



KWIB Employer Engagement Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes July 29, 2026 10:00 am – 11:30 am ET Via zoom

Attendees: LaKisha Miller, Stephanie Collins, Brian Becker, Aaron Poynter, Paul Dole, Amanda Houlié, Myra Wilson, Cassidy Cocanougher, Karen McFadyen, and Leigh Ann Tipton

Staff: LaChrista Ellis, Alisher Burikhanov, Debbie Dennison, and Sara Jagers

Welcome and Overview

LaKisha Miller, Senior Director of Advancement and Partnerships, Kentucky Chamber Foundation welcomed attendees and thanked members for their continued participation. It was noted that the committee had not met since the adoption of the new four-year KWIB Strategic Plan and that significant work had taken place behind the scenes during that time.

Following introductions of committee members and guests, the purpose of the Employer Engagement Committee was reviewed, and it was reiterated that employer engagement remains the committee's primary goal. The meeting focused on reviewing the committee's priorities under the new strategic plan, discussing progress toward implementation, and identifying opportunities for continued collaboration with employers and workforce partners.

Overview of Goals and Priorities

Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board outlined the Employer Engagement Committee's role within the broader Strategic Plan, which includes four complementary goals: education, employer engagement, workforce participation, and coordination and return on investment. The strategic plan will guide efforts over the next four years, with priorities remaining consistent while strategies and measures continue to evolve based on progress and outcomes. The committee's three primary priorities were identified as expanding work-based learning, expanding talent pools for business hiring, and creating unified business services.

Additional information on each of the strategic goals and priorities is available in the *Strategic Goals/Priorities* section of the Briefing Packet, which was provided to committee members and is also available on the [KWIB website](#).

Review of Relevant Documents

Alisher Burikhanov provided a breakdown of action items, necessary metrics, and allotted timeframes relevant to each priority for this committee within the strategic plan. The full version of the 2026-2029 KWIB Strategic Plan can be viewed and downloaded on [KWIB's website](#).

Work-Based Learning (Business Perspective)

The discussion then shifted to the action items associated with the committee's three priorities, beginning with making work-based learning more accessible and easier for employers to navigate. Members reviewed the corresponding

performance measures, including the development of employer guides explaining participation in work-based learning programs and available workforce incentives. Future efforts will focus on measuring resource utilization, gathering employer feedback through industry associations, and refining materials to better meet business needs.

Committee members discussed the value of identifying employer champions and documenting successful work-based learning models to provide practical examples for businesses interested in apprenticeships, internships, and other work-based learning opportunities. Members acknowledged common employer challenges, including insurance and compliance requirements for youth apprenticeships. Discussion included the need to better document and share existing work-based learning activities occurring across schools, colleges, workforce boards, and employers, noting that many successful programs are not consistently captured or promoted statewide.

Expanding Use of Talent Pools

The committee reviewed the second strategic priority, which focuses on expanding employer awareness of diverse talent pools and increasing employment opportunities throughout the Commonwealth. Members discussed highlighting successful hiring practices through employer case studies that showcase a variety of talent pools, including veterans, individuals with barriers to employment, immigrants, refugees, and other underutilized workforce populations.

Year One objectives include developing and publishing employer success stories, with future efforts focused on measuring resource utilization, evaluating employer outcomes through industry partners, and gathering ongoing employer feedback on workforce needs and effective hiring practices.

Statewide Workforce and Talent Team

The committee reviewed ongoing efforts to strengthen Unified Business Services through the Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT). Discussion focused on improving coordination among workforce partners and reducing duplication of employer outreach by developing common business engagement processes and shared needs assessments.

The Committee discussed the importance of creating a more unified statewide framework while continuing to support successful regional practices. The committee also received an update that progress is being made toward implementation of a unified statewide customer relationship management system that will support more coordinated employer engagement.

Registered Apprenticeship Metrics

Alisher Burikhanov presented an update on Kentucky's registered apprenticeship data, highlighting continued statewide growth and positive workforce outcomes. Key updates included:

- Active registered apprentices increased from approximately **2,700 in 2016 to more than 5,700 in 2025**, reflecting sustained growth over the past decade.
- **709 active employers** currently participate in Kentucky's registered apprenticeship programs.
- Apprenticeship participants earned an average **entry wage of \$20.06** per hour and an average **completion wage of \$26.31** per hour during 2025, demonstrating apprenticeship's value as a pathway to family-sustaining employment.
- Kentucky's **45.81% apprenticeship completion rate** remains competitive with neighboring states and closely aligned with the national average.

Committee members discussed the importance of continuing to monitor apprenticeship participation and performance measures as part of the committee's strategic priorities. Members also emphasized the value of receiving apprenticeship data by industry sector or occupation to better demonstrate program outcomes and communicate the benefits of apprenticeship to employers across Kentucky. Staff agreed to continue exploring opportunities for additional reporting and analysis.

