

KENTUCKY'S AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

JUNE 2025

# REGIONALISM

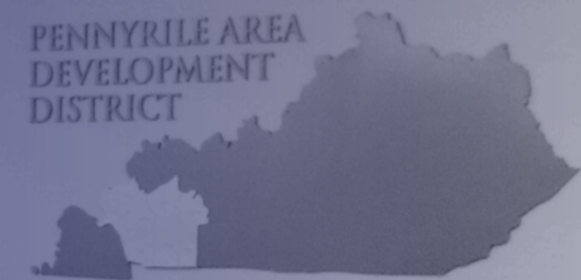


# WORKS

# WHAT IS AN AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT?

An Area Development District (ADD) functions as a council of governments, comprising an association of city and county governments. These local governments constitute the membership and appoint representatives to serve on the respective governing boards. The staff of the ADD operate on behalf of, and in service to, these member governments.

PENNYRILE AREA  
DEVELOPMENT  
DISTRICT





# HISTORICAL BENCHMARKS

**1967**

**Executive Order 67-233 established the ADD boundaries.**

**1971**

**Executive Order 71-1267 established the ADDs as official planning and development agencies for districts**

**1972**

**KRS Chapter 147A, enabling legislation passed establishing ADDs as public agencies and creating the organizational structure**

**1974**

**Six ADDs (Northern Kentucky, Purchase, Pennyrite, Green River, KIPDA, and Barren River) are designated Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). The remaining 9 ADDs received the designation in 1975.**





# ADD GOVERNANCE

Kentucky's Area Development Districts can be described as “for local government by local government” because their structure and function are fundamentally driven by the needs and direct participation of the counties and cities they serve.

The governing board of each ADD are primarily composed of elected officials from the local governments within their respective districts. This includes county judge/executives and mayors. This direct representation ensures that the priorities and concerns of local communities are at the forefront of the ADDs' agenda.



# EFFICIENCY & TRANSPARENCY



## **Efficiency Across 120 Counties:**

- Kentucky's 120 counties: 4th most in the nation.
- ADDs facilitate regionalism, enabling counties to achieve collectively what they cannot do alone.
- Streamline access to state and federal funding for regional projects.
- Consolidate resources and expertise for common goals (e.g., grant writing, regional planning).
- Avoid redundant efforts across small, individual county and city governments.

## **Transparency:**

- Increased financial and operational oversight for ADDs.
- Auditor of Public Accounts: Right of first refusal for annual financial audits, ensuring consistent scrutiny.
- Public Access to Financials: Required website transparency, detailing expenditures and revenue sources.
- Standardized Operations: Implemented consistent hiring practices and procurement regulations.
- No Bonuses: Prohibited one-time payments or bonuses for ADD employees.
- Whistleblower Protections: Established safeguards for reporting concerns, enhancing accountability.



# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Each of Kentucky's 15 ADDs supports:

- **Infrastructure and Economic Planning:** Creating regional economic strategies (CEDs), supporting local planning/zoning.
- **Technical Assistance:** Providing guidance and expertise to local governments.
- **Grant Writing & Funding Support:** Identifying resources and assisting with grant applications, including
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  - Economic Development Administration (EDA)
  - Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
  - Delta Regional Authority (DRA)
  - FEMA Grants (Firefighters, Hazard Mitigation, Homeland Security)
  - Recreational Trails & Land/Water Conservation Funds
  - Transportation Alternatives Program
  - Crumb Rubber Grants







# WATER & WASTEWATER PLANNING

- **Regional Planning Councils:** Established by KRS 224A, councils coordinate regional water management planning with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA).
- **Project Prioritization:** Identify, compile, and prioritize water/wastewater infrastructure projects.
- **Technical Assistance:** Support local governments and utilities with planning, data collection, and reporting to KIA.
- **Information Sharing:** Facilitate stakeholder communication, funding opportunity awareness, and training events.



# GIS MAPPING

- **Regional Data Hubs:** Maintain and manage geospatial data on demographics, infrastructure, land use, and more.
- **Analysis and Visualization:** Turn complex data into maps and reports to reveal trends and support planning.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** Use GIS insights to guide regional planning, economic development, infrastructure, and emergency management.
- **Public Engagement:** Communicate data clearly through visual tools to foster transparency and community involvement.
- **Collaboration Tools:** Develop and share custom GIS software and mapping apps with local governments and partners.





# BROADBAND PLANNING

The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient with a faint, high-contrast image of network infrastructure. It shows several white Ethernet cables plugged into a black patch panel or switch. The cables are bundled and run across the frame, creating a sense of connectivity and technology.

- **Needs Assessment:** Identify gaps in broadband access by analyzing internet speeds, coverage, and infrastructure.
- **Community Engagement:** Gather input through forums, surveys, and workshops to understand local priorities.
- **Strategic Planning:** Develop broadband expansion plans with clear goals, funding strategies, and deployment targets.
- **Grant Support:** Assist communities with federal and state broadband grant applications and technical guidance.
- **Collaboration:** Coordinate efforts among ISPs, government agencies, nonprofits, and schools to drive broadband access.
- **Advocacy:** Promote policies and funding that support rural broadband development.



