County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.18	\$39,885
2026	Logan County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.86	\$111,717
2026	Lyon County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.36	\$40,276
2026	Lyon County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.64	\$110,826
2026	McCracken County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.56	\$40,683
2026	McCracken County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.47	\$105,966
2026	McCreary County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.79	\$39,074
2026	McCreary County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$23.85	\$99,221
2026	McLean County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.39	\$40,330
2026	McLean County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.91	\$111,958
2026	Madison County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.99	\$39,500
2026	Madison County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.67	\$115,096
2026	Magoffin County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.17	\$37,791
2026	Magoffin County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.73	\$102,888
2026	Marion County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.63	\$38,750
2026	Marion County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.58	\$110,563
2026	Marshall County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.67	\$40,915

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Marshall County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.78	\$111,403
2026	Martin County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.69	\$38,865
2026	Martin County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.34	\$105,429
2026	Mason County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.58	\$38,637
2026	Mason County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.77	\$103,039
2026	Meade County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.88	\$43,434
2026	Meade County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.87	\$120,101
2026	Menifee County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.09	\$39,709
2026	Menifee County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.83	\$107,459
2026	Mercer County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.13	\$39,790
2026	Mercer County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.43	\$118,271
2026	Metcalfe County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.90	\$39,317
2026	Metcalfe County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.35	\$109,615
2026	Monroe County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.86	\$39,223
2026	Monroe County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.78	\$111,405
2026	Montgomery County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.80	\$39,114
2026	Montgomery County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.26	\$105,096
2026	Morgan County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.82	\$39,141
2026	Morgan County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.95	\$107,953
2026	Muhlenberg County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.02	\$39,558

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Muhlenberg County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.32	\$105,342
2026	Nelson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.66	\$42,974
2026	Nelson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.23	\$117,446
2026	Nicholas County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.40	\$40,358
2026	Nicholas County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$30.15	\$125,441
2026	Ohio County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.03	\$39,591
2026	Ohio County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.35	\$109,623
2026	Oldham County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$22.44	\$46,684
2026	Oldham County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$29.16	\$121,288
2026	Owen County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.84	\$41,268
2026	Owen County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$30.24	\$125,804
2026	Owsley County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.42	\$38,306
2026	Owsley County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.33	\$105,382
2026	Pendleton County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.76	\$41,102
2026	Pendleton County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$30.32	\$126,144
2026	Perry County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.95	\$39,411
2026	Perry County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.31	\$105,285
2026	Pike County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.07	\$39,663
2026	Pike County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.42	\$105,754
2026	Powell County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.67	\$38,833

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Powell County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.07	\$116,783
2026	Pulaski County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.91	\$39,326
2026	Pulaski County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.10	\$100,260
2026	Robertson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.08	\$39,685
2026	Robertson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.70	\$106,904
2026	Rockcastle County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.43	\$38,338
2026	Rockcastle County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.25	\$100,884
2026	Rowan County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.70	\$38,904
2026	Rowan County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.26	\$105,087
2026	Russell County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.74	\$38,970
2026	Russell County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$23.97	\$99,710
2026	Scott County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.73	\$45,192
2026	Scott County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$32.41	\$134,846
2026	Shelby County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.74	\$45,218
2026	Shelby County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.84	\$115,796
2026	Simpson County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.30	\$42,233
2026	Simpson County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.83	\$115,789
2026	Spencer County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.52	\$44,754
2026	Spencer County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.76	\$119,635
2026	Taylor County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.98	\$39,477

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Taylor County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.71	\$102,789
2026	Todd County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.78	\$41,133
2026	Todd County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.44	\$109,985
2026	Trigg County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.94	\$43,556
2026	Trigg County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.52	\$114,484
2026	Trimble County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.05	\$41,701
2026	Trimble County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.83	\$115,760
2026	Union County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.55	\$40,660
2026	Union County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.51	\$110,280
2026	Warren County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.84	\$43,342
2026	Warren County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.74	\$111,219
2026	Washington County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.96	\$41,523
2026	Washington County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.18	\$117,225
2026	Wayne County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.62	\$38,740
2026	Wayne County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.16	\$100,510
2026	Webster County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.67	\$40,908
2026	Webster County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.40	\$113,982
2026	Whitley County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.54	\$38,559
2026	Whitley County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$23.89	\$99,388
2026	Wolfe County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.22	\$37,892

Year	County Name	State	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Wolfe County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.95	\$103,772
2026	Woodford County	KY	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.87	\$43,403
2026	Woodford County	KY	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.86	\$120,041

Appendix B – Statistical Area Living Wage Benchmark (2026)

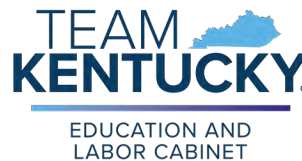
Living Wage Institute, Inc. “Living Wage Benchmark Series”, 2026.

Year	US Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA)	Metro and Micropolitan Areas	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Bowling Green, KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.71	\$43,077
2026	Bowling Green, KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.92	\$111,993
2026	Campbellsville, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.07	\$39,671
2026	Campbellsville, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.71	\$102,806
2026	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.28	\$44,263
2026	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$33.23	\$138,249
2026	Clarksville, TN-KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.74	\$45,221
2026	Clarksville, TN-KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$28.37	\$118,019
2026	Corbin, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.57	\$38,632
2026	Corbin, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.09	\$100,216
2026	Danville, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.87	\$39,258
2026	Danville, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.48	\$114,319
2026	Elizabethtown, KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.55	\$42,739
2026	Elizabethtown, KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.57	\$114,680
2026	Evansville, IN	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.00	\$43,690
2026	Evansville, IN	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$33.12	\$137,794

Year	US Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA)	Metro and Micropolitan Areas	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Frankfort, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.56	\$40,684
2026	Frankfort, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.64	\$110,816
2026	Franklin, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.30	\$42,233
2026	Franklin, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.83	\$115,789
2026	Glasgow, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.84	\$39,179
2026	Glasgow, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.40	\$105,669
2026	Henderson, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.44	\$40,440
2026	Henderson, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.20	\$109,012
2026	Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.25	\$42,130
2026	Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.92	\$116,158
2026	Lexington-Fayette, KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.45	\$42,531
2026	Lexington-Fayette, KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$29.73	\$123,697
2026	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$21.34	\$44,386
2026	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$30.99	\$128,918
2026	Madisonville, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.40	\$40,342
2026	Madisonville, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.01	\$108,182
2026	Mayfield, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.77	\$39,035
2026	Mayfield, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.04	\$104,169

