

## EKCEP Programs

# WIOA Adult

Workforce services for eligible adults are available through one of three core programs authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Adult program serves individuals and helps employers meet their workforce needs. It enables workers to obtain good jobs by providing them with job search assistance and training opportunities.

### **Who qualifies as an Adult under WIOA?**

- An Adult is any WIOA eligible participant age 18 or older who is either unemployed or underemployed.
- Underemployed is defined by EKCEP as being any working adult earning a wage less than \$19/hour.
- Priority shall be given to Adult clients who are recipients of public assistance, other low-income clients, and clients who are basic skills deficient. At a minimum, 50% of the Adult case load should be those covered under Priority of Service.

### **What services can Adults receive?**

- Career Services such as: job search, résumé writing, interview prep, and workshops.
- Classroom training.
- Workplace training via Work Experience, Internship, or Incumbent Worker training.
- Registered Apprenticeships.
- Supportive Services, which are payments made to clients to help with items such as transportation, clothing, and training supplies.

## Success Story: Tessa Caldwell

It's early afternoon and rain is falling in Pineville as Tessa Caldwell enters the Bell-Whitley Kentucky Career Center. She is not far removed from an all-night shift at her job, but her smile widens as she starts to talk about the work she does.

A Bell County native, Caldwell is a nurse at Middlesboro Health and Rehabilitation. It's a job that marks the beginning of a career that she spent the past couple of years preparing for, and one which not only allows her to earn a living close to home, but to do so while doing what she loves.

"I think it's really rewarding to work there," she says.

Becoming a nurse was something Caldwell wanted since working first as a certified nurse aid (CNA) and realizing then what she wanted out of her professional life. The career services at Bell-Whitley played no small part in helping her reach that goal, she says.

"I just realized I really do love to take care of people," Caldwell says. "I know that sounds so cliché, but I really do enjoy it. After that I decided I wanted to go to nursing school, so I did."

In 2021, Caldwell applied for acceptance into Southeast Kentucky and Community Technical College's (SKCTC) nursing program. It was then that an acquaintance who works at Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency told her about career and employment services there that may be available to help her with certain costs of enrolling in and continuing her education at SKCTC.

A partner in the Kentucky Career Center Job-Sight network of workforce centers, Bell-Whitley provides Workforce Innovation and Opportunity



**Tessa Caldwell**

Act (WIOA) services in Bell County under contract with EKCEP.

For Caldwell, those services proved valuable as they covered different costs she would incur while enrolled at SKCTC.

"I make my own money, do things for myself, so it's pretty expensive to get all the supplies you need to go to nursing school," she says. "Honestly, this is a really great program to help people better themselves."










Having a local program with the kinds of services available at Bell-Whitley was an important component for Caldwell's success as she balanced her time between work, school, and taking care of everyday needs. She maintained that balance over two years, successfully graduating in December 2022.

It wasn't long before Caldwell began working at Middlesboro Health and Rehab, and now she's looking forward to not just a job, but a career where she can use the skills she gained to help others in her community in a meaningful way.

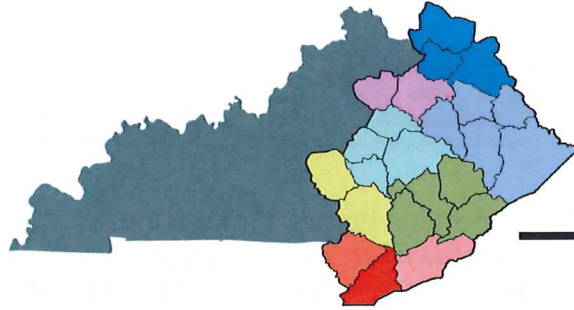
"I think with a program like this it's just opening up opportunity for a lot of people in this area," she says. "If it was not for this program, there's no way I would have been able to afford to go to nursing school."