The committee discussed the importance of sharing consistent definitions for work-based learning programs across Kentucky to promote a shared understanding among partners. Members noted that the Education Committee has gathered input from organizations involved in work-based learning statewide and agreed to use the definitions outlined in **705 KAR 4:041, Work-Based Learning Program Standards**, as that foundation. The regulation's definitions and standards will serve as a common point of reference to distinguish work-based learning models, such as internships, apprenticeships, and mentorships, and support alignment across statewide initiatives.

Workforce Pell Update

Alisher Burikhanov provided an overview of the newly launched [Workforce Pell Grant program](#). Workforce Pell expands access to federal financial aid by allowing eligible students to use Pell Grants for short-term, industry-recognized credential programs, typically ranging from 8 to 14 weeks. The program is intended to support workforce-aligned training opportunities in areas such as manufacturing, healthcare, and skilled trades.

The committee was informed that post-secondary institutions may submit eligible short-term credential programs for review and approval through the state process. Once approved, students may utilize federal financial aid to pursue these credentials.

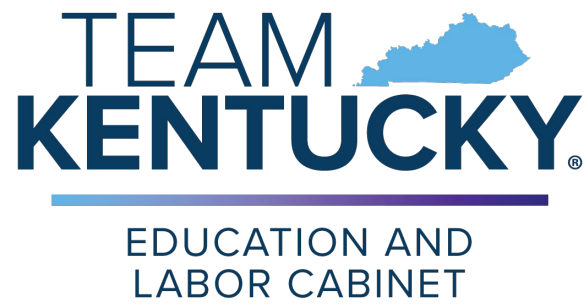
Next Steps: Executing Committee Priorities

Alisher Burikhanov emphasized the continued focus on expanding work-based learning opportunities, developing talent pools, and strengthening collaboration with businesses. He noted that progress updates will continue to be provided quarterly to the committee and the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB). Committee members were encouraged to share these efforts within their respective agencies and bring additional perspectives to support the initiative.

Members were also encouraged to identify businesses and KWIB members interested in contributing to the committee's work and increasing engagement and participation.

11:15 am Adjournment

LaKisha thanked everyone for their participation and comments. With no further business to address, LaKisha called for a motion to adjourn. *Aaron Poynter **made the motion**, and Paul Dole **seconded it***. The motion was approved unanimously.



Employer Engagement Committee
Meeting Briefing Packet

July 29, 2026

10:00 – 11:30 am ET

Committee Chair

Beth Davisson

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Employer Engagement Committee Meeting
July 29, 2026, 10 am - 11:30 am ET

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Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

Employer Engagement Committee Meeting

AGENDA
July 29th, 2026
10:00 – 11:30 am ET

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84336100351?pwd=2b8wbL0TWC2XRYqJMHkwrPi9tcHLL9.1>

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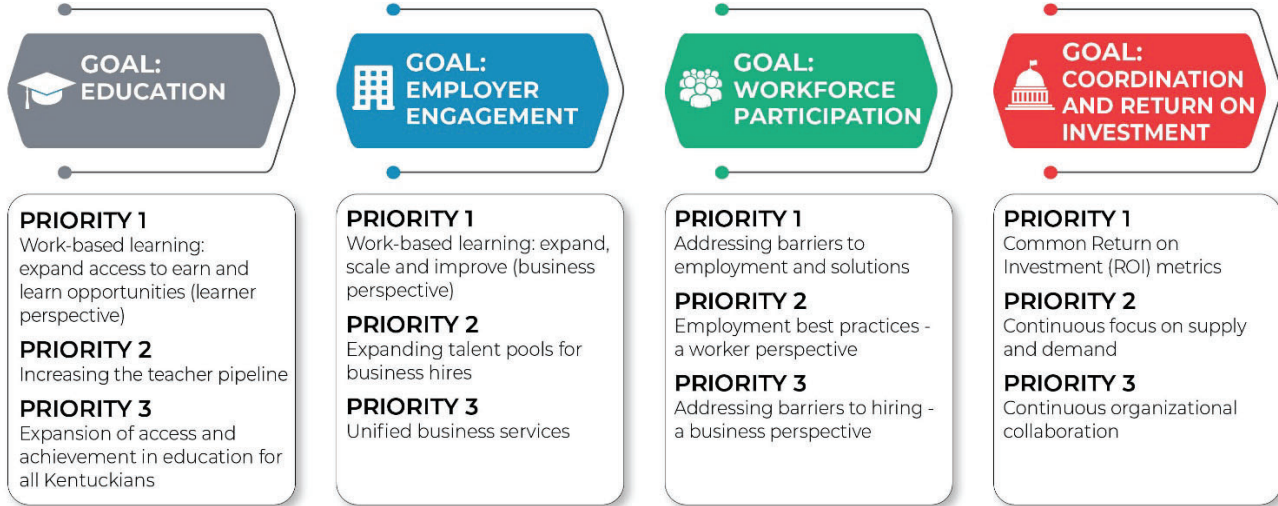
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10:00 AM	<u>Welcome and Overview</u>	<i>LaKisha Miller, Committee Chair Representative Sr. Director of Advancement & Partnerships Kentucky Chamber Foundation</i> <i>Alisher Burikhanov Executive Director Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board</i>
10:15 AM	<u>Overview of Goals and Priorities</u>	<i>LaKisha Miller</i> <i>Alisher Burikhanov</i>
10:35 AM	<u>Review of Relevant Documents</u>	<i>LaKisha Miller</i> - Registered Apprenticeship Metrics - Work-Based Learning Definitions (via KWIB Education Committee) <i>Alisher Burikhanov</i> - Expanding Talent Pools - Statewide Workforce and Talent Team - Workforce Talent Project Management Team
11:00 AM	<u>Workforce Pell Update</u>	<i>Alisher Burikhanov</i>
11:15 AM	<u>Next Steps: Executing Committee Priorities</u>	<i>Alisher Burikhanov</i>
11:00 AM	<u>Adjournment</u>	<i>LaKisha Miller</i>