Year	US Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA)	Metro and Micropolitan Areas	Family Composition	Family Description	Family Size	Hourly Living Wage	Annual Basic Needs Budget
2026	Middlesborough, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$17.94	\$37,325
2026	Middlesborough, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$23.82	\$99,077
2026	Mount Sterling, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.94	\$39,390
2026	Mount Sterling, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.52	\$106,158
2026	Murray, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$19.97	\$41,531
2026	Murray, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.72	\$106,986
2026	Owensboro, KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.40	\$42,433
2026	Owensboro, KY	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.01	\$112,350
2026	Paducah, KY-IL	Metropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$20.09	\$41,796
2026	Paducah, KY-IL	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$26.64	\$110,824
2026	Pikeville, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.98	\$39,472
2026	Pikeville, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$25.48	\$106,015
2026	Richmond-Berea, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.95	\$39,409
2026	Richmond-Berea, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$27.36	\$113,812
2026	Somerset, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	1A0C	One working adult with no children	1	\$18.91	\$39,326
2026	Somerset, KY	Micropolitan Statistical Area	2A3C	Two working adults with three children	5	\$24.10	\$100,260

Workforce Pell



A proud partner of the  AmericanJobCenter® network

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:

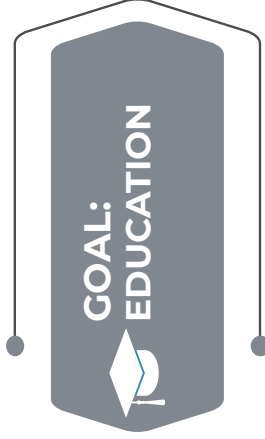
- a. ["Workforce Pell Application" July 2026](#)
- b. ["Workforce Pell Report", July 2026 & Data Dictionary](#)
- c. [Kentucky Workforce Pell Regulation: 787 KAR 2:050E](#)
- d. [US Department of Education Workforce Pell Final Rule](#)

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

Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board Strategic Plan

TEAM KENTUCKY FORWARD

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN



PRIORITY 1

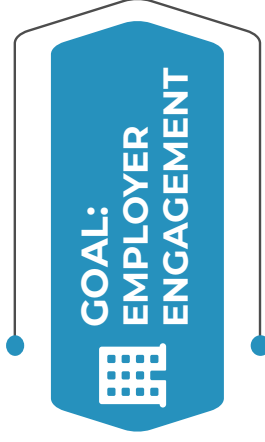
Work-based learning: expand access to earn and learn opportunities (learner perspective)

PRIORITY 2

Increasing the teacher pipeline

PRIORITY 3

Expansion of access and achievement in education for all Kentuckians



PRIORITY 1

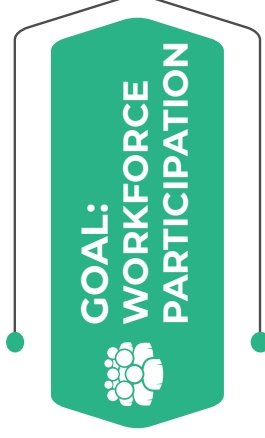
Work-based learning: expand, scale and improve (business perspective)

PRIORITY 2

Expanding talent pools for business hires

PRIORITY 3

Unified business services



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



PRIORITY 1

Common Return on Investment (ROI) metrics

PRIORITY 2

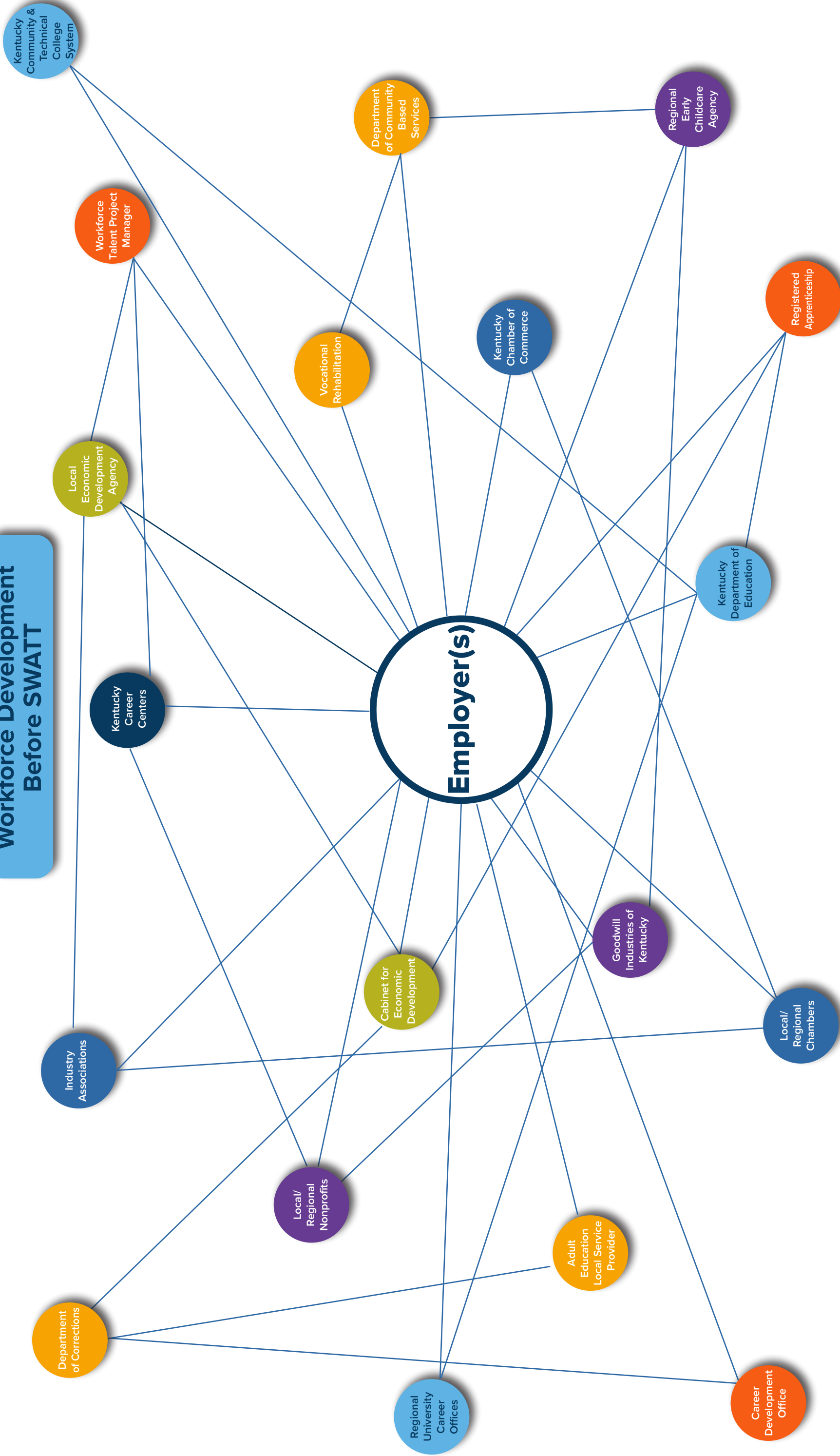
Continuous focus on supply and demand

PRIORITY 3

Continuous organizational collaboration

Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT)

Workforce Development Before SWATT





Kentucky Reentry Campus

IMPROVING SECOND CHANCE OUTCOMES

KCTCS – Kentucky Department and Corrections Prison Education Program Expansion

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System, in partnership with Kentucky Department of Corrections, is proposing a national model prison education training program to reduce recidivism, accelerate workforce development and increase savings to society.

