

Kentucky Manufacturing Extension Partnership KY-MEP

“We Solve Manufacturing Problems”

Mission

Solving Kentucky manufacturers problems through operational efficiencies, automation technologies, development of leaders, and igniting innovative growth.

Vision

Strengthen Kentucky manufacturers with world class, emboldened resources.

KY-MEP Stakeholders

UL KY MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

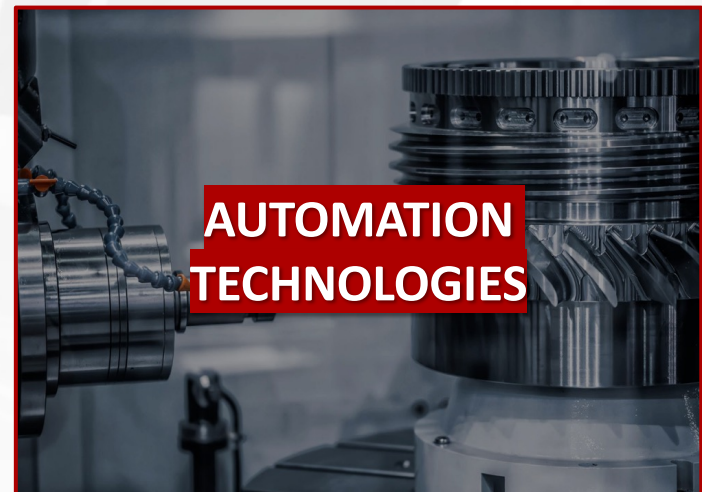


Regional Structure

- ✓ Divided into 4 outreach regions
- ✓ Each with Client Services Manager
- ✓ Managed by Director of Client Services



We Solve Manufacturing Problems



SOLUTIONS:

LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE

Our **Leadership and Culture** platform focuses on helping leaders lead people to manage processes. Our customized programs provide strategies to fully engage your workforce and develop an internal talent pipeline while supporting recruitment and retention initiatives.

- ✓ Train the Trainer Series: Instructions, Methods
- ✓ Safety Culture Relations
- ✓ Workforce Culture Assessments/ Coaching
- ✓ Administrative Series Performance Assessments and Coaching
- ✓ Onboarding/Operator Series
- ✓ Maxwell DISC
- ✓ Leadership Level I, II, and III



About Blue Diamond Industries

Blue Diamond Industries, a part of the Hexatronic Group, has manufacturing facilities in Middlesboro, KY. Blue Diamond is a valued market leader in providing HDPE conduit solutions for the protection of fiber optic, data and power cables.

Work W/ KY-MEP

KY-MEP provided a communications and team-building program that began with a plant-wide culture assessment to identify growth areas and customize the program to meet their needs. Leadership now feels more empowered, and the increased interactive communication led to decreased labor turnover and motivated production workers. Employee engagement improved, and production increased to 120% setting a company record.

KY-MEP's leadership courses made a great impression. Real scenarios were used to teach our leaders how to navigate those challenges. The program helped our supervisors learn to not only to manage people but what it takes to be a leader."

Kayla Senters, HR

120%

Production increase 2 months in-a-row

SOLUTIONS:

GROWTH AND INNOVATION

The **Growth and Innovation** platform helps companies profitably leverage technology to identify, vet, and commercialize ideas for new revenue streams.

- ✓ Website, Marketing & Branding
- ✓ Research & Market Intelligence
- ✓ ExporTech™
- ✓ Strategy & Business Coaching
- ✓ Executive Coaching
- ✓ Growth Management System
- ✓ Sales Training
- ✓ Cybersecurity



About Taper Roller Bearing

Taper Roller Bearings (TRB) was founded in 1972 designing complex tapered bearing assemblies, and built a company with the speed and precision to serve a full spectrum of clients. Today's bearing assemblies are put to work everywhere from precision scientific equipment to assemblies for railroad engines.

Work W/ KY-MEP

TRB employed KY-MEP to help train the staff to identify, quantify and eliminate “non-value added” activities. KY-MEP worked with 23 employees to map out 2 production lines, identify potential inefficiencies and create action plans for resolution.