Strategic Goal/Priorities

TEAM KENTUCKY FORWARD

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN



Kentucky
WORKFORCE
INNOVATION BOARD

TEAM KENTUCKY.
EDUCATION AND
LABOR CABINET

Strategic Committee: Employer Engagement

Chair: Beth Davisson

KWIB Staff Contact: LaChrista Ellis

Strategic Goal: Employer Engagement

Employer engagement is critical and highlights the active role businesses across the Commonwealth can play getting individuals into good jobs, as well as hiring, training, and developing world-class talent. The workforce development system needs tools, resources, and solutions that are simple to understand, and actionable in order to engage businesses, and this requires the appropriate government technical assistance to support this coordination.

Priority #1: Work-Based Learning (Business Perspective) - Expand, Scale, and Improve

Strategic Action: Develop Business-to-Business Work-Based Learning (WBL) Guide & Best Practices (ex: five steps to starting an apprenticeship; five steps to hiring WBL high schoolers; five steps to utilize government-based on-the-job training incentives; five steps to hiring WBL postsecondary learners). Key partners include business and industry associations in disseminating information and providing ongoing feedback.

Qualitative Metric:

Immediate Measurement (within one year) completed guides on:

- (1) Pre-apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and registered apprenticeships
- (2) High school internship/co-op
- (3) WIOA/government on-the-job training
- (4) Postsecondary internship/co-op
- (5) Business or industry WBL/apprenticeship models

Mid-term Measurement (within two years): Utilization of WBL guides across businesses through assessment of industry associations; improvement where necessary based on feedback.

Long-term Measurement (within four years): Document successful case studies, measure the increase of WBL opportunities based on qualitative analysis from industry association.

Quantitative Metric Measurement:

Registered Apprenticeship growth will be measured quarterly and annually, analyzing baseline numbers for new apprentices, active apprentices, and program completers, and demonstrating the last three-year and four-quarter trends.

- Number of companies participating in Registered Apprenticeships
- Number of active apprentices
- Number of apprenticeship programs
- Entry vs. completion wages
- Program retention rate (percentage of apprentices who complete the program)

- Job retention rate (percentage of program completers still employed 12 months post-completion)

Priority #2: Expanding Talent Pools for Business Hire

Strategic Action: Expanding access to all talent pools by leading with skills and widening avenues to hiring Kentuckians.

Qualitative Metrics (with Quantitative Metric of Number of Case Studies Produced):

Immediate Measurement (within one year): Five case studies in skills-first widening of talent pools; five case studies per year at minimum.

Mid-term Measurement (within two years): Utilization across businesses through assessment of industry associations; improvement where necessary.

Long-term Measurement (within four years): Increase of employment opportunities based on qualitative analysis from industry association.

Priority #3: Unified Business Services

Strategic Action: Streamline systems, processes, and services to manage state, regional, and local relationships across the workforce and education ecosystem for better, more coordinated service delivery.

Qualitative Metrics (with Quantitative Metric of Milestones Reached):

Immediate Measurement (within one year): Develop a framework, including launch of a common needs assessment, workforce planning templates, and an outline for streamlined relationship management.

Mid-term Measurement (within two years): State and local integration with the implementation and assessment of progress, identification of challenges, and scaling expansion to more local workforce development areas.