Approximately 95% of the current incarcerated population will be released at the end of their sentence. At the same time, Kentucky will need to fill more than two million jobs over the next 10 years to keep up with labor market demand. Working with fair-chance employers, KCTCS's and KYDOC's proposal will lower recidivism and meet this workforce need.

The proposal builds upon KCTCS's current work in 14 state prisons and county jails. The model, based off of the "vocational villages" concept in Michigan, will accelerate workforce development in a central location. Recidivism for Michigan inmates participating in the vocational village is half the rate of the general population.

Preliminary programs were selected based on feedback from employers that hire formerly incarcerated individuals.

Programs include:

Advanced Manufacturing Technology
Welding
Aviation Mechanics
Carpentry
HVAC
Diesel Mechanics/Technology
Electric Lineman Technician/Fiber Optics
Computerized Machining and Manufacturing
Additive Manufacturing
Heavy Equipment Operations
Computer Engineering Technology

FACILITY CONSTRUCTION COST

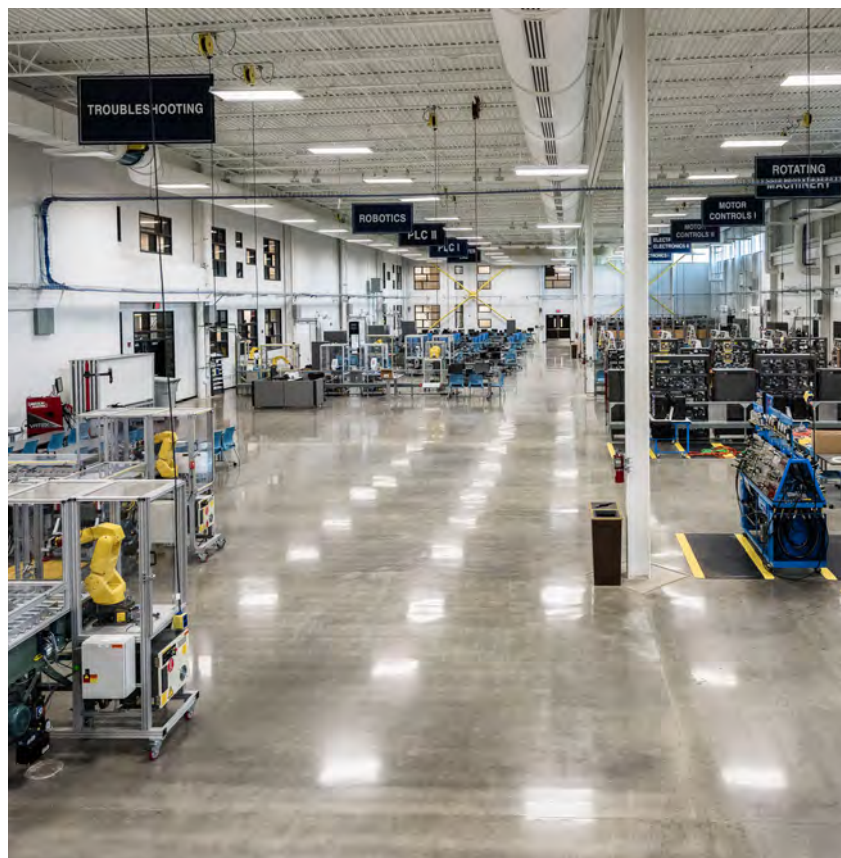
KCTCS Construction	\$33,584,982
KYDOC Construction	\$8,328,000
Total	\$41,912,982

ANNUAL PERSONNEL/INSTRUCTIONAL COSTS

KYDOC Personnel	\$667,800
KCTCS Personnel	\$3,625,000
KCTCS Instructional Costs	\$150,000

ANNUAL FACILITY OPERATIONS

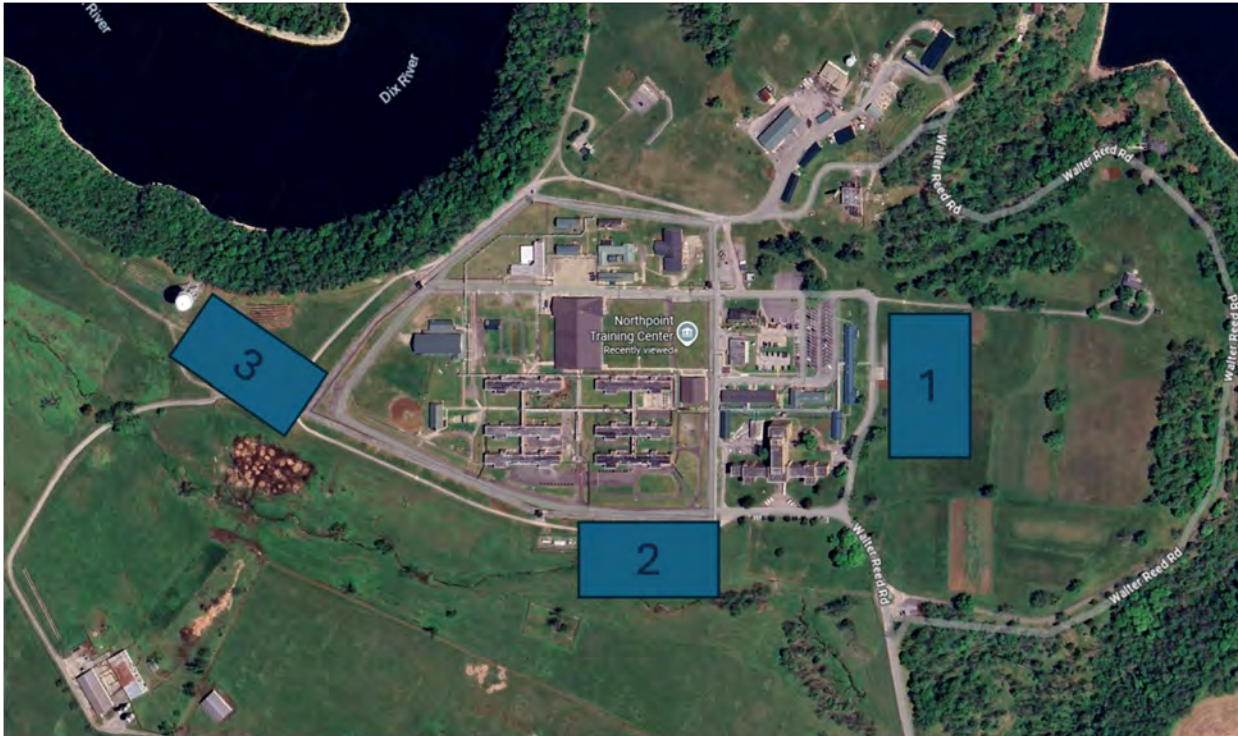
Utilities (\$1/51/sqft)	\$77,800
Building Maintenance	\$57,500
Operational Supplies	\$80,000
Total	\$4,658,100