KY-MEP did a great job helping the TRB staff not only be educated on proper value stream mapping techniques (VSM), but how to truly make a difference on the TRB shop floor through identifying and removing inefficiencies.” Tom Jones, Owner, Taper Roller Bearing

**\$10K/
year**

From elimination of expenses on material flow

SOLUTIONS:

AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGIES

KY-MEP's **Automation Technologies** suite of solutions helps you integrate 21st Century technologies throughout your operations. We employ assessments, expertise, research, and integration solutions.

- ✓ Automation Assessments
- ✓ Palletizing
- ✓ Machine Tending
- ✓ Pick-and-Place
- ✓ Robotic Programming
- ✓ Engineering Consultation



Anderson Forest Products

The production output for this part of our operation has risen almost 25%...We are very pleased with the support that we have received from the KY-MEP. They have been a great partner to work with and we believe they are a true asset to the future of manufacturing in Kentucky.” Josh Anderson, Operations Manager

About Anderson Forest Products

Anderson Forest Products out of Tompkinsville, KY, produces high-quality, specification-based wood products. Their most popular products are custom reels, crates, and shipping platforms, which are available in hardwood and plywood.

Work W/ KY-MEP

They were able to increase production capacity by 30%, reduce cycle time, increase quality, increase customer base and improve safety with the installation of a new custom lay-up automation cell while adding 5 full-time positions to their team.

30%

Production capacity increase

SOLUTIONS:

OPERATIONS AND EFFICIENCY

Our **Operations and Efficiency** platform helps you eliminate waste and engage people throughout your operations. We employ proven Lean tools to systematically raise your team's skill level while driving change.

- ✓ Lean 101, 5S, QCO (SMED), KATA
- ✓ Quality Management System
- ✓ Value Stream/Process Mapping
- ✓ OSHA-based Safety Training
- ✓ Thermal Imagery
- ✓ Kaizen & Kanban Events
- ✓ Advanced Manufacturing, Industry 4.0
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Six Sigma, Problem Solving
- ✓ Automation, Robotics, 3D Printing



About WireCrafters

WireCrafters, based in Louisville, has grown to become the nation's leading producer of wire partition products. The company provides its customers with creative solutions for safety, security, and storage needs, while meeting commitments for exceptional quality.

Work W/ KY-MEP

KY-MEP resources worked with a dedicated WireCrafters team to execute the Kaizen project over a 3-week period. Kaizen activities included data gathering, line balancing, execution, and refinement phases. The project team utilized Value Stream Mapping, Quick Changeover, and 5S techniques to optimize the assembly cell and exceed project goals / deliverables.



The KY-MEP supported our project team with specialized knowledge and facilitation skills. We exceeded our project objectives and delivered sustainable results and processes.”
Chad Anglin, Operations Manager

15%

Average productivity improvement across multiple shifts



A Family Business

- ▶ WireCrafters is a family business, continuously owned and operated by the Diebold family since inception.
- ▶ Since 1967, we've been rapidly growing to become **the nation's leading producer of wire partition products**. Currently we employ **over 280 professionals in accomplishment of our goals**.
- ▶ We started by concentrating our efforts on one product and developed a partition system that has since changed the industry.
- ▶ Our products are manufactured in Louisville, Kentucky utilizing domestically produced raw materials.
- ▶ All of us at WireCrafters take pride in the products we produce.

Mission Statement

WireCrafters provides our customers with creative solutions for their safety, security, and storage needs, while meeting commitments with exceptional quality by people who care.