### WIOA Adults by the Numbers

*\*Beginning July 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023*

Contractor	Served	Enrolled	Jobs	Contractor	Served	Enrolled	Jobs
 Bell-Whitley	166	154	11	 KCEOC	225	205	62
 Big Sandy	331	254	49	 LKLP	375	281	75
 Daniel Boone	224	182	104	 Middle KY	557	516	143
 Gateway	105	90	29	 Northeast	170	111	42
 Harlan	232	210	28	<b>TOTALS</b>	2,385	2,003	543





## EKCEP Programs

# WIOA Dislocated Worker

The Dislocated Worker program is designed to help workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment. When individuals become dislocated workers as a result of job loss, mass layoffs, global trade dynamics, or transitions in economic sectors, the Dislocated Worker program provides services to assist them in re-entering the workforce.

### **Who qualifies as a Dislocated Worker under WIOA?**

- WIOA eligible participants who have been terminated or laid off, or who have received a notice of termination or layoff from employment.
- Someone who is eligible for or has exhausted unemployment insurance compensation.
- Someone who is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days.
- Someone who was self-employed but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides.
- Displaced homemakers.
- A spouse of a member of the military on active duty, and who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of the relocation.

### **What services can Dislocated Workers receive?**

- Career Services such as: job search, résumé writing, interview prep, workshops, and job fairs.
- Classroom training.
- Workplace training, through Work Experience, Internship, OJT, or Incumbent Worker training.
- Registered Apprenticeships.
- Supportive Services, which are payments made to the clients to help them with items such as transportation, clothing, and training supplies to help them remain, and be successful, in WIOA services.

## Success Story: Chase Moore

Job prospects in Perry Countian Chase Moore's hometown were so lacking when he entered the job market right out of high school that he didn't blink an eye when he took a job that he knew wasn't likely to last for long.

Moore, like many in Eastern Kentucky, took an underground coal mining job because he knew the pay would be good—despite what he reckoned was poor job security. That assumption prove true two years later when he received notice that his job was being eliminated as part of a round of layoffs.

"I knew it was going to happen and I knew I was wanting to go through the lineman school whenever I did get laid off, so I just went to the LKLP office there in Hazard and asked about getting into the program," he explains.

A partner in the Kentucky Career Center JobSight network of workforce centers, LKLP Kentucky Career Center JobSight provides Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services in Leslie, Knott, Letcher, and Perry counties under contract with the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP). Those services include programs for adults, dislocated workers, and for in-school and out-of-school youth who may need assistance honing skills such as résumé building or networking with local employers, or who need assistance being retrained or going



**Chase Moore**

to school.

Since Moore had been laid off from a coal mining position, he was eligible for services as a dislocated worker, which meant JobSight could cover his wages in the lineman training program and it wouldn't be long before he could begin a new career.

Going into the JobSight offices, Moore says he knew that his class tuition could be paid for, but had no idea he would also get assistance with his lineman gear and gas to go to and from class once it started in March 2020.










"I couldn't have done it without [that assistance]," he adds.

Following his graduation, Moore immediately began working as a lineman for Thacker-Grigsby Communications in his hometown area.

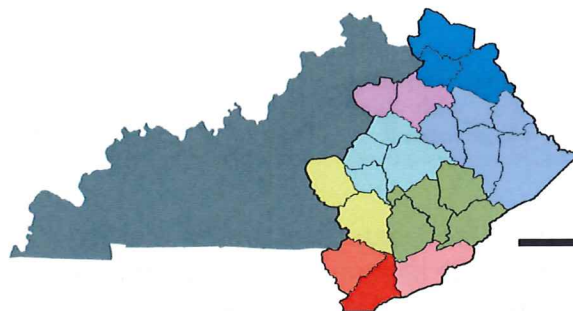
"It's good to have a program like this because there's still people around here who are working underground who are going to get laid off, too, so it's a good thing to have," he says. "I'd tell anyone thinking about it to go to JobSight."

### Dislocated Workers by the Numbers

*\*July 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023*

Contractor	Served	Enrolled	Jobs	Contractor	Served	Enrolled	Jobs
 Bell-Whitley	11	8	11	 KCEOC	56	53	11
 Big Sandy	176	37	15	 LKLP	519	38	10
 Daniel Boone	174	45	35	 Middle KY	372	101	21
 Gateway	10	7	6	 Northeast	14	7	7
 Harlan	27	9	5	<b>TOTALS</b>	1,356	305	116





## EKCEP Programs

# Prosper Appalachia (WIOA Youth)










Prosper Appalachia is EKCEP's WIOA Youth program. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 enacted a comprehensive youth employment program for serving eligible youth who face barriers to education, training, and employment.