Interior of BCTC Georgetown, which will serve as a model for this facility.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The project will leverage an existing KCTCS accredited prison education program at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. Leveraging the availability of land and proximity to prospective employers, the facility will be located at KYDOC's Northpoint Training Center in Burgin, Kentucky. The 51,530 square foot, state-of-the-art, multi-model, flexible in-person training facility will educate 400 inmates annually, with the ability to increase to 750 based on demand, nearing the completion of their sentencing.



Northpoint Training Center, Burgin, Kentucky

OPERATING FUNDS

The goal is to develop a self-sustaining program supported by financial aid (ie. Pell Grants) and tuition revenue. However, in order to stand-up the program, KCTCS is requesting one year of \$4.6 million in operating funds in the second year of the biennium. Operating funds are to support annual KCTCS and KYDOC personnel, instruction costs, facility maintenance and operations, and supplies.

Serve Kentucky



2025-26 Kentucky AmeriCorps Grants

Christian Appalachian Project

AmeriCorps members provide housing development and repair, emergency utility and crisis assistance, hunger relief, affordable clothing, infant/toddler care, preschool, in-school, after-school, and summer education, teen leadership development, aging in place services, support for persons with disabilities, disaster relief, mental health counseling, and support in or for residents. (Economic Opportunity)

Service Locations: Clay, Floyd, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Owsley, Pike, and Rockcastle counties

Member Positions: 69 part-time

Program Contact: [Amy Schill](#), (606) 392-4495 or [Kristy Lawson](#)

Fiscal Agent: [Christian Appalachian Project](#)

Federal Funds: \$425,000

Environmental Education Leadership Corps

AmeriCorps members provide environmental education programs, lessons, and activities to the public in various locations throughout Kentucky. (Environmental Stewardship)

Service Locations: Statewide

Member Positions: 13 full- and part-time

Program Contact: [Ashley Mike](#), (502) 649-9734 or [Willa Bayne](#), (859) 248-6748

Fiscal Agent: [Kentucky Environmental Education Council](#)

Federal Funds: \$250,000

Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSC) Corps

AmeriCorps members tutor students in literacy and provide basic needs and connection to mental health resources to school age children in Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSC) in Kentucky public schools. (Education)

Service Locations: Ballard, Barren, Bath, Bourbon, Boyd, Bullitt, Crittenden, Daviess, Estill, Fayette, Fleming, Gallatin, Garrard, Graves, Harlan, Jessamine, Johnson, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, Lincoln, Logan, Lyon, Madison, Marion, McCracken, McCreary, Mercer, Owen, Russell, Spencer, Taylor, Todd, Trimble, Wayne, Webster, and Whitley counties

Member Positions: 48 full- and part-time

Program Contact: [April Hess](#), (502) 234-4709 or [Heather Musinski](#), (502) 352-0851

Fiscal Agent: [Ohio Valley Education Cooperative](#)

Federal Funds: \$571,500

Global Game Changers AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members support students in School Empowerment Zone programs in association with Jefferson County Public Schools to improve social-emotional skills, power skills, and academics in Jefferson and surrounding counties. (Education)

Service Locations: Adair, Bracken, Christian, Hardin, Jefferson, Muhlenberg, and Pendleton counties

Member Positions: 6 full- and part-time

Program Contact: [Alyssa Zediker](#), (847) 204-7361 or [Melissa Pares](#)

Fiscal Agent: [Global Game Changers Children's Education Initiative](#)

Federal Funds: \$148,417

Hindman Settlement School AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members provide math tutoring, literacy support, and other intervention services in public school classrooms and community-based settings for students in grades K–12 with dyslexia indicators or below grade-level math proficiency in six Eastern Kentucky counties. (Education)

Service Locations: Bell, Knott, Leslie, and Perry counties

Member Positions: 45 full-time

Program Contact: [Kayla Thacker](#), (606) 785-4044 or [Melissa Pares](#)

Fiscal Agent: [Hindman Settlement School](#)

Federal Funds: \$1,112,702

Homes for All AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members provide housing navigation, home construction and repair, housing counseling, and capacity-building services to support economically disadvantaged and housing-insecure Kentuckians across the state. (Economic Opportunity)

Service Locations: Statewide

Member Positions: 23 full-time

Program Contact: [Holly Dennis](#), (606) 226-5909

Fiscal Agent: [Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky](#)

Federal Funds: \$575,000

I Would Rather Be Reading AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members provide out-of-school programming as student and family/community liaisons. (Education)

Service Locations: Jefferson County

Member Positions: 8 part-time

Program Contact: [Shelly Daugherty](#), (330) 412-6053 or [Sara Hannah](#)

Fiscal Agent: [I Would Rather Be Reading \(IWRBR\)](#)

Federal Funds: \$75,000

Kentucky College Coaches

AmeriCorps members serve as peer success coaches to support college and career readiness, student retention, engagement, and completion in junior high schools, high schools, area technology centers, colleges, and universities statewide. (Education)

Service Locations: Statewide

Member Positions: 156 full- and part-time

Program Contact: [Gayle Hilleke](#), (859) 572-7634

Fiscal Agent: [Northern Kentucky University Research Foundation](#)

Federal Funds: \$1,950,000

Kentucky Public Health AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members will serve as Community Health Workers (CHW's) in local health departments in communities across Kentucky in core public health programs, including HANDS, WIC, and Harm Reduction. (Capacity Building)

Service Locations: Statewide

Member Positions: 24 part-time

Program Contact: [Whitney Reynolds](#), (859) 317-3817

Fiscal Agent: [Kentucky Health Departments Association](#)