Made in the USA: Built in Louisville, KY Since 1967



Leadership Development:

- ❑ Leadership & Culture Development Program
- ❑ One on One Leadership Meetings
- ❑ Secondary Leadership Training with One on One Coaching
- ❑ C-Suite Coaching Program

Operations Improvement:

- ❑ LEAN 101 Training
- ❑ LEAN Kaizen of Team Weld Cell
- ❑ 5S Kaizen of Saw Stock Line

Impacts:

- ❑ Welding Stock Efficiency UP 50%
- ❑ Turnover Reduction of OVER 60%
- ❑ Key to Accelerated Growth



KAITLYN IVES
Production Control Supervisor
WireCrafters

UL KY MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP



Made in the USA: Built in Louisville, KY Since 1967



Manufacturing Expos

in partnership with KY Cabinet for Economic Development

UL OF KY MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Average Results

1700+

ESTIMATED
CONNECTIONS MADE

800+

ONE-ON-ONE
B2B MEETINGS

120-140

ATTENDEES AT
EACH EXPO

<20%

NON-MANUFACTURERS ON
AVERAGE IN ATTENDANCE

30+

MANUFACTURING
DISPLAY EXHIBITS AT
EACH EXPO

16

EXPOS HOSTED

2026 Expo Locations

- Louisville -February
- London - April
- Lexington - June
- Florence –August
- Owensboro- October

UL OF KY MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

LEXINGTON SUPPLIER EXPO

Date & Time:

June 2nd : Plant Tour & Reception

1:00PM - 6:30PM

June 3rd: EXPO

9:00 AM - 3:00PM

Location:

Bluegrass Convention Center

1950 Newtown Pike Suite 101 Lexington, KY 40511

WHAT TO EXPECT

Connect with suppliers, **explore** innovative solutions, and **strengthen** your supply chain.

Learn from industry experts through **panel discussions**, invest in your company through **one on one B2B meetings**, gain an inside perspective through a **plant tour, showcase your products** and services as an exhibitor, and **expand your network** at our cocktail hour reception!

Hosted by the Kentucky Manufacturing Extension Partnership (KY-MEP), featuring expert led panels on the automotive supply chain and economic uncertainty & tariffs, this event is your key to unlocking new business opportunities.



REGISTER
HERE



Quotes from expo participants

Kelly McCane, General Manager, FITS Trailer Rentals- Panelist & Exhibitor

“As soon I finished the panel discussion, I had a potential client come right over to me to introduce herself and say that you had no idea about the solutions a trailer rental company could provide. Since I met her, I have had 2 meetings with them, and **we are in final stages of a deal for her company.**”

Chase Barker, Operations Manager, Machine Time Inc – Panelist, Exhibitor, & Sponsor

“The most valuable aspect of the event for us it to **meet other manufacturers in the state and develop those relationships.** These events are free, which is a huge deal, I have spoken to many companies that talk about how they are not doing events because you always must pay \$500+ to get a booth.”

Ryan Cook, Plant Manager, Pioneer Plastics – Exhibitor & Attendee

“The event **helped me achieve my business goals** by putting me face to face with others not only in my industry but within industries that I can help. I am currently in talks with a few companies that I had spoken to at the Expo. I am very optimistic that the meaningful conversations had at the Expo will flourish into a long-term collaboration.”

Bill Plutnick, Founder, Swiss Metrology – Repeat Exhibitor & Attendee

“Do you know how much time and money it would take me to be in the same room with this many people let alone talk to them? I am unaware of any other opportunity to do this. **We walk away from each event with real leads and opportunities.**”

Created a Statewide Supply Chain Database in partnership with KY Cabinet for Economic Development

MEP SEARCH

KY-MEP SUPPLYSOURCE

Search by Name, NAICS code, or NAICS description

Description ▾

Clear Search

RESULTS

Database Features

- Functional
- Pulls from KY-MEP Salesforce
- 4,253 KY SME's
- 10,690 Manufacturing Contacts
- 1,538 Related Contacts to Supply Chain

KY-MEP SUPPLYSOURCE

Search by Name, NAICS code, or NAICS description

Description ▾

Clear Search

☐ Select all

- ☐ All Other Miscellaneous Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (332999)
- ☐ All Other Miscellaneous Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing (327999)
- ☐ Fabricated Structural Metal Manufacturing (332312)
- ☐ Metal Can Manufacturing (332431)
- ☐ Metal Coating, Engraving (except Jewelry Allied Services to Manufacturers (332812)

RESULTS

Name: 4C Innovations NAICS code: 332710	↓
Name: A & M Machine LLC NAICS code: 332710	↓
Name: A. A Machine, Inc NAICS code: 332710	↓
Name: A. C TOOL & MACHINE CO NAICS code: 332710	↓

COMPANY LOGIN

Type in your company name to verify access,
then press enter.