### Who qualifies as a Youth under WIOA?

- WIOA eligible participants aged 16-24.
- Someone who is either currently attending school for In-School Youth or not attending school for Out-of-School Youth.
- Someone who meets one of the following conditions:
  1. A school dropout.
  2. A low income individual who is either basic skills deficient or an English language learner.
  3. A homeless individual.
  4. An individual who is either pregnant or parenting.
  5. An individual with a disability.
  6. An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system.
  7. An individual who is in foster care or aging out of the foster care system.
  8. An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or secure and hold employment.

### Prosper Appalachia by the Numbers

*\*July 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023*

Contractor	Served	Enrolled	Jobs & Post Secondary	Contractor	Served	Enrolled	Jobs & Post Secondary
 Bell-Whitley	297	147	52	 KCEOC	169	76	68
 Big Sandy	132	82	32	 LKLP	151	72	37
 Daniel Boone	112	103	92	 Middle KY	208	158	95
 Gateway	89	56	40	 Northeast	111	64	38
 Harlan	213	135	36	<b>TOTALS</b>	1,482	893	490

## Success Story: Nicholas Goodpaster

Nicholas Goodpaster has lived in Morgan County his entire life and doesn't plan on leaving, so while looking for a new job in 2022 he turned to the Gateway Kentucky Career Center in West Liberty for assistance in finding work close to home.

Goodpaster learned about the career services available at Gateway through a friend who enrolled in the agency's youth program for 18- to 24-year-olds and had success landing a local full-time position. That's when he also decided to enroll in the youth program and see what assistance may be available for him.

It turned out that it wouldn't be long before he was also on a job site and working toward full-time employment.

"I just had a friend, he told me to go to Gateway if I needed a job," Goodpaster said. "They ran through all the paperwork and called me two weeks later [with a job placement]."

A partner in the Kentucky Career Center JobSight network of workforce centers, Gateway provides Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services in Morgan and Menifee counties under contract with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP). Those services include programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth who may need assistance honing skills such as résumé building or networking with local employers, or who need assistance being retrained or going to school.

For Goodpaster, expert Gateway Career Advisor Valrey Easterling worked to find a work experience placement locally that could help him get his foot in the door with an employer and prove what he could do on the job. Gateway's WIOA funding covered Goodpaster's wages for a limited time, enabling him to gain valuable experience working with the West Liberty Save A Lot's meat department, where he worked cutting trim on meat products and other duties and generally learning on the job.

"It was a great experience," Goodpaster



Nicholas Goodpaster

said, adding that he had never trimmed or butchered meat before and it was an entirely new skill he needed to learn from the ground up. "It pretty much took me through, and I learned how to do everything."

Goodpaster received an offer for a full-time position at the store

once his work experience enrollment with Gateway ended. He accepted just before the new year and has been working there since.

Goodpaster credits Gateway with not only helping him land a new job, but landing one in such a short amount of time. It's the first job he has held for more than a few days, he added, but one that he enjoys and can see himself continuing to work well into the future.

Gateway made the process easy for him, he added. Easterling was able to assist him with obtaining a new ID card, and the staff even made in-person visits when he wasn't able to come to the office.

"Whenever I had trouble getting out here to the office, they came out to the house, right to the driveway, and got some of my paperwork like my Social Security card or some of the stuff that I needed to get started," Goodpaster said. "It made a world of difference."

Goodpaster says he is happy to stay where he is and progress at his job, and he's happy he signed up with Gateway and that Easterling and her staff were able to quickly get him into employment. He said anyone looking for work in Morgan or Menifee County should at least reach out and see if the services at Gateway are right for them, too.

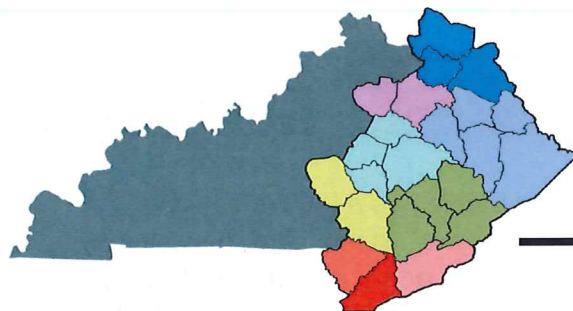
"One hundred percent, it's the first place they need to go," he said. "It's a great program."