Federal Funds: \$397,580

KY Health Corps

AmeriCorps members provide healthcare support to seniors and disabled individuals in healthcare facilities to develop their healthcare knowledge and complete credentialing coursework enabling members to work in memory care, skilled nursing, assisted living, and other healthcare related environments. (Capacity Building)

Service Locations: Statewide

Member Positions: 100 part-time

Program Contact: [Megan Eldridge](#), (502) 265-6955 or [Raelyn Brunty](#)

Fiscal Agent: [Family Scholar House](#)

Federal Funds: \$0

PartnerCorps PRI

AmeriCorps members mentor and tutor high school students to increase math achievement. (Education)

Service Locations: Bell, Knox, Leslie, and Perry counties

Member Positions: 66 full- and part-time

Program Contact: [Rob Bowers](#), (859) 200-3280 or [Collette Thompson](#)

Fiscal Agent: [Partners for Rural Impact](#)

Federal Funds: \$1,112,031

REACH Corps

AmeriCorps members mentor students in elementary and middle schools in Jefferson County to improve student attendance and/or behavioral outcomes. (Education)

Service Locations: Jefferson County

Member Positions: 18 part-time

Program Contact: [Ben Langley](#), (502) 485-3926 or [Holly Larsen](#)

Fiscal Agent: [Jefferson County Public Schools](#)

Federal Funds: \$150,000

Recovery Corps

AmeriCorps members provide peer support and recovery coaching to individuals seeking or working to maintain recovery from opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders while receiving direct services at Recovery Community Centers or other community-based recovery sites. (Healthy Futures)

Service Locations: Statewide

Member Positions: 15 part-time

Program Contact: [Alison Jirik](#) or [Rachael Ratliff](#), (859) 327-7211

Fiscal Agent: [CHFS Dept. for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities \(BHDID\)](#)

Federal Funds: \$250,00

Senior Connections

AmeriCorps members provide nutritional support, social engagement, transportation assistance, and physical wellness activities to senior citizens, helping local agencies expand their capacity to serve older adults with greater care and consistency. (Healthy Futures)

Service Locations: Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster counties

Member Positions: 16 full-time
Program Contact: [Brad Alley](#), (270) 926-4433
Fiscal Agent: [Green River Area Development District](#)
Federal Funds: \$400,000

Teach For America - Appalachia Kentucky

Professional Corps AmeriCorps members teach for two years in low-income and under-resourced schools in several counties across Kentucky. (Education)
Service Locations: Floyd, Knott, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Menifee, Pulaski and Kenton counties
Member Positions: 33 full-time
Program Contact: [Rosie Ballinger](#), (859) 358-5560
Fiscal Agent: [Teach For America](#)
Federal Funds: \$0

Teach Kentucky AmeriCorps

Professional Corps AmeriCorps members teach in high-needs content areas such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Special Education, English as a Second Language (ESL), and other content areas needed to address school staffing shortages in local public schools. (Education)
Service Locations: Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Meade, Nelson, and Oldham counties
Member Positions: 100 full-time
Program Contacts: [Rowan Claypool](#) or [Kristen Garner](#)
Fiscal Agent: [Teach Kentucky](#)
Federal Funds: \$0

The Book Works AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members support students during out-of-school time on school days by facilitating literacy workshops and assessments to gauge attitudes and experiences; tailoring strategies to improve reading proficiency and motivation; co-facilitating social-emotional learning; and creating and distributing family literacy resources in community settings. (Education)
Service Locations: Jefferson County
Member Positions: 8 part-time
Program Contact: [Immaya Hughes](#), (502) 354-3667 or [Sophia Harris](#)
Fiscal Agent: [The Book Works](#)
Federal Funds: \$56,384

UNITE Service Corps

AmeriCorps members tutor students in math, implement the “Too Good for Drugs” drug-prevention curriculum, and sponsor UNITE drug prevention clubs in Southeastern Kentucky schools. (Education)
Service Locations: Bell, Boyd, Carter, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Pike, Rockcastle, and Wolfe counties
Member Positions: 62 part-time
Program Contact: [Crystal Smallwood](#), (606) 369-4408 or [Benji Hammons](#), (606) 330-1400
Fiscal Agent: [Operation UNITE](#)
Federal Funds: \$1,085,000

Urban Conservation Corps

AmeriCorps members participate in hands-on environmental education and career readiness service activities that engage opportunity youth in urban projects and service while building workforce skills. (Environmental Stewardship)

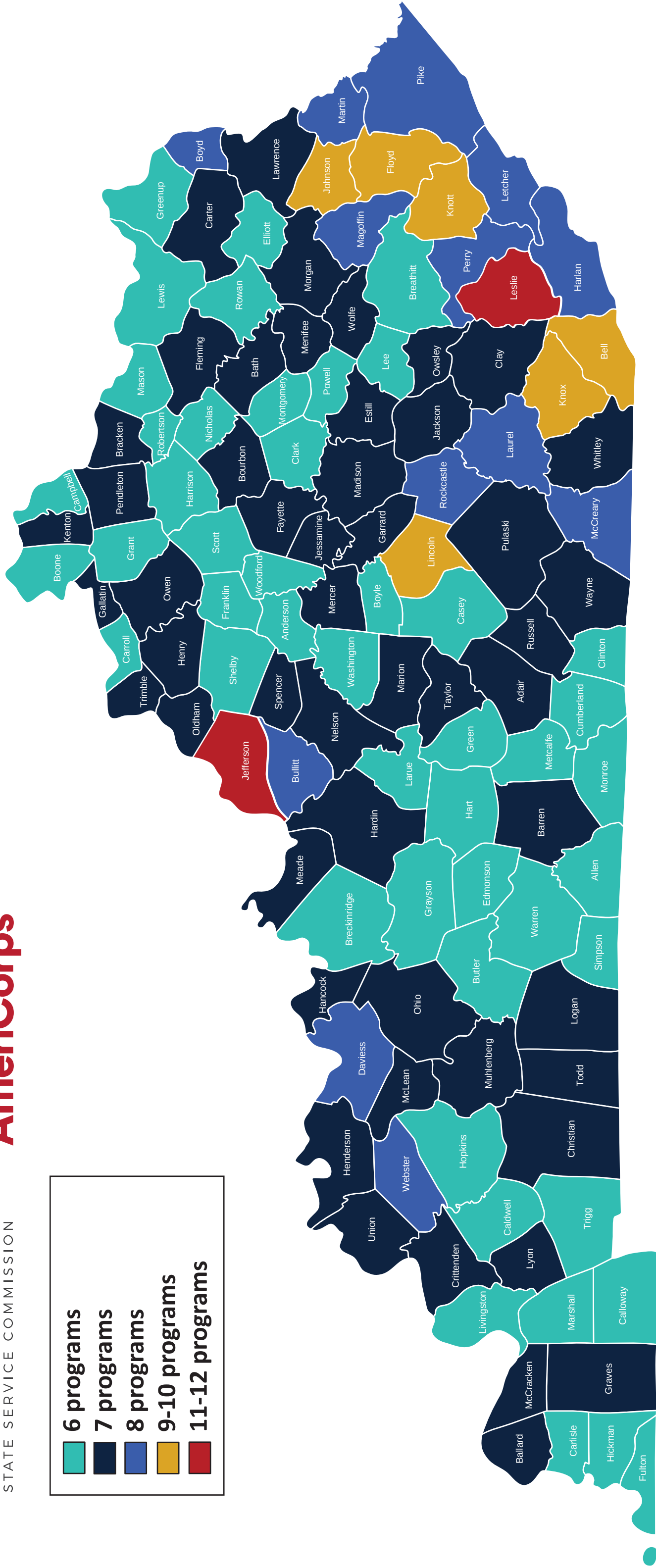
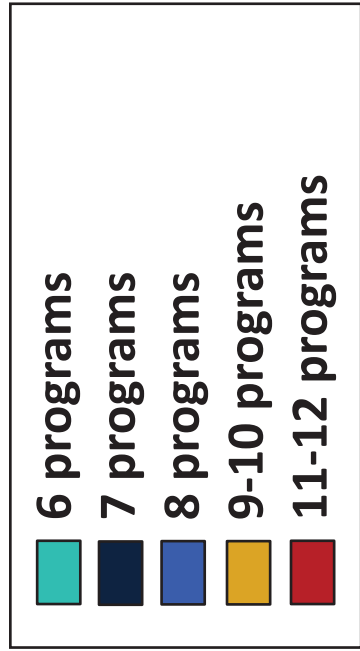
Service Locations: Jefferson County