Long-term Measurement (within four years): Development of a statewide unified business services training model with standardized resources and a train-the-trainer framework to support continuous improvement in creating the “Kentucky Unified Business Services Professional.”

Full Strategic Plan can be viewed and downloaded here:

[https://kwib.ky.gov/Documents/KWIB%20Strategic%20Plan 2026-2029%20%28002%29.pdf](https://kwib.ky.gov/Documents/KWIB%20Strategic%20Plan%202026-2029%20%28002%29.pdf)

Kentucky Work-Based Learning

Kentucky Registered Apprenticeship Data 2026 - Q2 Report

	USDOL PY2025	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Q4 2026
	10/1/2024- 9/30/2026	10/1/2024 - 12/31/2025	1/1/2025- 3/31/2025	4/1/2025- 6/30/2025	7/1/2025- 9/30/2025	10/1/2025- 12/31/2025	1/1/2026- 3/31/2026	4/1/2026- 6/30/2026	7/1/2026- 9/30/2026
Active Apprentices	5776	5916	5668	5519	5776	5865	5833		
Active Sponsors	259	281	262	264	259	267	267		
Avg Entry Wage	\$20.06	\$20.75	\$20.15	\$21.47	\$18.62	\$19.82	\$21.85		
Avg Completion Wage	\$26.31	\$23.74	\$24.4	\$28.09	\$28.5	\$28.91	\$35.62		
New Programs	21	2	8	4	7	8	6		
New Occupations	45	17	6	9	13	11	17		
New Apprentices	2384	447	469	623	853	478	605		
Apprentice Completions	943	149	214	386	194	131	231		
Apprentice Cancellations	1592	309	503	382	398	258	406		

Current Active Employers	709
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Completion Rate*	45.81% DOL FY
	2024

(all data as of 6/5/2026)

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

New Occupations added during DOL Program Year 2025-2026

DOL Program Year 2025 (10/1/2024-9/30/2025)

Operating Engineer
Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver
Plumber
Millwright
Tool Maker
Pipe Fitter (Construction)
Teacher Aide I
Electrician, Substation
Line Maintainer (Alternate Title: High Voltage Electrician)
Construction Craft Laborer
Float Nurse
Pharmacy Technician, Retail Store (Revised)
Carpenter
K-12 Teacher
Peer Specialist
Tool and Die Maker
Electrician, Maintenance
Fire Fighter, Crash, Fire
Mechanical Engineering Technician (NOF)
Fire Fighter
Landscape Management Technician
Nurse, Licensed Practical
Teacher Aide I
E-Commerce Specialist
Automotive Technician Specialist
Police Officer (Alternate Title: Military Police)
Line Maintainer (Alternate Title: High Voltage Electrician)
Public Affairs
Early Childhood Educator
Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
Digital Marketer
Cook (Any Ind) (Alternate Title: Nutrition Care Specialist)
CNC Operator - Milling
K-12 Teacher
Community Health Worker
Tool and Die Maker
IT Generalist
Early Childhood Educator
Machine Repairer, Maintenance
Mold Maker, Die-Cast & Plastic
K-12 Teacher
Diesel Mechanic
Cook (Any Ind) (Alternate Title: Nutrition Care Specialist)
Maintenance Technician
Early Childhood Student Support Specialist

DOL Program Year 2026 (10/1/2025-9/30/2026)

Residential Wireman
Electrician, Maintenance
Computer Support Specialist-Desktop Support Tech
Production Cook
Landscape Management Technician
Pharmacy Technician, Retail Store (Revised)
Retail Operations Specialist
Graphic Designer
Teacher Aide I
Dry-Wall Applicator
Glazier
Mechanical Engineering Technician (NOF)
Cloud Operations Specialist 1
Drafter, Civil
Early Childhood Educator
Mechanical Engineering Technician (NOF)
Fire Alarm Inspection Test Maintenance Technician
Construction Equipment Mechanic
Electrician, Maintenance
K-12 Teacher
Operating Engineer (Alternate Title: Heavy Construction Equipment Mechanic)
CNC Operator and Programmer
Electrician (Alternate Title: Interior Electrician)
IT Generalist
Tool and Die Maker
Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
Electrician (Alternate Title: Interior Electrician)
Computer Support Specialist-Desktop Support Tech
Operating Engineer
Veterinary/Lab Animal Tech (Alternate Title: Animal Care Specialist)
Sous / Head Chef
Cook, Pastry (Hotel & Restaurant)
Cook
Cook
Industrial Manufacturing Technician (NOF)
Fence Erector

Kentucky Work-based Learning Definitions

Per [705 KAR 4:041](#). **Work-based learning program standards.**

Section 1. Definitions.