Outdoor Venture

MEP SEARCH

KY-MEP SUPPLYSOURCE

Search by Name, NAICS code, or NAICS description

Description ▾

Clear Search

Name: 4C Innovations

RESULTS

Name: 4C Innovations
NAICS code: 332710

Account Name: 4C Innovations
Country: Rowan
Street: 237 East First Street
City: Morehead
State: Kentucky
Country: United States
Lead Phone (606): 336-0426
Website: <https://4cinnovations.com/>
Sales Volume: \$2859.0
Employees: 11
Primary NAICS Code: 332710

Description: 4C Innovations, LLC is primarily engaged in manufacturing machinery and equipment and parts, such as amusement park equipment and flexible metal hose and tubing. This also includes producing or repairing machinery and equipment parts, not elsewhere classified, on a job or order basis for others.

Contacts:

Keith Guinn	Owner	(606) 388-0628	kaguinn@4cinnovations.com
Vic Guinn	Owner	(606) 388-0628	vaguinn@4cinnovations.com

Name: A & M Machine LLC
NAICS code: 332710

Name: A. A Machine, Inc
NAICS code: 332710

Name: A. C TOOL & MACHINE CO

Catalyst Equipment Match (CEM)

Year 1 Statistics

(July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

\$12.5M
Total ROI

120
Jobs Created

5.4:1
Leverage Ratio

\$3.45M
Total Match
(Funding)

\$6.9M
New Wage
Growth

\$21.7M
Project Budgets
Supported

Year 2 Statistics

(July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)