Member Positions: 12 full- and part-time

Program Contact: [Linda Witt](#), (502) 727-8829 or [Joe Magruder](#)

Fiscal Agent: [Blueprint 502](#)

Federal Funds: \$224,997



2026 State of the Workforce Funding Report

Education & Workforce Collaborative - State of the Workforce Funding Report

Per the [Executive Order 2020-551](#), the Education and Workforce Collaborative will be compiling 2023-2026 funding report identifying all federal and state funded workforce-related activities. Including funding streams for education, training, support services, and career service activities in the past three programmatic years provided by the Collaborative's respective agencies or entities.

The funding report shall indicate, to the extent feasible, the return on investment (ROI) for each stream. To determine ROI, the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) has identified three ROI elements: (1) number participants, (2) number of placements, and (3) average wages.

Timeline: Request will be sent 7/20 to Collaborative members with the due date of 8/21.

Necessary Funding Data & Steps

1. Identify allocated funding for:

- PY23 (July 1st, 2023 – June 30th, 2024)
- PY24 (July 1st, 2024 – June 30th, 2025)
- PY25 (July 1st, 2025 – June 30th, 2026)

2. Specify the funding type: federal, state, match, general, or local. (if combined, what percentage is federal and what percentage is state?)

3. Identify the type of activity per stream:

- Education
- Training
- Support Services
- Career Services
- All

4. Provide the eligibility requirements for each funding stream

5. Identify per funding source:

- Number of individuals served
- Number of individuals placed
- Average wages of individuals placed

If funding is meant to serve businesses, identify the number of companies served.

Funding Streams Definitions

Education: investment used to for long term career preparation, examples include higher education degrees, certificates, certifications, credentials, digital badging, integrated education programs, etc.

Training: investment in programs that are occupation specific, examples: on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, internships, pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, and career pathways exposure.

Supportive Services: investment in services such as transportation, childcare, dependent care, housing, and needs related payments, linkage to community services, assistance with educational training, reasonable accommodations for youth with disabilities, referral to medical services, and assistance with uniforms and other appropriate work attire and work-related tools.

Career Services: provision of services related to employment and career assistance, such as career coaching, career awareness, career exploration, labor market information sharing, resume building, interview skills, and job placement services.

Appendix

Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative

State of the Workforce Funding Report 2025

Background

In July 2020, Governor Andy Beshear issued [Executive Order 2020-551](#) that established the Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative. The collaborative includes 19 members from across the commonwealth's executive branch agencies, as well as stakeholder partners who work together on critical workforce priorities. This group takes an intragovernmental approach to the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board's (KWIB) workforce development strategy by supporting individuals, businesses and partner customers while moving Kentucky forward as a leader in workforce innovation.

One of the key efforts of the collaborative is the annual compilation of the State of the Workforce Funding Report. This report seeks to identify all federal and state-funded workforce-related education, training, career services and support service activities in the past three programmatic years provided by the collaborative's respective agencies or entities.

Additionally, this funding report highlights return on investment (ROI) as identified by the KWIB through three foundational metrics: (1) number of individuals served through partner programs, (2) number of individuals who are placed in jobs, and (3) participants' average wages. It is important to note that many of the workforce programs are designed to serve different populations and segments in the workforce system, so these foundational metrics should be viewed as a point of reference versus a definitive ROI per program. Moreover, the service populations have varying level of needs (e.g. individual requesting resume assistance versus someone with disabilities needs vocational training) and unique outcomes metrics.

In line with the executive order, this completed compiled funding report is presented to the KWIB for review and understanding of the larger workforce system. This report is meant to provide the collected information for reference and a high-level review, it is not meant to serve as a comprehensive analysis of the workforce system.

Report Contents

This report encompasses workforce development funding information from state agencies and partner organizations represented on the collaborative as well as other entities for:

- Program Year 2022 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)
- Program Year 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)
- Program Year 2024 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

Key information includes:

- Whether the source of funding is federal or state dollars
- If funds are used for education, training, support services, career services, or a combination of these services
- Outcomes to demonstrate ROI per number of individuals served, number of job placements, and participants' average wages

Categories of services are defined as:

- **Education:** Investment used for long-term career preparation. Examples include higher education degrees, certificates, certifications, credentials, digital badging, and integrated education programs,
- **Training:** Investment in programs that are occupation specific. Examples include on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, internships, pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships and career pathways exposure.

- **Supportive Services:** Investment in services such as transportation, childcare, dependent care, housing and needs-related payments, linkage to community services, assistance with educational training, reasonable accommodations for youth with disabilities, referral to medical services, and assistance with appropriate work attire and work-related tools.
- **Career Services:** Provision of services related to employment and career assistance, such as career coaching, career awareness, career exploration, labor market information sharing, resume building, interview skills, and job placement services.