Apprentice – A worker who is at least 16 years old (unless a higher age is required by law) and is employed to learn a skilled trade or occupation.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) – defined as a program of study that leads to the development of academic and specialized occupational skills in various career fields.

Career Pathway Completer – A student who has completed at least four credits in a Kentucky Department of Education-approved career pathway.

Cooperative Education – A work-based learning program that combines classroom instruction with paid, job-related work experience at a business or industry.

Entrepreneurship – Education that helps students understand economic principles and apply classroom learning by starting and operating a business enterprise.

Internship – A work-based learning experience that provides hands-on experience in a specific occupation and may include course credit and pay.

Journeyperson Certificate – A nationally recognized, portable credential earned upon completion of an apprenticeship program.

Mentoring – A work-based learning activity in which business or community volunteers build one-on-one relationships with students to help them understand careers and workplace expectations beyond traditional teaching or supervision.

Registered Apprenticeship Program – A program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor that combines paid on-the-job training with classroom instruction under the guidance of an experienced industry professional.

Registered Youth Apprenticeship – A program that combines academic and technical classroom instruction with work experience through a U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeship.

Registered Youth Pre-Apprenticeship – A program or set of activities designed to prepare students for entry into a U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeship program.

Related Technical Instruction – The classroom training component of a registered apprenticeship program, requiring 144 hours of instruction for every 2,000 hours of apprenticeship training.

School-Based Enterprise – A simulated or actual business that operates within a school setting.

Service Learning – A teaching approach that combines meaningful community service with classroom instruction and reflection to enhance learning, promote civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Shadowing – A work-based learning activity in which students learn about a career by observing someone working in that occupation.

State Apprenticeship Agency – The state agency and staff responsible for registered apprenticeship activities on behalf of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Work-Based Learning – A teaching approach that engages students in real-world work experiences through structured activities connected to the curriculum, allowing them to apply classroom knowledge and skills in the workplace.

Expanding Talent Pools

New American Workforce Employer Summit Event Recap and Participant Feedback

The **New American Workforce Employer Summit** held on July 14, 2026 in Bowling Green at the WKU Innovation Campus brought together employers, workforce professionals, community organizations, educators, service providers, and regional leaders to examine how South Central Kentucky can more effectively recruit, onboard, support, and retain New American workers. With an audience of just over 100 participants, the summit combined regional workforce data, practical employer strategies, service-provider resources, legal and immigration information, technology demonstrations, and structured networking in a 4-hour format that included a light breakfast and a full lunch.

Regional Workforce Context

The summit emphasized the increasingly important role New American workers play in the region's economic growth. Nearly 12,000 New Americans participate in South Central Kentucky's labor force, approximately one in ten households speaks a language other than English at home, and the labor-force participation rate of New American workers exceeds that of their native-born counterparts across the 10-county region. The central data message was especially significant: all net growth in the region's prime-age workforce since 2010 has come from New American workers.

Program Highlights

Participants heard brief presentations from organizations providing employment, language, education, transportation, family-support, and community-integration services. A four-employer panel shared practical lessons about recruitment, onboarding, communication, bilingual leadership, workplace culture, and employee retention. The summit also featured a demonstration of a new workplace holistic digital communication and translation technology called **theLanguageGap** from **UnDesked** who was the primary event sponsor. Structured networking discussions allowed attendees to rotate tables and have discussions focused on employer lessons learned, available solutions and information concerning immigration and employment requirements provided by an Immigration Attorney. Professional-development credit was made available through Southern Kentucky SHRM.

Participant Feedback

The post-event survey included **23 responses**, although response totals for individual questions ranged from 15 to 23. Feedback was strongly positive:

- **96%** agreed or strongly agreed that the summit was a valuable use of their time.
- **94%** said the summit provided practical strategies relevant to their organization.
- **100%** rated the employer panel as useful and insightful.
- **94%** said the service-provider overviews improved their understanding of employer-facing resources.
- **87%** reported that the structured networking helped them connect with useful people, ideas, or resources.
- **100%** left with at least one resource, contact, or strategy they could use.
- **93%** indicated they were likely to attend another employer-focused workforce event.

The highest-rated measure was interest in attending future events, with an average rating of **4.73 out of 5**. The employer panel and service-provider presentations each averaged **4.63**, reinforcing the value of combining employer experience with clear information about available community resources.

Impact and Next Steps

The summit increased employer awareness of available services, strengthened connections among employers and community partners, and provided practical tools for improving New American recruitment and retention. Feedback supports continuing the event and developing targeted follow-up sessions focused on immigration compliance, work authorization, education and credential pathways, employer integration practices, and expanded networking.

