



CABINET FOR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# Bluegrass State Skills Training Corporation (BSSTC)

*Interim Joint Committee on State Government 9.23.25*

Presented by Kristina Slattery  
Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

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# BSSC PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

- **HOW THE CORPORATION WAS FORMED**
- **THE CORPORATION'S MISSION AND PURPOSE**
- **THE CORPORATION'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**
- **HOW THE CORPORATION IS FUNDED**  
(GENERAL FUND, FEDERAL FUNDS, RESTRICTED FUNDS, ETC.)
- **THE CORPORATION'S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**  
(TO WHOM IS THE CORPORATION IS ACCOUNTABLE)
- **THE PROCESS THE CORPORATION EMPLOYS WHEN AWARDING GRANTS & INCENTIVES TO COMPANIES**

# HOW THE CORPORATION WAS FORMED

## BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

BSSC was established in 1984 under KRS 154.12-205 as an independent corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth and is administratively attached to the Cabinet for Economic Development.

The corporation is governed by a board of directors consisting of 17 members, of which 5 are ex officio members.

Works with qualified companies and educational institutions to support skills upgrade and occupational upgrade training.



# MISSION & PURPOSE

## BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

BSSC is established under KRS 154.12-205 as an independent corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth and is administratively attached to the Cabinet for Economic Development.

Works with qualified companies and educational institutions to support skills upgrade and occupational upgrade training





# PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

## BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

- To administer and fund customized business and industry-specific training through agreements for Grant-in-Aid and Skills Training Investment Credit incentives
- To administer Metropolitan Tax Credit (UPS)
- To act as a broker by coordinating the resources of providers of skills upgrade training, occupational upgrade training and employment services
- To facilitate the creation of public/private partnerships through education and training programs designed to meet training needs of individual and multiple company (training consortia) training projects



# HOW THE CORPORATION IS FUNDED

## BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

### GRANT IN AID (GIA) ---

- General Fund appropriations per FY
- Cash Grant through Reimbursement
- Scoring Process

### SKILLS TRAINING INVESTMENT CREDIT (STIC) ---

- General Fund appropriations per FY
- Corporate Income Tax Credit
- Scored, but awarded on a first come, first serve basis

# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

## BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

**Administratively attached to CED, quarterly meetings to review & approve applications**

**Seventeen-member Board of Directors, including representatives of business, government, education, and labor, governs the BSSC. The Board is comprised of private sector individuals as well as public officials who serve as ex-officio members and include the following:**

- Secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development
- Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet
- President of the Council on Postsecondary Education
- President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Investment

## TRANSPARENCY

- Annual audit by outside independent auditor
- Board materials available on CED website
- Annual report posted on CED's website by November 1st of each year per KRS 154.12-208.

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# PROCESS TO AWARD GRANTS & INCENTIVES

BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION



# WHO QUALIFIES?

## BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

### COMPANIES

A legal entity through which business is conducted that has been, or is planning to be, actively engaged within the Commonwealth in:

- Manufacturing
- Agribusiness
- Nonretail service or technology
- Headquarters
- Hospital operations
- Coal severing and processing
- Carbon dioxide or hydrogen transmission pipeline
- Training Consortia
- Alternative fuel, gasification, energy efficient alternative fuels, or renewable energy production

### EMPLOYEES

- Full time
- KY residents
- Minimum hourly compensation of \$12.51/hour



# ELIGIBLE TRAINING

BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

## IN-HOUSE TRAINING

- In KY or at a Parent/Sister location
- \$25/hour for in house instructor
- Safety/OSHA (25%)

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS / SUPPLIES

- Training manuals, textbooks, etc.

## EMPLOYEE WAGES

- Based off company average hourly wages

## CONSORTIA / INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

- Pre-employment training
- Equipment

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION / CONSULTANT TRAINING

- Fees paid to third party
- Cannot cover KCTCS TRAINS



# HOW MUCH CAN A COMPANY APPLY FOR?

BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

## Grant in Aid (GIA) or Skills Training Investment Credit (STIC):

The maximum funding amount for applicants during a BSSC fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) is the **LESSER** of the following:

- **50%** of approved costs/eligible training costs
- **\$75,000**
- **\$2,000** per unduplicated eligible trainee



# THE PROCESS

## BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

### COMPLETION & SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- Minimum of \$12,000 in training required

### CED REVIEW OF APPLICATION

- Score Assigned (At least 60)
- Scoring criteria in guidelines

### APPROVAL OF APPLICATION

- Check guidelines for meeting dates

### LENGTH OF AGREEMENT

- One year from the approval date

### SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED TRAINING

### COMPLIANCE PROCESS

- Approved companies provide certifications and detailed documentation demonstrating completion of training, number of trainees and wages in order to receive incentives





# SCORING

## BLUEGRASS STATE SKILLS CORPORATION

**In order to qualify for BSSC funding, an application must earn a minimum score of 60 points**

### SCORING CRITERIA CONSIDERS

- Company/consortium status – existing number of employees at facility
- Area of need – ranges depending on County where employer is located
- Trainees average hourly wage rate
- Progressive company initiatives:
  - **Consortium/industry partnership**
  - If funding was received in a previous FY
  - Expanding company, adding jobs
  - **Childcare and transportation support for employees**
  - Career growth opportunities – wage increases as a result of training
  - Workforce development initiative participation
  - **Registered apprenticeships**
  - **American Veterans**



# ACTIVITY

FY 2024 THROUGH YTD FY 2026

## GRANT IN AID

FISCAL YEAR	APPROVED FUNDING	# OF GRANTS	# OF TRAINEES
<b>2024</b>	\$ 16,857,196.00	76 approved	35,213
<b>2025</b>	\$ 7,515,660	83 approved	47,733
<b>2026</b> (YTD as of 8/6/2025)	\$ 1,044,833	16 approved	1120

## SKILLS TRAINING INVESTMENT CREDIT

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL CREDITS APPROVED	# OF COMPANIES
<b>2024</b>	\$ 2,226,835	33
<b>2025</b>	\$ 2,012,201	31
<b>2026</b> (YTD as of 8/4/2025)	\$748,934	12

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