EASTERN KENTUCKY



CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, INC.



## EKCEP Programs

# Business Services

A cornerstone of EKCEP's mission in Eastern Kentucky is the support and development of regional and local employers within the service area. EKCEP's stable of business services assists employers find and prepare workers to fit their needs. Services are provided directly through business services representatives located within Kentucky Career Center JobSight locations throughout the 23-county region.

## Services can include:



### On-the-Job Training (OJT)

OJT provides reimbursements to help compensate for the costs associated with training newly hired employees.



### Customized Training

Customized training meets the special requirements of an employer, conducted with a commitment to employ all individuals upon successful completion of training.



### Incumbent Worker Training

Incumbent worker training can avert layoffs by helping workers obtain the skills needed to retain employment, allowing employers to retain a skilled workforce and stay competitive.



### Recruiting & Screening

JobSight can help recruit qualified employees through promotions, outreach, and job fairs. Employers can also access services to screen potential employees during the hiring process.



### Additional Partner Services

EKCEP and JobSight collaborate with several partner agencies to deliver additional services to employers across the region.

**Learn more at  
[jobsight.org](http://jobsight.org)**

## Success Story: Wesley Steele

Wesley Steele has a job with a view.

"It's awesome," Steele says, his cell signal momentarily going in and out. He's on the other end of a telephone conversation while on the way to a job in Knott County. "I love it."

Steele, a native of Corbin, Ky., is a tower technician for Drake Lighting, and it's a job that is exactly what it sounds like. He scales communications towers and helps maintain the lighting each structure is required to include to ensure visibility for aircraft. It's a career that is quite different from his previous job as a factory worker, and one that he was able to succeed at with help from an On-the-Job Training (OJT) program administered by Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP).

Steele says he first heard about his job through word of mouth and did not realize then how much he was going to like what he does now for a living, specifically climbing the towers and the view he is afforded from heights that can reach several stories high.

"I was looking for a job," Steele says, noting that he had been previously working in factories for the better part of a decade. "I didn't know I would find a job like this, which is pretty cool."

Once Steele applied and was hired as a tower technician, EKCEP partnered with Drake Lighting to support his position with an OJT contract that for a time covered part of his salary to help compensate for the costs associated with Steele building his skillset while acclimating to the new job. Some of the training during that transition included CPR classes and safety protocols meant to ensure he could work safely on the job site.

Steele says he viewed his decision to apply for work with Drake as a progression of his



**Wesley Steele on the job as a tower technician for Drake Lighting.**

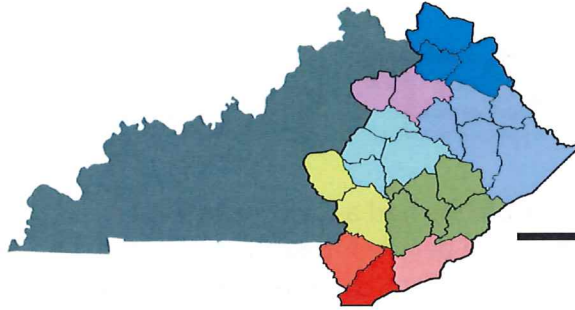
professional life rather than a simple change of employment. He was looking not only for something new, but more long-term.

"A career choice is what I was thinking," he says. "I've been working factories since I was 18."

Steele says his transition to tower maintenance was made easier thanks to good trainers, and his day-to-day provides a lot of variety for him, from the different tasks that can include the use of drones to inspect equipment to physically climbing. And he's also traveling a bit. That's all part of the job for him now, and it's a career he hopes to retire from.

"For sure, yes," he says. "I don't want to do anything else."





## EKCEP Programs

# Teleworks USA

Teleworks USA is an innovative program that brings cutting-edge telework (work-from-home) employment opportunities to jobseekers, especially those in rural areas and small towns, allowing them to participate in the global economy without relocating.