NEW AMERICANS ARE A VITAL PART OF SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY

SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY

Allen Barren Butler
Edmonson Hart Logan
Metcalfe Monroe
Simpson Warren



17,800+

New Americans live in South Central KY
About 5 - 6% of the regional population and 10%+ of the Warren County population



~12,000

Are Participating in the Labor Force
About 6 - 7% of the regional labor force with 9,000 - 10,000 residing in Warren County



1,100+

Business Owners (Incorporated)
About 8.5% of all business owners in the region.



550+

Main Street Business Owners*
About 10% of Main Street business owners in the region.

*Main Street businesses include Retail Trade, Accommodation & Food Services, and Other Services (e.g. beauty salons, dry cleaners, auto repair).

AN IMPORTANT AND GROWING COMMUNITY

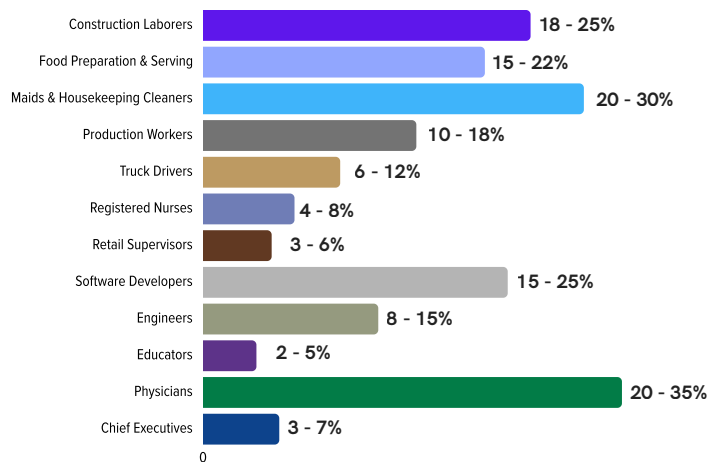
Since 2010, the New American population in South Central Kentucky has grown by

60 - 65%

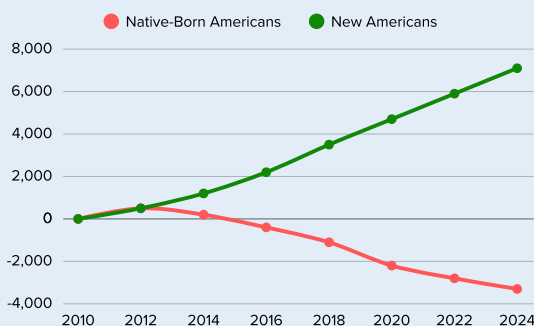
Outpacing overall population growth 9X



NEW AMERICANS CONTRIBUTE ACROSS THE ECONOMIC SPECTRUM*



ESSENTIALLY ALL NET GROWTH IN SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY'S PRIME-AGE WORKFORCE SINCE 2010 HAS COME FROM NEW AMERICANS



The region experienced 3,800+ Overall Net Growth During This Time Span

Net Workforce Change in Prime Age Workers (Ages 25 - 54)

POWERING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY



\$1.4 - \$1.8 BILLION

Estimated economic output (GDP) generated by New Americans in South Central Kentucky in 2024**

That's about 6 - 7%

of the region's total GDP

New Americans' economic output in the region has roughly doubled since 2010

DATA NOTES

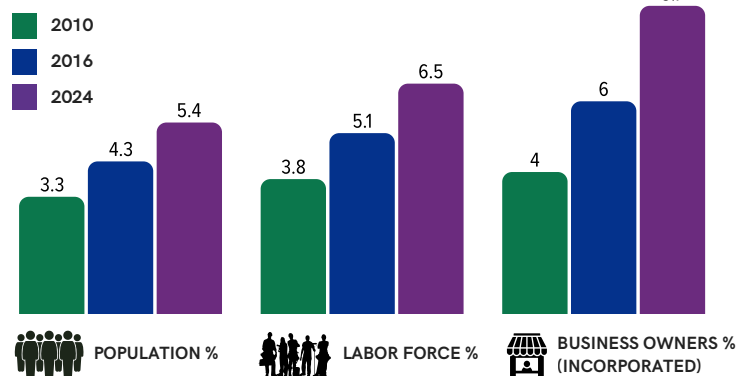
Statistics are estimates using the US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS). The term "New Americans" is an umbrella term to describe foreign-born persons who are immigrants, refugees, and non-native English speakers.