\$24.4M
Total ROI

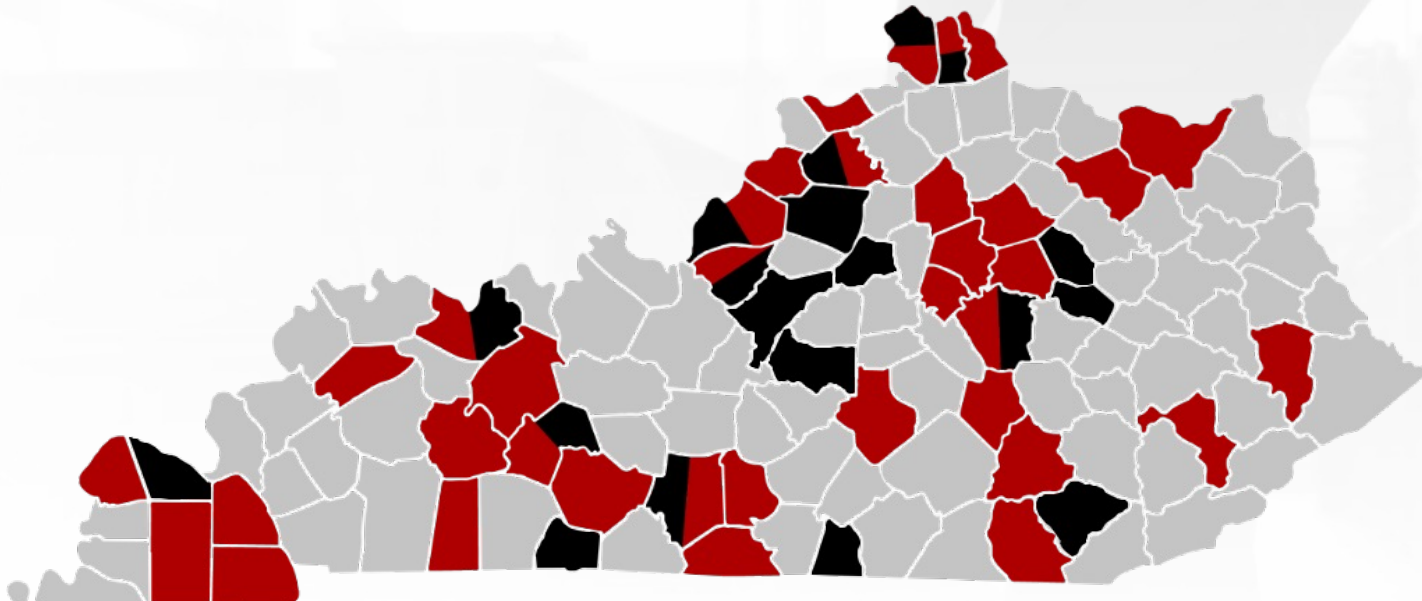
354
Jobs Created

11.9:1
Leverage Ratio

\$3.62M
Total Match
(Funding)

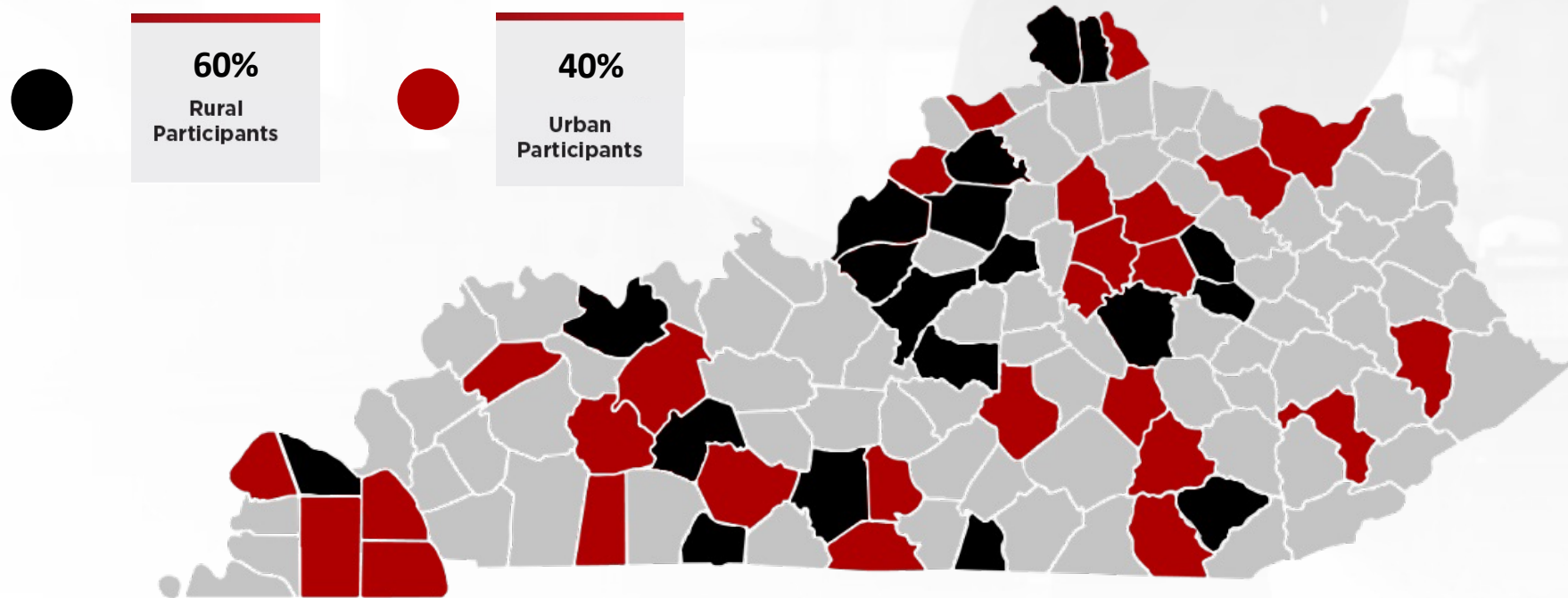
\$20.4M
New Wage
Growth

\$80.2M
Project Budgets
Supported



Catalyst Equipment Match (CEM)