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FY '24

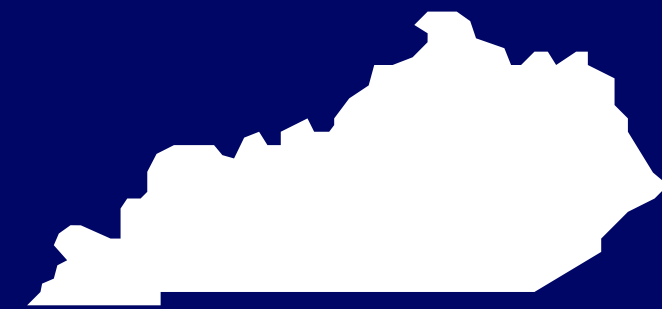
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# STATEWIDE IMPACT

1,887

PROJECTS

totaling \$3,313,319,557.76



94

REGIONAL PROJECTS

totaling \$557,836,068

*835 Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Projects Prioritized through Water Management Councils*



# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Kentucky's ADDs play a crucial role in transportation and infrastructure planning, especially in rural areas. Key functions include:

- **Regional Coordination:** Facilitate collaboration between counties, local governments, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and stakeholders.
- **Needs Identification:** Analyze data, engage communities, and prioritize transportation projects.
- **Planning and Development:** Develop regional plans outlining goals, objectives, and specific projects.
- **Grant Procurement:** Assist communities in securing state and federal transportation funding.

A white van is parked on a paved surface. The side of the van features the text "EVERY COMMUTE COUNTS" in large, bold, black letters. The van is angled slightly towards the right. The background shows a clear sky and some distant structures.



# AGING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- **Area Agencies on Aging (AAA):** Coordinate and deliver services to older adults and people with disabilities.
- **Service Delivery & Information:**
  - Nutrition programs (meal delivery)
  - Independent living assistance (transportation, homemaking)
  - Health promotion (screenings, disease prevention)
  - Caregiver support (training, respite care)
  - Central information/referral point for community resources
- **Planning & Advocacy:** Assess regional needs, identify service gaps, and advocate for resources.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Connect communities to funding sources for healthcare and aging initiatives.





# AGING AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

- Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
- Information & Assistance
- Assessment/Case Management/Service Advisor
- Homecare
- Medicaid Waivers (Participant Directed Services)
- Senior Centers/Support Services
- Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers (MIPPA)
- Senior Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Program/Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Services/Elder Abuse Prevention
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (Benefits Counseling) (SHIP)
- Transportation Services



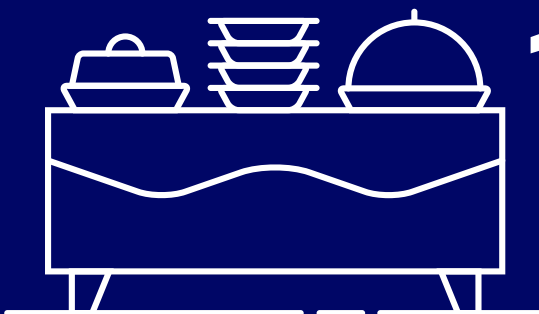


# STATEWIDE IMPACT



**2,200,845**

Home Delivered  
Meals



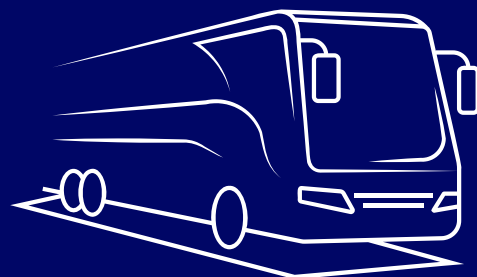
**1,008,813**

Congregate  
Meals Served



**6,148**

Seniors Receiving Legal  
Aid



**264,863**

Transportation  
Trips



**22,032**

In-Home Services  
Provided



**12,338**

Grandparent/Caregiver  
Services Provided



# HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

- **Plan Development & Updates:** Create and update regional hazard mitigation plans every five years (required by DMA 2000).
- **Risk Assessment:** Evaluate natural and human-caused hazards, vulnerabilities, and potential impacts
- **Mitigation Strategies:** Develop prioritized actions to reduce long-term risks to people and property.
- **Coordination & Collaboration:** Facilitate regional cooperation via Hazard Mitigation Planning Committees.
- **Funding Eligibility:** Ensure communities qualify for FEMA programs (HMGP, BRIC, FMA).
- **Technical Assistance:** Provide data collection, guidance, and federal compliance support.
- **Integration:** Align hazard mitigation with economic development, housing, and land-use planning.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Seven of Kentucky's 10 Local Workforce Boards** are managed by Area Development Districts.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Coordinate programs across counties to align local workforce needs and federal resources.
- **Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs):** Staff and support WIBs funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), focusing on strategy development using employment trends and identified skills gaps to make data-informed connections between employers and job seekers in targeted industry sectors
- **Career Centers:** Operate or partner with centers offering job search help, training, and support services (e.g., for veterans, individuals with disabilities, transportation needs).
- **Direct Assistance:** Provide job seekers with customized education, training, and wrap-around services and employers with job fairs, job boards and other talent recruitment opportunities via the Kentucky Career Center network