*Modeled Occupational Estimates based on ACS, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and KY and regional industry composition

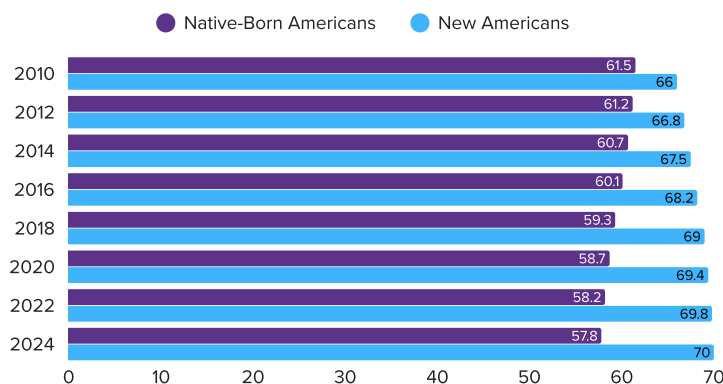
**Estimate is strongly grounded in foreign-born residents' ACS labor-force participation, earnings patterns, regional industry structure, and standard GDP estimation methodology used nationally

GROWING PRESENCE IN COMMUNITY, WORK & BUSINESS

New American share of population, labor force, and business owners (American Community Survey 1-year estimates)



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES (%)



New American residents in South Central Kentucky participate in the labor force at significantly higher rates than native-born residents, and that gap has widened steadily since 2010.

TOP COUNTRIES OF BIRTH (CURRENT ESTIMATE)



Language Access Is Now a Workforce Strategy

Nearly

1 in 10

households in the region now speaks a language other than English at home (~12,000 households)

This Fact Sheet was compiled May 2026 by

South Central Workforce Development Board
A proud partner of the american job center network

WHY HIRING VETERANS IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Kentucky employers gain experienced, dependable talent while strengthening our workforce

Veterans Bring Proven Value

- **Leadership:** Veterans are trained to lead teams, solve problems, and make sound decisions under pressure.
- **Strong Work Ethic:** Reliability, accountability, professionalism, and mission focus are hallmarks of military service.
- **Adaptability:** Veterans quickly learn new systems and thrive in changing environments.
- **Team-Oriented:** Military experience develops collaboration, communication, and respect for diverse teams.
- **Safety & Compliance:** Veterans understand procedures, accountability, and quality standards.
- **Transferable Skills:** Experience spans logistics, healthcare, IT, engineering, skilled trades, transportation, manufacturing, administration, cybersecurity, and more.

Why Employers Choose Veterans

- Reduce turnover with committed employees
- Strengthen workplace culture and leadership
- Fill critical positions with skilled talent
- Access a workforce with proven training and experience
- Demonstrate support for those who served our nation

How KYVETS Can Help

Kentucky Employers Can Connect with Veteran Talent Through KYVETS

The Kentucky Veterans Employment and Training Services (KYVETS) program partners with employers across the Commonwealth by providing:

- Veteran recruitment assistance
- Virtual hiring events
- Employer networking opportunities
- Workforce connections
- Promotion of immediate hiring needs
- No-cost employer support