Started as Kentucky Teleworks in 2011 by the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Teleworks USA has created a virtual pipeline of employment to many communities, actively recruiting national and global companies to bring legitimate work-from-home jobs to people through a computer- and internet-driven virtual workplace.

Teleworks USA services can be obtained directly through the Kentucky Career Center JobSight, where career advisors are in place to assist clients in person or virtually. Additionally, employers with immediate telework positions can take advantage of JobSight's business services to meet staffing needs with dedicated job fairs, employer recruitment, and customized training.

## **What services can Teleworks USA participants receive?**

- Access to a network of remote-work employers with immediate part- and full-time job openings.
- Access to the Kentucky Career Center JobSight network, which provides a full array of career and employment services for eligible participants.

## Success Story: Amelia Hoskins

Amelia Hoskins had a lot of work experience when she decided it was time for a change, specifically to something she could do from home.

And that's where Teleworks USA came into the picture.

"I had plenty of customer service experience and was very good with computers," says Hoskins, a resident of Clay County. "I really wanted to work from home, and so I began looking at various ways to make this happen when I saw a Facebook post about Teleworks."

A division of Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP), Teleworks USA identifies and develops legitimate remote-work job opportunities with multiple national and global companies. Teleworks USA's team of experts can also help prepare people for the jobs by upskilling them in customer service and technical support workshops, helping them craft strong résumés and hone their interviewing skills, and assisting them in applying for available jobs.

It wasn't long after enrolling for Teleworks USA services that Hoskins began working with Concentrix, a company providing services for both software and hardware customers.

Hoskins says the benefits of being able to work from home were apparent not long after she began her new job, from reduced costs for daycare and travel to being able to maintain a residence in her hometown without having to uproot her family for work in a different community. And with Concentrix, she says she learned more about effectively working from home and was promoted to different roles. It was a good experience with a good company, she adds.

After a couple years, Hoskins says she began looking for opportunities that would help her continue to advance. In summer 2022, she contacted Teleworks USA again and was connected with Centratel, a company that had



**Amelia Hoskins**

immediate openings for Kentucky residents.

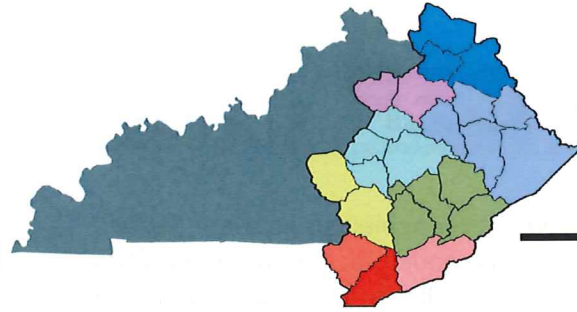
Based in the United States with headquarters in Oregon, Centratel provides telephone answering services and the job openings available were precisely what Hoskins was looking for. She applied and began her new job.

"After talking about the job and doing some research on my own, I realized that this was a great company and opportunity for remote work," Hoskins says. "Centratel brought competitive pay to the table. They also brought fairness and opportunities for growth—both areas that I was looking for."

Hoskins says her initial decision in 2020 to begin looking for remote work was the right decision, and she's looking forward to continuing her career with Centratel.

"I make more money working from home than I ever did working outside my home," she says. "It gave me an opportunity to try something new and it is literally the best thing that has happened for me. I am thankful for the help of the staff at Teleworks USA for bringing these opportunities to our region."





## EKCEP Programs

# SITE

(Strategic Initiative for  
Transformational Employment)

EKCEP's Strategic Initiative for Transformational Employment (SITE) Program is a program of the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) that assists individuals in early recovery in gaining and maintaining long-term employment. This program is administered statewide with 18 job entry and retention support specialists and success coaches strategically placed across the state and aligned within a Local Workforce Development Area. SITE works closely with the local WIBs, Kentucky Career Centers, treatment facilities, transitional housing, Kentucky State Chamber, educational organizations, and a multitude of community partners in each area.

SITE also works closely with the Kentucky Employer Resource Network, a private-public consortia whose purpose is improved workforce retention through employee support and training. SITE success coaches work within the 13 ERN partner companies to provide job retention services and help employees overcome barriers that may otherwise prevent them from maintaining employment.