The below snapshot shows contributing agencies and the three-year totals for each of the required elements (full agency names are provided on the last page to accompany acronyms used)

Collaborative Member Workforce Stakeholders	PY22 - PY24 Funding Dollars	Total # of Individuals Served	Total # of Individuals Placed	Average Wages of Individuals in a Job	PY22-PY24 Programs (Funding Streams)	Sum of Businesses Served
CED	\$20,400,000.00	153,624	-	\$30.81	6	318
CHFS – DBHDID	\$17,369,140.03	44,085	7,858	-	124	-
CHFS – DCBS	\$1,264,384,946.65	1,934,998	63,024	-	49	-
CPE	\$8,359,893.82	-	-	-	11	174
DWD - CDO	\$40,965,673.40	90,496	31,053	\$21.67	18	6,353
DWD - KYAE	\$103,317,772.00	65,665	-	\$9.68	6	-
DWD – Everybody Counts	\$15,416,000.00	5,865	5,482	-	8	23
DWD - OIAS	\$3,947,066.42	536,920	7,852	\$30.70	8	6,996
DWD - OVR	\$276,612,557.00	602,399	38,789	\$28.72	36	-
Job Corps	\$269,177,062.00	4,879	1,571	\$20.00	21	-
JPSC	\$58,663,517.19	283,141	2,547	-	15	-
KCTCS	\$21,881,142.00	129,178	-	-	12	928
KY Chamber Foundation	\$3,105,000.00	417	3,548	-	12	1,596
KCMA	\$1,373,085.00	-	218	-	6	80
KDE	\$445,445,646.00	437,796	-	-	6	-
KDLA	\$1,044,552.00	-	-	-	7	-
KDVA	\$15,712.56	600	-	\$20.00	1	80
LWDB Bluegrass	\$10,854,989.35	1,602	894	\$22.89	11	5,515
LWDB Cumberland	\$7,025,485.41	981	707	\$21.20	10	-
LWDB EKCEP	\$80,808,939.36	25,908	12,370	\$20.53	22	14,805

LWDB Green River	\$7,547,956.20	691	514	\$27.88	13	-
LWDB KentuckianaWorks	\$20,497,153.44	4,099	1,031	\$26.51	19	-
LWDB Lincoln Trail	\$5,870,531.38	443	210	\$25.49	10	1,397
LWDB Northern Kentucky	\$9,054,276.06	7,924	1,998	\$24.40	23	3,334
LWDB South Central	\$7,807,349.61	5,746	2,612	\$28.07	31	2,963
LWDB TENCO	\$11,000,148.05	1,720	625	\$31.95	10	4,251
LWDB West Kentucky	\$6,367,351.24	727	517	\$21.57	13	107
UK / HDI	\$27,079,865.14	23,188	2,917	\$12.18	24	-
Non-Collaborative Members w/ Workforce Programming	PY22 - PY24 Funding Dollars	Total # of Individuals Served	Total # of Individuals Placed	Max Average Wages of Individuals in a Job	PY22-PY24 Programs (Funding Streams)	Sum of Businesses Served
KHEAA	\$84,829,446.00	45,902	-	-	27	-
KYTC	\$2,440,150.00	216	45	\$24.29	7	-
Grand Total	\$2,832,662,407	4,409,210	186,382	\$21.31	566	48,920

It is important to note that workforce development funding has become much more distributive across federal and state agencies as well as public and private partners. Therefore, the information in this report may not encompass every program or service offered in the commonwealth.

The report may include duplicative information as both state and local-level programs are represented. Often, both state and federal funding flows through state government agencies and is distributed to other partners represented in this report. Additionally, most federal funding awards allow for state agencies and local programs to expend the funds over multiple years. Therefore, the report highlights dollars appropriated versus dollars spent each year.

Based on the submissions, it is notable that there are over 565 funding streams that support one or more of the categories of workforce development services across the last three program years. Each of the funding streams are provided in the Appendix. Collectively, the total funding stream funds are more than \$2.8 billion across the three program years.

With the understanding that some duplication may be occurring, it is estimated that over the three programmatic years a total of 186,382 people were placed in jobs with an average wage of \$21.31/hr. It is again of great importance to note the breadth of agencies captured in the report and the variety of workforce services provided. Each agency has their own requirements that may not completely align to the KWIB foundational ROI metrics; these metrics are intended to give a point of reference for the programs that are intended to capture these specific data points.

To view the full comprehensive compilation of data for each agency per funding stream, please refer to Appendix A. To view the combined data per program year for each agency, please refer to Appendix B.

Collaborative Member & Workforce Stakeholders
CED - Cabinet for Economic Development
CHFS/DBHDID - Cabinet for Health and Family Services – Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
CHFS/DCBS - Cabinet for Health and Family Services – Department of Community Based Services
CPE - Council on Postsecondary Education
DWD/CDO - Department of Workforce Development – Career Development Office
DWD/Adult Education - Department of Workforce Development – Adult Education
DWD – Everybody Counts
DWD/OIAS - Department of Workforce Development – Office of Industry and Apprenticeship Services
DWD/OVR - Department of Workforce Development – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Job Corps
JPSC - Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
KCTCS - Kentucky Community and Technical College System
KY Chamber Foundation
KCMA - Kentucky Council on Military Affairs
KDE - Kentucky Department of Education
KDLA - Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
KDVA - Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs
LWDB Bluegrass - Local Workforce Development Board - Bluegrass
LWDB Cumberlands - Local Workforce Development Board - Cumberlands
LWDB EKCEP - Local Workforce Development Board - EKCEP
LWDB Green River - Local Workforce Development Board - Green River
LWDB KentuckianaWorks - Local Workforce Development Board - KentuckianaWorks
LWDB Lincoln Trail - Local Workforce Development Board - Lincoln Trail
LWDB Northern Kentucky - Local Workforce Development Board - Northern Kentucky
LWDB South Central - Local Workforce Development Board - South Central
LWDB TENCO - Local Workforce Development Board - TENCO
LWDB WKY - Local Workforce Development Board - West Kentucky
UK/HDI - University of Kentucky/Human Development Institute
Non-Collaborative Members w/ Workforce Programming
KHEAA - Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority
KYTC - Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Public Workforce System

What Is the Public Workforce System?

Kentucky's public workforce system connects talent with opportunity by linking employers, employees and job seekers across the state to build skills, careers and a stronger economy.



Who We Are

We're a partnership of state agencies, local workforce boards and community organizations offering free services to employers and job seekers. Whether you're searching for a job, advancing your career, or growing your business, we're here to help.