Connect With Us

Amanda Houlé

KYVETS Program Administrator

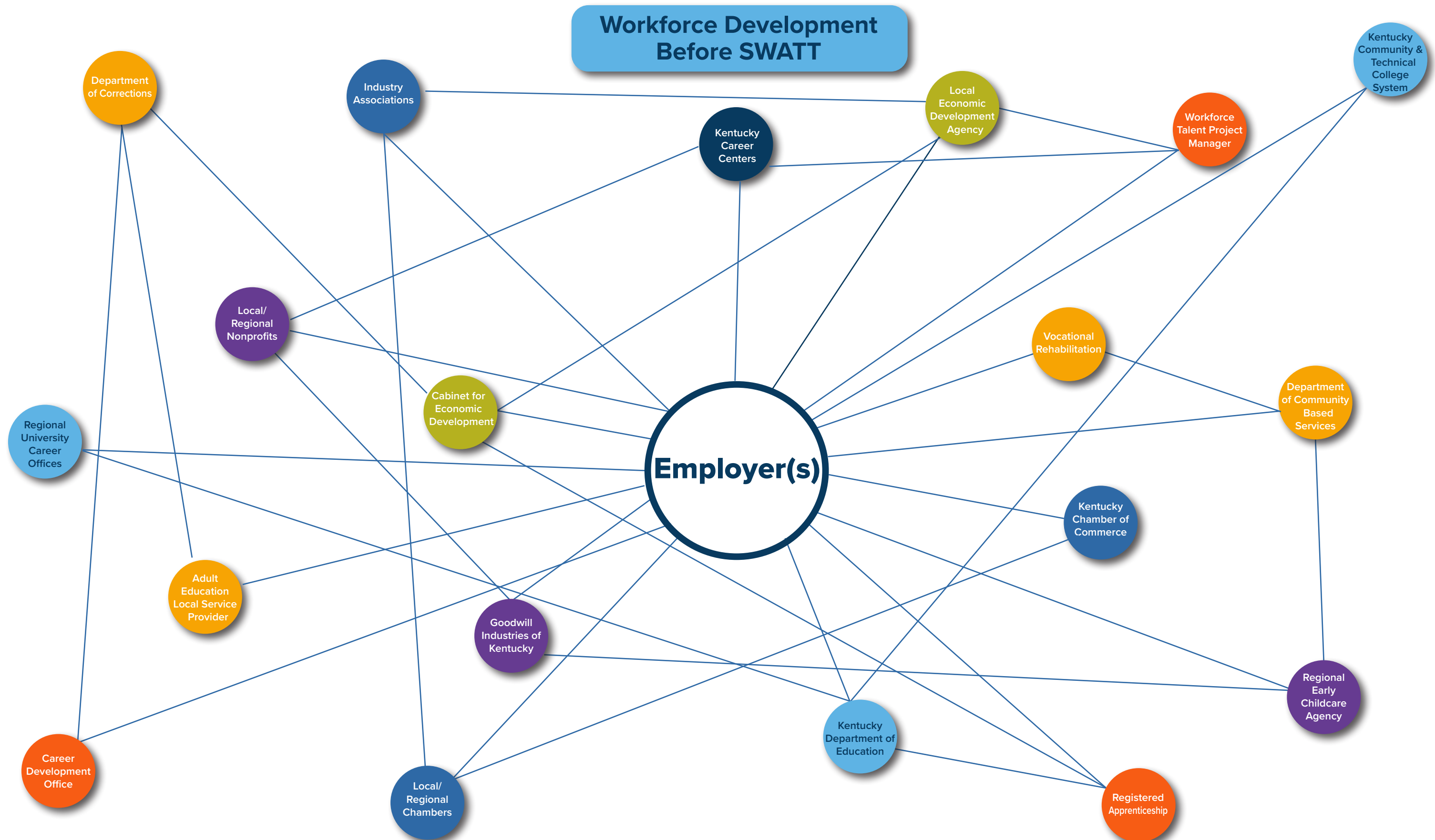
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Email: amanda.houle@ky.gov

Phone: 502-782-5734

Website: veterans.ky.gov

Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT)





Employer Job Posting Guide

Post your open positions for free
and connect with top talent.

KYJobs.usnlx.com offers Kentucky employers two free options for posting jobs on the state's labor exchange. Positions posted through the site also appear on additional job search platforms, including **USNLx**, **Hiring Our Heroes**, **MySkillsMyFuture** and **CareerOneStop**.

POST YOUR
JOBS FOR
FREE



Option 1:

Register and manually post your jobs

First, you must create an account at kentucky.usnlx.com. No generic accounts like “recruiter” or “human resources” will be approved. A first and last name are required.

The next step is to add information required about your organization. Once you receive approval, you may start posting your open jobs.

Option 2:

Request free indexing by the U.S. National Labor Exchange

Instead of manually posting your open positions on the National Labor Exchange, you may request free indexing of the jobs posted on your company's website.

To request free indexing of the job listings on your company website, complete and submit a request form to the National Labor Exchange at jobs.usnlx.com.

Need help?

Contact workforce@ky.gov
or call (502) 564-5920.

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!

Workforce Pell Grant



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:

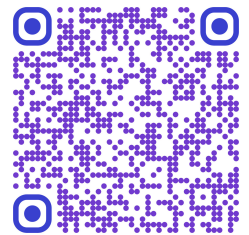
- a. ["Workforce Pell Application" July 2026](#)
- b. ["Workforce Pell Report", July 2026 & Data Dictionary](#)
- c. [Kentucky Workforce Pell Regulation: 787 KAR 2:050E](#)
- d. [US Department of Education Workforce Pell Final Rule](#)

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

Appendix



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



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



Healthcare

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



Manufacturing and Logistics

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



Construction

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



Education

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



Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

Professionals in these fields may specialize in designing cutting-edge technology, conducting scientific research, managing finances, or offering legal and business advice. These roles require knowledge, analytical thinking, and a commitment to staying ahead of industry trends. ²⁶



Partner Spotlight

Partner Spotlight highlights partner initiatives by sharing best practices and innovative approaches in Kentucky's workforce development system.

August 5, 2026 • 12:00 p.m. (ET)

Discussion Topic: Kentucky's Public Libraries in the Workforce

Presenters:

Jamie Collins, Library Director
Marion County Public Library

Terri Thomas, Director
Lebanon/Marion County Career Center

Melanie Warga, Library Director
Ohio County Public Library

Dr. Lindsey Kafer, Director of Adult Education
Owensboro Community and Technical College

Kentucky
WORKFORCE
INNOVATION BOARD

TEAM
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EDUCATION AND
LABOR CABINET

Your *New*
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Passcode: 431173

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

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.