### **What services can SITE participants receive?**

- One-on-One Career advising
- Employment Barrier assessment
- Career assessment
- Individualized Career Plans
- Job Recruitment
- Employment Application Assistance
- Résumé Development
- Interview Preparation
- Retention Services
- Training pathways
- Work-Based Learning
- Education Referrals
- Community Partner Referrals for Essential Needs
- Soft Skills Training
- Employment Barrier Removal (i.e. transportation, housing, tools, work clothing, shoes/boots, utilities, training, education, etc.)

## Success Story: Tenia Johnson

Six years after achieving sobriety, Tenia Johnson is in a good place both personally and professionally. Still, she isn't taking things for granted. It's day to day, and it's a process she's maintaining.

"I do my best and work as hard as I can," says Johnson from her home office in Pike County, Ky. "I stay straight, and I didn't use today. Six years into it, I can say that I didn't use today."

By her own account, Johnson was in free fall into an opioid addiction, and even a few more weeks of using could have been fatal.

"I got to the point that I was an IV user, and it was bad, very bad," she recalls. "Just that feeling every morning when I woke up, all I was going to do was chase money, chase dope, and that was my every day."

Johnson says she was at an inflection point in her life, having burned bridges with her family. Her girlfriend was the only person remaining who could offer support. And even that relationship wouldn't have lasted, Johnson adds, had she not finally decided to seek help for her addiction.

"She told me, 'I love you, but I can't love you to death,'" Johnson says. "And that just clicked something in my head."

Johnson checked herself into treatment for a years-long addiction, something that had happened before with numerous attempts at treatment clinics and detox centers. But this time was different, and part of that difference came in 2019 when she met Jimmie Wilson, a job entry and retention support specialist with the Strategic Initiative for Transformational Employment (SITE).

At the time Johnson began working with SITE, it was apparent that the support Wilson offered wasn't just a token effort. Johnson says Wilson didn't treat her like a number, or that she just needed to work her case and get to the next one.

SITE helped cover the cost for Johnson to complete peer support training and enter the re-



**Tenia Johnson**

covery field as a peer support specialist. It was something she knew well before then that she would want to do someday, to use her own experiences to help others.

"I know how it feels, and I know the struggle people go through, and I know how hard it is for people to come out of that struggle," Johnson says.

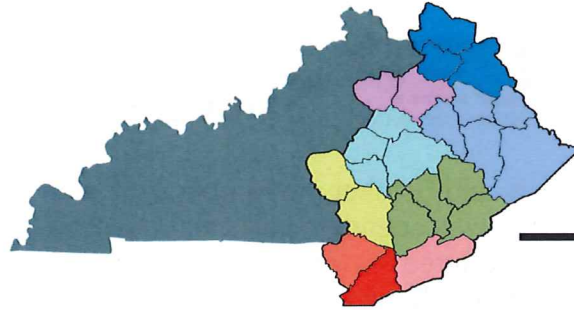
With that support, Johnson obtained her certification and eventually applied for a position with Appalachian Community Care (ACC), and with Wilson accompanying her to the interview for encouragement, she knew the interview went well.

Obtaining her certification was the first sort of credential Johnson had ever earned, and that was a big accomplishment for her. But landing a job where she'd be able to earn a living while helping others was something she felt was meant to be, and something she says that may not have happened without the assistance of SITE and Wilson's dedication to her own job.

"I can't put a price on that, I can't explain how important that is, because when you come out of addiction, you have nobody," Johnson says. "Jimmie and that program really helped me and put in the time and the effort to actually look at me like a person and not just a number."

Johnson is now actually working alongside Wilson as an IPS Supported Employment Specialists with SITE, covering Pike County. A position she began in early 2022, Johnson assists people in recovery land jobs and maintain them, something she says that was integral in her own path to sobriety.





## EKCEP Programs

# EKY FLOOD

The EKY FLOOD (Finding Local Opportunities for Overcoming Disaster) program provides funding to cover wages for individuals to participate in flood cleanup and humanitarian efforts in the region for up to 12 months.

