

WORKFORCE OVERVIEW

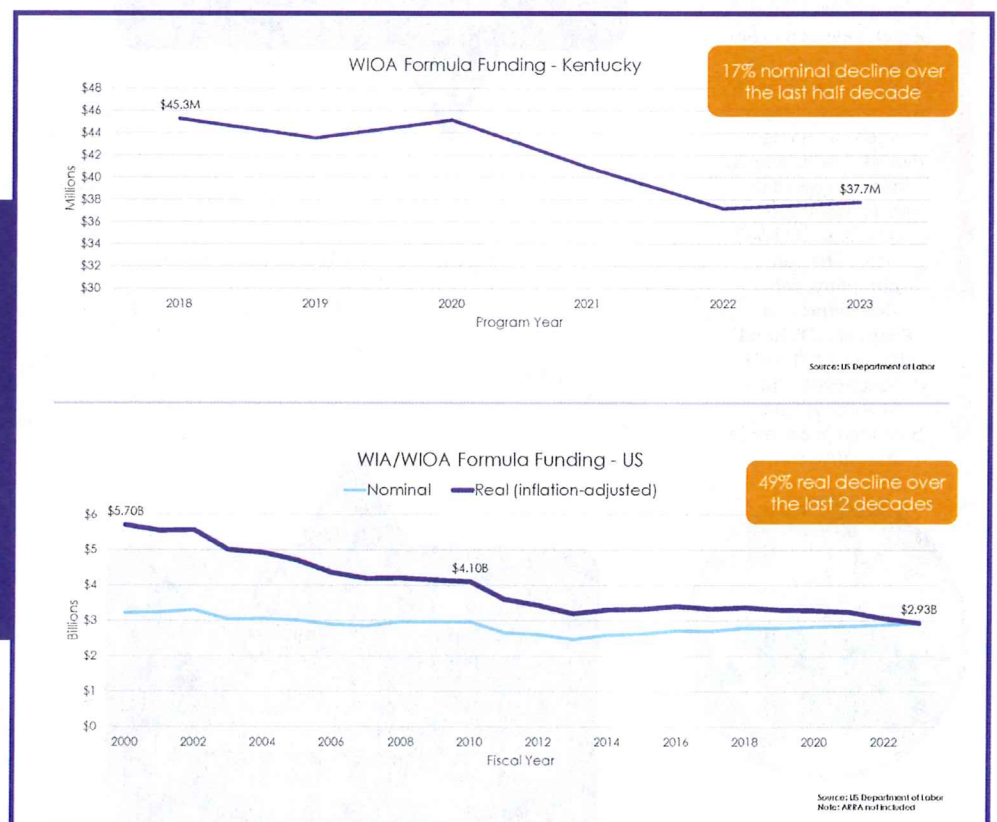
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH

- ▶ Unemployment Insurance System
- ▶ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ▶ Kentucky Career Center system of one-stop career centers around the state

WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)

- 1 Creates Workforce Boards
- 2 Provides funding to help support and staff career centers
- 3 Provides funding to serve young adults between 16 and 24 who aren't in school and aren't working, adults, and dislocated workers

A U.S. House Committee recently voted to eliminate the youth funding stream that is the only one available to serve young adults who are not in school and not working.



▶ Workforce Boards know how to oversee programs that can help turn these struggling young adults into workers and taxpayers. With federal funding shrinking and under threat, it's time for the state to invest in these young adults.

WE KNOW HOW TO DO THIS WORK AND EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS IS AVAILABLE ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



"After moving to Kentucky from Georgia, I wanted to continue my education. I just didn't know where to start. The Kentucky Career Center connected me to the transportation and funding through the Green River Workforce Development Board I needed to get my GED and enroll in school again.

They also gave me work-based learning experiences while I was taking classes. I don't know how much further I would have gotten without their support."

- Derek, Owensboro, KY

Derek earned his Associate of Science in Computer Information Technology and is now making \$73,000 per year.

Cody was homeless by the time he finished high school and he didn't know what to do next. When his WIOA counselor contacted the parent Cody had listed, she was told that "she was wasting her time on that boy". But his counselor helped Cody get his ID and Social Security Card. The WIOA program paid for the Lineman training tuition, supplies, and Cody's transportation costs. **He completed the program and is now certified as a Lineman in Northern Kentucky making \$32 per hour.**

Joseph was working at a fast food restaurant and had little career direction before he got connected to Team Launch, a program funded by the West Kentucky Workforce Board. His career coach helped him get a paid internship at a local air conditioning and heating company where he earned multiple certifications, learned how to do basic welding, and built ducts for HVAC units. **The same company, Jett's Mechanical in Paducah, KY, hired him as a full-time employee and Joseph is now building his career in the HVAC trade.**



The workforce board in Eastern Kentucky (EKCEP) served more than 1,000 disconnected young adults last year and more than three-quarters of them were placed in new education, training, or employment.

In South Central Kentucky, youth are being trained to fill much-needed positions as heavy equipment operators. The regional workforce board is training them using full-motion simulators and employers have donated equipment. **Ten of these youth are now employed full-time making \$22 per hour and a new class of 22 Warren County high school students are starting this fall.**



The Cumberland Workforce Development Board invested more than \$2 million on paid work experiences for 579 disconnected youth between the spring of 2020 and the summer of 2022. **These young adults logged a combined total of over 200,000 work hours at 195 different employer worksites.**