

1 AN ACT relating to public assistance, making an appropriation therefor, and
2 declaring an emergency.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 205 IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) By January 1, 2023, the cabinet shall, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. sec. 18051,*
7 *design and implement a basic health program for low income individuals who are*
8 *not eligible for the state's Medical Assistance Program.*

9 *(2) Health benefit plans offered through the basic health program developed*
10 *pursuant to this section may include reasonable premiums and co-payments but*
11 *shall not include deductibles.*

12 *(3) The cabinet may contract, in accordance with KRS Chapter 45A, with a managed*
13 *care organization, as defined in KRS 205.532, to operate the basic health*
14 *program developed pursuant to this subsection.*

15 *(4) The cabinet shall submit a plan for development and implementation of a basic*
16 *health program to the Legislative Research Commission by July 1, 2022.*

17 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 205 IS CREATED TO
18 READ AS FOLLOWS:

19 *(1) As used in this section "benefits cliff calculator" means an interactive, online*
20 *tool that allows recipients of public assistance benefits administered under this*
21 *chapter to assess and understand the potential impacts, including reduction of*
22 *benefits or loss of eligibility, of changes to income or employment.*

23 *(2) The cabinet shall:*

24 *(a) By September 1, 2022, develop and make available on its Web site a benefits*
25 *cliff calculator;*

26 *(b) Include on any Web site that contains the benefits cliff calculator a link to*
27 *online job postings maintained by the Education and Workforce*

1 *Development Cabinet and the Kentucky Career Center; and*
2 *(c) Regularly update the benefits cliff calculator to ensure that the tool*
3 *accurately reflects all current federal and state eligibility guidelines for*
4 *public assistance benefits administered under this chapter.*

5 ➔Section 3. The General Assembly hereby directs the Cabinet for Health and
6 Family Services to establish a pilot program to be known as the Community Jobs
7 Initiative. The Community Jobs Initiative pilot program shall, except as provided in
8 Section 7 of this Act, be created, implemented, and operational no later than January 1,
9 2023. The purpose of the pilot program shall be to assist individuals receiving public
10 assistance benefits under KRS Chapter 205 in transitioning to sustainable, gainful
11 employment and to increase workforce participation among public assistance
12 beneficiaries. The Community Jobs Initiative pilot program shall:

- 13 (1) Be operated in four counties, two of which shall have a population of more than
14 seventy-five thousand and two of which shall have a population of less than twenty-
15 five thousand;
- 16 (2) Provide information regarding the Community Jobs Initiative, available subsidies,
17 and employment opportunities to public assistance beneficiaries residing in and
18 local governments, nonprofit agencies, and private businesses located in the four
19 counties served by the pilot program;
- 20 (3) Prioritize participation by currently unemployed individuals who have received
21 public assistance benefits under KRS Chapter 205 for less than six months or for
22 more than thirty months;
- 23 (4) Encourage local governments, nonprofit agencies, and private businesses to hire
24 currently unemployed individuals receiving public assistance under KRS Chapter
25 205;
- 26 (5) Provide any local government, nonprofit agency, or private business that is located
27 in one of the four pilot program counties with a subsidy equal to one-half of the

- 1 hourly wages paid to an individual hired under the pilot program for a period of ten
2 months following the initial date of employment, if the individual's hourly wage is
3 at least fifteen dollar per hour;
- 4 (6) To the extent permitted under federal law:
- 5 (a) Provide any individual who is employed through the pilot program with an
6 earned income disregard of up to two hundred percent of the federal poverty
7 level when evaluating the individual's continued eligibility for public
8 assistance programs administered under KRS Chapter 205 while employed
9 under the pilot program; and
- 10 (b) Ensure that months during which an individual is employed under the pilot
11 program do not count against any time limit for benefits established under
12 state or federal law, unless the individual chooses to terminate his or her
13 employment without good cause within sixteen months from the initial date of
14 employment. For the purpose of this paragraph, it shall be considered good
15 cause to terminate employment to accept other employment outside of the
16 Community Job Initiative Program;
- 17 (7) Encourage local governments, nonprofit agencies, and private businesses that
18 receive a subsidy through the pilot program to:
- 19 (a) Offer full-time employment to individuals employed through the pilot
20 program; and
- 21 (b) Provide child-care assistance, substance use disorder treatment, transportation
22 assistance, or education and training opportunities, as appropriate, to
23 individuals employed through the pilot program;
- 24 (8) Require a local government, nonprofit agency, or private business to reimburse the
25 state in an amount equal to one-half of the total subsidy received through the pilot
26 program if the local government, nonprofit agency, or private business terminates,
27 without cause, an employee for which it received a subsidy payment within sixteen

1 months from the initial date of employment; and

2 (9) Be terminated on June 30, 2024, unless the General Assembly acts to extend the
3 pilot program, except that the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall continue
4 to monitor the employment status of individuals employed by local governments,
5 nonprofit agencies, and private businesses through the Community Jobs Initiative
6 pilot program for at least one year following the termination of the pilot program.

7 ➔Section 4. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall, no later than
8 November 1, 2022, submit a report to the Legislative Research Commission detailing
9 plans to implement the Community Jobs Initiative pilot program by and shall also submit
10 a report the Legislative Research Commission by July 1 of 2023, 2024, and 2025
11 documenting the operations and outcomes of the Community Jobs Initiative pilot
12 program including all expenditures of funds allocated pursuant to Sections 5 and 6 of this
13 Act.

14 ➔Section 5. There is hereby appropriated to the Cabinet for Health and Family
15 Services general fund moneys in the amount of \$750,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023 and
16 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-2024 for the development, implementation, and operation
17 of the Community Jobs Initiative pilot program.

18 ➔Section 6. Appropriations authorized by this Act shall be paid from the general
19 fund surplus account (KRS 48.700) or the budget reserve trust fund account (KRS
20 48.705).

21 ➔Section 7. If the Cabinet for Health and Family Services determines that a
22 waiver or any other form of approval or authorization from a federal agency is necessary
23 prior to the implementation of any provision of this Act, the cabinet shall, within sixty
24 days after the effective date of this Act, prepare and submit an application or request for
25 the waiver, approval, or authorization, and shall only delay full implementation of those
26 provisions for which a waiver, approval, or authorization was deemed necessary until the
27 waiver, approval, or authorization is granted. The cabinet shall, in accordance with KRS

1 205.525, provide a copy of any waiver or other approval or authorization application
2 submitted pursuant to this section to the Inter Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, and
3 Family Service and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue and
4 provide an update on the status of any application submitted pursuant to this section upon
5 request.

6 ➔Section 8. Whereas, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is experiencing an
7 unprecedented shortage of workers across nearly every industry and Kentucky ranks 49th
8 in the nation for labor-force participation rates, an emergency is declared to exist, and this
9 Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise
10 becoming law.