### **Who can be a FLOOD participant?**

- A WIOA eligible participant aged 18 or older.
- Someone who lives in a flood-impacted county, as determined by FEMA declaration 4663.
- Someone who has experienced a layoff, either temporary or permanent, as a direct result of the July 2022 flooding.
- Any unemployed adult, age 18 or over, who meets one of the following:
  1. Has been unemployed for 12 consecutive weeks or more.
  2. Has been unemployed for 14 out of the last 27 weeks.
  3. Has a sporadic work history of temporary/seasonal employment, multiple terminations, or multiple quits.
  4. Has a significant barrier to employment.
- Someone who is a self-employed individual and has been deemed as significantly underemployed.

### **What services can FLOOD participants receive?**

- Career Services such as job search, résumé writing, interview prep, workshops, and job fairs.
- Registered Apprenticeships.
- Supportive Services, which are payments made to clients to help them with items such as transportation, clothing, and training supplies to help them remain, and be successful, in WIOA services.
- Disaster Related Employment: temporary work assignments, up to 12 months or 2080 hours, directly related to the recovery of flood impacted areas.
- Classroom training.
- Workplace training, through Work Experience, Internship, OJT, or Incumbent Worker training.

## Success Story: Beth Gibson

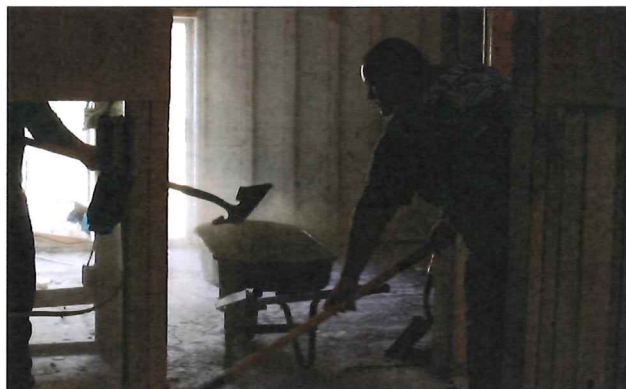
It was a cold October morning in 2022 and Beth Gibson was spending part of it shoveling pieces of shattered drywall into a wheelbarrow at the Carrie Community Center in her native Knott County. She had been doing this sort of work a lot as part of an effort to restore the center and other structures that just three months earlier sustained severe damage during one of the worst flooding events in Eastern Kentucky's history.

That flood on July 28, 2022, killed nearly 50 people and destroyed or damaged more than 1,500 homes. The work Gibson did was necessary, and it was work that she was happy to be doing to help rebuild.

Gibson was one member of a five-person crew working in disaster relief via a new program called EKY FLOOD, an initiative of Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) formed in response to the flooding that provides funding for organizations working in disaster relief to hire workers to perform duties including cleanup and humanitarian assistance in affected communities. Workers like Gibson mucked out homes and delivered needed supplies.

In Gibson's case, it wasn't long after the flood that she began volunteering her time to help others. The need was apparent from the start, and while her home wasn't affected, she didn't have to look far to see people who had lost a lot and needed help.

"The morning of the flood, I get up and my next-door neighbor's house is kind of hanging off of my drive bridge," Gibson said. "It's really hard to see the impact that it made on those around me."



**Beth Gibson cleans a room in the Carrie Community Center in Knott County that was damaged during flooding in Eastern Kentucky in July 2022.**

The need for relief workers was staggering, especially initially, Gibson said. Since she was already spending time volunteering, she decided to put in an application for a FLOOD position and was placed with the Knott County Fiscal Court. In that time she helped clean up houses, clear flood debris, and distribute supplies to local residents.

"We've done a lot to help, like elderly people that maybe don't have the ability to get out physically and to clean up their basements and around their property," Gibson says. "It seems like a really big struggle for a lot of people."

In one case, the crew helped remove debris from a property in the county where flood waters had destroyed valuable garden space, which for some in the county can represent a significant food source.

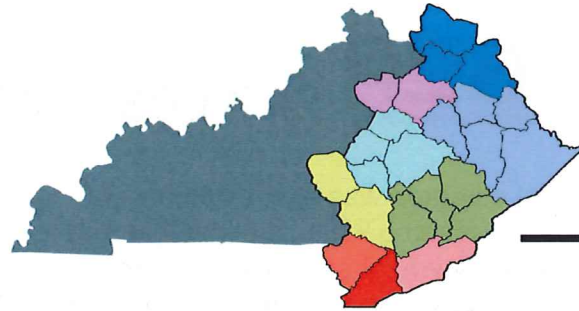
"It's a worthwhile thing when you go home at night," Gibson said. "You might be tired and it's been a long, hard day, but you know you've done something worth doing that day."