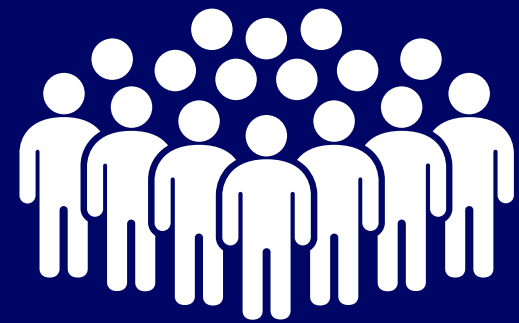




WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FY '24

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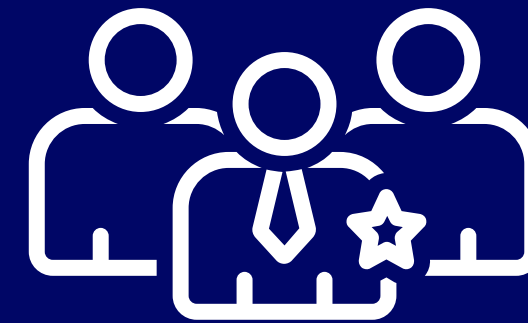
# STATEWIDE IMPACT



91,780

INDIVIDUALS

served by WIOA programs in FY '24



11,009

UNIQUE

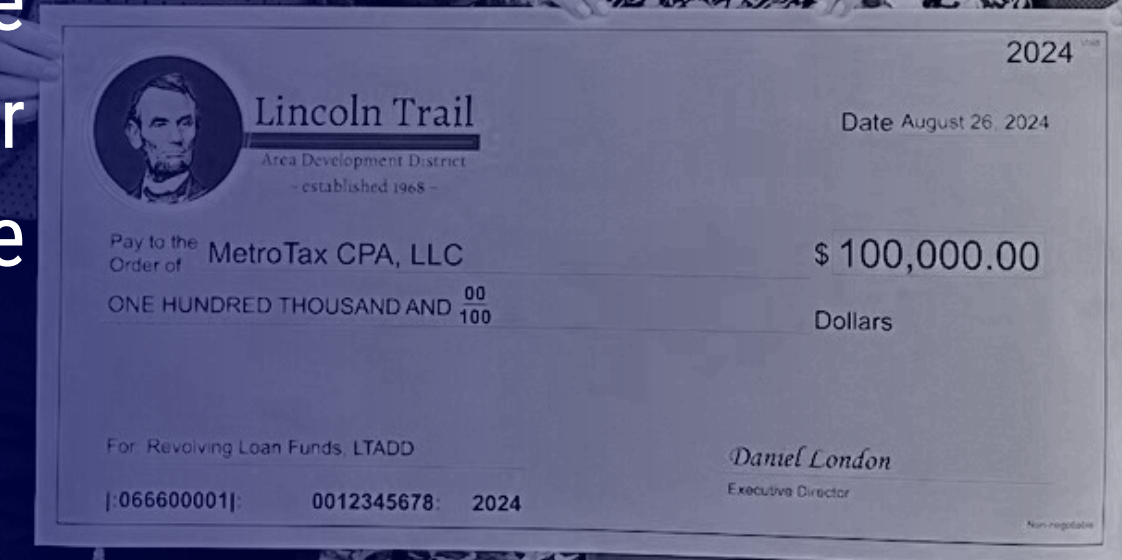
business/employers served

*75.7% of individuals served by WIOA Title I entered employment and/or earned a credential*



# REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Of Kentucky's 15 ADDs, 11 currently operate a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), providing flexible, low-interest debt financing to businesses, particularly small businesses, that may struggle to obtain sufficient funding from traditional private vendors. The primary goal of an ADD's RLF is to stimulate economic growth and create or retain jobs within its specific geographic service area. Projects funded by RLFs are evaluated based on their potential to generate employment opportunities and contribute to the local economy.





## REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF)

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# STATEWIDE IMPACT



**\$69 Million**

in RLF loans made



**\$10.7 Million**

RLF available to lend



**15,756 Jobs**

created through RLF loans



**\$336.5 Million**

leveraged in private investment





## MOREHEAD WATER TREATMENT PLANT

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# REGIONAL SUCCESS STORY

The Gateway Area Development District (GADD) served as project administrator for the Morehead Utility Plant Board's Water Treatment Plant, which opened its doors earlier this year. The plant moved the raw water intake from the Licking River to Cave Run Lake. The facility dramatically expands the area's water treatment capacity, improves water quality, and strengthens the reliability of service across the region.

The treatment plant serves a total of eight counties—expanding beyond GADD's footprint—impacting the everyday lives of 60,335 residents, 2,028 businesses, and 31 industries. The plant has the capacity to treat 12 million gallons of water per day with room to grow.