What We Do



Recruitment Support

We connect employers with qualified candidates.



Training & Career Pathways

We assist with building skills to meet Kentucky's workforce needs.



Retention Services

We assist in employee growth through training and apprenticeships.



Barrier Reduction

We help people overcome challenges like transportation, child care and accessibility.

How It Works

Kentucky Career Center

The Kentucky Career Center (KCC) is the gateway to the state's public workforce system. With 80+ certified locations statewide, KCC connects employers and job seekers to a network of partner agencies that offer specialized programs, services and support.

Partner Agencies

- Career Development Office
- Office of Adult Education
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Office of Industry & Apprenticeship Services
- Local Workforce Innovation Boards
- Everybody Counts
- Other community partners and agencies

Career Development Office

Comprehensive Career Centers Statewide

We operate 13 comprehensive career centers statewide that help job seekers find lasting employment, connect individuals to education and training opportunities and support employers in finding skilled, qualified workers.

Our Programs

Job Matching Services

- Connect job seekers with employers looking to hire
- Job seekers receive career services, job search help, referrals and placement assistance
- Employers can post jobs and find qualified applicants

Unemployment Support

- Supports individuals receiving unemployment benefits
- Helps with reemployment plans, career information and enrollment in services to get back to work

Veterans Services

- Provides dedicated staff to help veterans and eligible individuals with significant barriers find careers and training
- Connects employers with job seeking veterans

Seasonal Farm Work

- Authorizes temporary workers (H-2A) to enter the U.S. when not enough local workers are available for seasonal agricultural jobs

Support for Job Seekers and Employers

Whether you're a job seeker or an employer, the CDO team is ready to assist you—visit kcc.ky.gov to find the location nearest you.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits for **Kentucky Employers**



Workforce Facts

Kentucky has among the highest rate of people with disabilities in the nation and among the lowest rate of people with disabilities who are employed.

Workers with disabilities who receive accommodations match non-disabled workers in:

- Productivity
- Attendance
- Reliability
- Overall effectiveness

Benefits of Hiring People with Disabilities

- Reduces reliance on governmental supports and contributes to the economy.
- Lessens utilization of healthcare and promotes better overall health.
- Provides financial support for the individual and their families.
- Improves quality of life by building self-confidence, self-reliance and social support.
- Provides opportunities for re-training, advancement, retirement contributions and travel.

Employer Services Branch

We assist businesses in hiring, developing and keeping valued employees and support businesses with placement and retention of individuals with disabilities in the workforce.

These services include:

Recruitment & Hiring

- Pre-screening applicants based on essential job functions
- On-the-job training and internships

Workplace Support

- Onsite job trainer and support services
- Job restructuring and worksite adjustments
- Assistive technology and specialized equipment

Accessibility:

- Accessibility checklists
- Worksite accessibility surveys

Additional Resources

- Staff development
- Financial incentives information
- Follow-up services

Adult Ed Solutions for **Kentucky Employers**



About Us

We are committed to empowering Kentucky businesses to reach their maximum potential. With a team of experienced professionals, we provide **customized education** and **training services** designed to help employers navigate challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

Our Mission

Our mission is to work with Kentuckians to improve their quality of life through education, training and employment so they can take care of themselves and their families and help their communities and the state's economies expand and thrive.

Employer Benefits

- Enhanced productivity & efficiency
- Increased employee retention
- Improved safety and workplace communication
- Higher employee engagement and morale

Services

Workplace Readiness

We assist in developing skills in communication, teamwork and critical thinking.

Digital Literacy Training

We assist in optimizing and enhancing technology skills.

English Language Learning

We offer English language and civics education for non-native speakers.

GED Preparation and Testing

We offer in-depth GED test preparation and free GED test fees for eligible Kentuckians.

Customized Training Solutions

We offer job-specific literacy and skills training.

Soft Skills Development

We assist in improving delivery of customer service, conflict resolution and more.

Check out
our services.



KYAE.KY.GOV

Workforce Talent Project Team

You aren't doing this work alone.

We're here to help employers hire, develop and retain top talent – connecting the right people, programs, and partnerships to unlock tailored workforce strategies for your business.



Services

- **Free, full-service** business support for employer's workforce needs
- Provide **easy access** to workforce analysis and strategy for Kentucky's businesses
- Address **attraction and recruitment** challenges with an industry-focused, data-informed approach
- Support with **workforce selection and onboarding** solutions
- **Create a business structure** that delivers results for employers and career seekers

Benefits

- **Customize workforce strategies** aligned to industry demands at no cost
- **Foster employer relationships** and maintain strong ties to address workforce needs
- Create a **business structure** that delivers results for employers and career seekers
- Improve **communication and confidence** among workforce partners
- Access to Kentucky's proven **speed-to-market advantage** that gets you operational faster

Scan the QR code and
connect with us today.



KYWORKS.KY.GOV

502-564-5920 or workforce@ky.gov

Your personalized workforce service is just one call away!

Office of Industry and Apprenticeship Services



Services

- **Registered Apprenticeships (RA)** and on-the-job training opportunities are available.
- Companies can get up to \$9,600 in **valuable financial incentives** including work opportunity tax credits (WOTC), deep training discounts and grants.
- Receive **rapid response and layoff support** to assist employees during transitions and to minimize business disruptions for workers and the community
- Kentucky Fair Chance Bonding is available to employers and applicants **at no cost to protect your business.**

Benefits

- **Apprenticeship Workforce Consultants** provide no-cost guidance, program development, recruitment, training and workforce solutions for over 1500 occupations.
- **91% of apprentices** remain employed after completing their programs and 87% of Kentucky apprentices are employed and in the same industry.
- Registered apprenticeships show a \$1.44 return on every dollar invested.

Scan the QR code to
connect with us today.

Let's make hiring easier.



KYWORKS.KY.GOV or APPRENTICESHIP@KY.GOV
502-564-5920

Your personalized workforce service is just one call away!



Kentucky Employers



What We Do

- **Free promotion** of your business to over 12,000 students graduating high school each year
- **Save you time on recruiting** entry-level talent from local high schools
- Provide **direct access to entry-level talent** during the school year and upon graduation
- Ensure new hires enter the workplace **equipped for long-term success**
- Improve employee **retention** and **productivity**

Why Partner with Everybody Counts?

Our **services are free** with no direct cost to employers.

Everybody Counts equips high school juniors and seniors with career pathways and skills to thrive when they enter Kentucky's workforce.

Employers can have confidence that new hires have developed essential skills outside of their academic courses.

Everybody Counts enhances workplace readiness, work-based learning, money management and time management.

Visit everybodycounts.ky.gov or email us at everybodycounts@ky.gov to learn more.