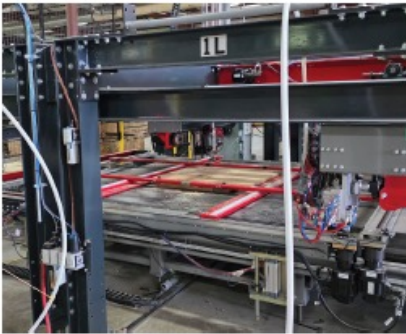
Two Years of Impact (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2026)



Catalyst Equipment Match (CEM) Success Stories

Success Story

Anderson Forest Products



Before Photo

"The CEM program has been a game changer for Anderson Forest Products. The team at the KY-MEP made the process easy to understand and the metrics for the funding were attainable for our business. With the funding from the CEM program, we have been able to invest in automation that has transformed our operation. **The production output for this part of our operation has risen almost 25%.** We have also seen improvements in our quality and on-time deliveries due to the implementation of our new machinery. We are very pleased with the support that we have received from the KY-MEP, they have been a great partner to work with and we believe they are a true asset to the future of manufacturing in Kentucky."

Josh Anderson
Operations Manager
Anderson Forest Products Inc.



Anderson Forest Products out of Tompkinsville, KY produces high quality, specification-based wood products. Their most popular products are custom reels, crates, and shipping platforms, which are available in hardwood and plywood. They were able to increase production capacity 30%, reduce cycle time, increase quality, increase customer base and improve safety with the installation of a new custom lay-up automation cell while adding 5 full-time positions to their team.

Success Story

Murray Mold and Die



"The CEM program had significant impact on our team. The application process was straightforward, and the funding allowed us to invest in new equipment that **immediately boosted our efficiency.** We're already experiencing faster run times in this department. The KY-MEP team was extremely helpful to get this accomplished."

Jonathan Duncan
Murray Mold and Die
Vice President/GM



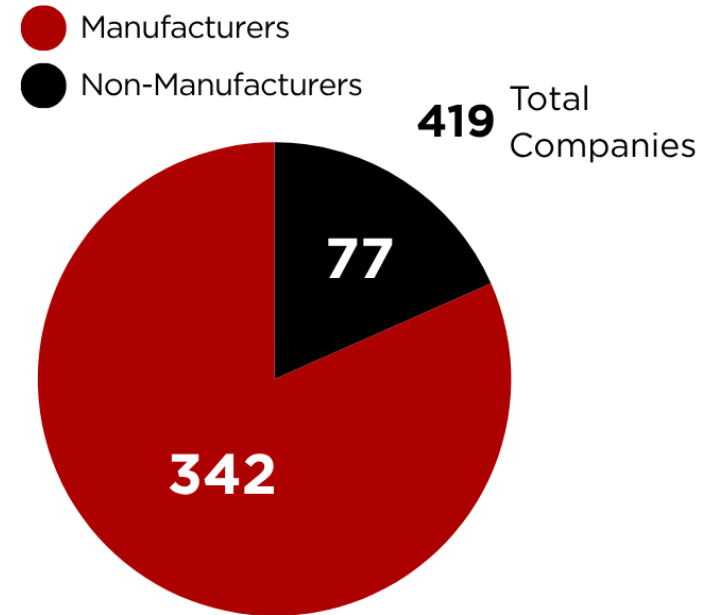
Murray Mold and Die out of Murray, KY is a contract tool and die shop and is primarily engaged in manufacturing special tools and fixtures for use with machine tools, hammers, die-casting machines, and presses. They were able to increase production speed 39%, add capacity, improve accuracy and reduce lead times with the installation of a new EDM Machine while increasing their workforce by nearly 5%.

Direct impacts from state appropriation

FROM JULY 1, 2024 - MAY 30, 2026

Total Cost Savings:	\$84,800,000
Total New Investments:	\$237,100,00
Increased/Retained Sales:	\$367,600,000
Total Jobs Impacted:	1,478

KENTUCKY COMPANY DEMOGRAPHICS



Total Impact Since July 1, 2024

\$689,500,000



LEARN MORE ABOUT KY-MEP