

## Summary of Mandated Programs

### **Advancing Rural Health: AHEC and the Trover Campus**

The University of Louisville, alongside the University of Kentucky and eight regional centers, administers the Kentucky Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program to recruit and retain a premier health workforce. This collaborative pipeline provides clinical rotations for students in medicine, dentistry, and nursing, ensuring every UofL medical student gains firsthand experience in an underserved community. A cornerstone of this effort is the Trover Campus in Madisonville. While only 5% of medical students nationwide typically pursue rural practice, 58% of Trover graduates return to rural areas. The presence of these doctors is essential to the long-term health and economic vitality of rural communities, providing the stable, high-quality care necessary for Kentucky's rural towns to thrive and grow.

### **Dental Care for Patients with History of Drug Use**

The School of Dentistry operates a network of regional clinics, from Paducah to Manchester, with a mission to serve Kentuckians in both urban and rural areas. While the clinics operate a variety of services, the line-item appropriation helps address oral health issues caused by substance use.

### **Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC)**

Established by the General Assembly in 1996, the KATC is the Commonwealth's leading resource for navigating the complexities of autism across the lifespan. The center builds statewide capacity by providing evidence-based training and professional development to educators, caregivers, and service providers in all 120 counties. Through Regional Caregiver Summits and intensive Educator Institutes, KATC empowers stakeholders with the tools needed to keep neurodiverse Kentuckians engaged in the classroom and moving toward meaningful employment. By bridging the gap between a diagnosis and a support system, KATC ensures that families have the local expertise they need to thrive.

### **Mid-South REACH Grant Match**

The Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub (REACH) is a high-stakes partnership designed to turn Kentucky's best biomedical ideas into market-ready products and high-paying jobs. With matching funds from the Commonwealth, UofL leads a collaborative network of 16 Kentucky institutions, including regional universities and the KCTCS system, to accelerate the "lab bench to bedside" process. This initiative provides the mentorship and financial support necessary for Kentucky entrepreneurs to compete on a global scale. By investing in these projects, the state ensures that life-saving medical innovations—and the companies that produce them—stay right here in Kentucky.