### EKY FLOOD by the Numbers

*\*July 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023*

Served	Enrolled for Services	Jobs
1,059	1,059	119





## EKCEP Programs

# H-1B (Healthcare Career Pathways)










Healthcare careers are in demand, especially in nursing, and EKCEP is partnering with regional healthcare organizations, post-secondary education institutions, and training providers to offer opportunities for Eastern Kentuckians to train for and fill open healthcare positions. Funding was made available via an H-1B Rural Healthcare Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. Partners include Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Pikeville Medical Center, Galen College of Nursing, and KCTCS.

## Who qualifies as an H-1B Participant?

- An Adult who is any WIOA eligible participant age 18 or older and is either unemployed or underemployed. Underemployed is defined by EKCEP as being any working adult earning a wage less than \$19/hour.
- Those participants enrolled in a training program in the nursing sector: RN, LPN, CNA.

### H-1B Clients Served in Region

*\*July 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023*

Contractor	Served	Enrolled	Jobs	Contractor	Served	Enrolled	Jobs
 Bell-Whitley	19	15	0	 KCEOC	35	33	1
 Big Sandy	100	100	1	 LKLP	132	75	20
 Daniel Boone	3	2	2	 Middle KY	5	1	3
 Gateway	3	2	0	 Northeast	4	4	0
 Harlan	7	7	4	<b>TOTALS</b>	308	239	31

## Success Story: Emma Ledington

Emma Ledington was already on her way to a career in nursing when she first learned about the employment services available at her local Kentucky Career Center JobSight in Knox County. It was summer 2022 and she was enrolled in Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College's nursing program, but she also wanted to get some work experience while in school.

"I went in [to the JobSight] looking for a job, just trying to see what my options were," Ledington said, adding that it wasn't long before she learned that, in addition to helping her land a job, the Knox County JobSight could also help cover the cost of her training at Southeast and lessen the financial impact a college tuition can sometimes carry with it.

Ledington first met with Alicia Hill, an expert career advisor with the Knox County JobSight, which is located within KCEOC Community Action Partnership's office in Barbourville. A partner in the Kentucky Career Center JobSight network of workforce centers, KCEOC provides Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services in Knox County under contract with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP). Those services include programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who may need assistance honing skills such as résumé building or networking with local employers, or who need assistance being re-trained or going to school.

After enrolling her for services, Hill determined that Ledington was eligible for assistance through the Healthcare Pathways Partnership Program, an initiative of EKCEP funded by an H-1B rural healthcare grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The program, which assists eligible Eastern Kentuckians as they begin or continue a nursing career pathway, helped Ledington cover the cost of her tuition and supplies needed to continue training at Southeast, which she said was a significant



**Emma Ledington**

help at the time.

"They got most of my school paid for, my books, and some uniforms as well," Ledington said. "It was so helpful."

Ledington said she was fortunate that from the start of her first semester her family was able to help cover

the costs for her education, along with some scholarships, but college can be expensive and the assistance she received from KCEOC just before she began her third semester lessened the load for Ledington and her family.

"I was very grateful that we found this resource and that we could get it paid for," she said. "That's just one less burden on our family, absolutely."

With that support from KCEOC in place, Ledington completed her training and obtained her nursing degree in May 2023. Before graduating, Ledington already had a job offer with the Appalachian Regional Healthcare hospital in Barbourville, which she was happy to accept not just to begin working full-time as a nurse, but also to be able to make a career in her native Knox County.

"It's home," she said. "And I love the people, love who I work with and work for."

Ledington is now busy taking the first steps on her career path as a nurse, and said she is happy she decided to enroll for services through the KCEOC JobSight and would recommend others looking to jumpstart a career or even get a new job look into what might be available for them, too.

"There's so many opportunities that I didn't even know existed until we set up an appointment and then went down there and spoke with Ali," she said. "It was wonderful."