



Team Kentucky Virtual Job Fair Workgroup

Minutes

October 21, 2025
1:00 – 2:00 pm EDT

Via Zoom Meeting

Attendees: James Hensley, Tom Thompson, Whitney Allen, Katie Houghlin, Mathew Aaron, Hilary Writt, Christina Cornelison, and Felicia Adkins

Staff: Sara Jagers

1:00 pm Welcome and Results (April-September 2025)

James Hensley, Public Information Officer, Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs, opened the meeting by thanking participants for their involvement in the workgroup and sharing results from the most recent virtual job fair.

For the September event, 109 individuals and 23 organizations were active participants. Although some organizations did not log in, many still created virtual booths, allowing job seekers to view company information and posted job opportunities.

Some employers had booths without active job postings, which may indicate that they were testing the platform or seeking informal connections with job seekers. Two registration peaks were observed—one following the initial press release and another on the day of the event—resulting in an increase from approximately 130 to 196 total registrations, with many signing up at the last minute.

Plans are underway to expand the virtual job fair platform to a national level by January, allowing agencies and job seekers from all states to participate. This expansion aims to enhance collaboration and improve employment opportunities through broader access to both employers and job seekers.

The group also discussed the [Bluegrass Veterans Ranch](#) in Pulaski County, a grant-funded initiative providing transitional housing and career services for veterans. The facility includes residential cabins, and a community center designed to help veterans reenter the workforce. Members identified the Ranch as a valuable potential partner for future job fairs and veteran employment initiatives.

Meeting Discussion

The group's conversation covered the following:

- **2nd Chance Hiring – Mathew Aaron, Justice Program Supervisor, Kentucky Department of Corrections**, explained no major changes were reported from previous job fairs. Most employers contacted indicated

that they do not wish to be identified as second-chance employers. One employer located in the Lebanon area participated; otherwise, no additional updates were noted.

- **Job Seeker Career Services** – The group agreed on the need for additional support in resume development, interview practice, and other soft skills training for job seekers. Logistics and implementation options will be discussed further, and updates will be provided to the workgroup.
- **Next Steps** – James and Katie Houghlin, Executive Director of the Kentucky Career Development Office, will discuss soft skills training options for job seekers in preparation for the upcoming job fair.

1:31 am Adjournment

The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2025.



Team Kentucky Virtual Job Fair Workgroup

AGENDA
October 21, 2025
1:00pm – 2:00pm EDT

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89755878873?pwd=drtFXCrkgif9qb6Kn4WSeTyS3MfqcJ.1>

Meeting ID: 897 5587 8873 Passcode: 598085

1:00 pm	Welcome and Introduction	<i>James Hensley Public Information Officer Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs</i> <i>Millie Stevens Assistant Director Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs</i>
1:10 pm	Results (April to August 2025) + Nationwide Event	<i>James Hensley</i>
1:25 pm	Meeting Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2nd Chance Hiring- Workgroup Member Feedback on 9/17 Event- Job Seeker Career Services (resume, interview, etc.)- Next Meeting – November 11, 2025	<i>James Hensley</i>
2:00 pm	Adjournment	<i>James Hensley</i>

REGISTER NOW

Team Kentucky Virtual Job Fair

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Time: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. EST

**Focus: Professional, Scientific and
Technical Services**

*All employers are welcome to participate, including
those from the targeted industry.*

Schedule:

- 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. - Veterans & Military Families
- 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. - Open to All Job Candidates

**Future virtual job fairs will take place on
the third Wednesday of each month.**

Here's a preview of the upcoming dates:

- **December 2025** – no virtual job fair
- **January 21, 2026**
Bourbon, EV Revolution and Tourism
- **February 18, 2026**
Healthcare



**EMPLOYERS
SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
REGISTER.**



**JOB-SEEKERS
SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
REGISTER.**



**TEAM
KENTUCKY**

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Questions? Contact James Hensley at 502-782-5740 or by email at jamesh@ky.gov