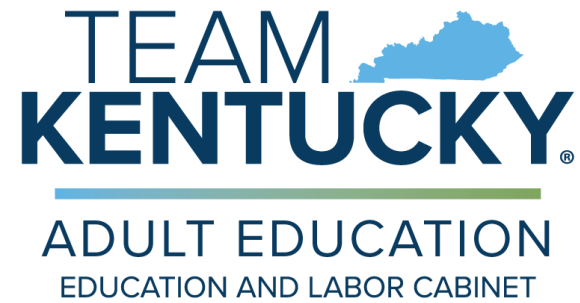




# **Building Bridges to Strengthen Kentucky's Workforce**

**Reentry and Employment Services Branch**



**Reentry is not one program : It is a system**



# Reentry and Employment Services (RES)

## In Summary

Develop, facilitate and deepen the effectiveness of the partners and organizations focused on the reentry populations, while building a sense of community for participants and providers.

Alignment of State, Regional and Local Partners to serve the Reentry Population.

Addressing “Pre-Entry, Reentry and Recidivism” via diversionary alternatives to confinement for individuals at the local level as a preventative measure and serving individuals who are returning to society.

# RES Operations (County by County)

## Putting Kentuckians First

- This program extends the digital arm of the Kentucky Career Centers.
- Bi-weekly meetings with State partners (KYAE, OVR, CDO, KCC, & RES) to discuss each person enrolled per county.
- Easily accessible by participants and partners.

## Targeted Orientation Classes

- This program extends the physical arm of the Kentucky Career Centers, bringing the state partners in workforce development onsite once a month on a reoccurring date that is dependable and focused.
- Meeting the people where they are.

## Community presence where the people are

- In communication with the specialty courts.
- Attend trainings with the judicial partners.
- Attend monthly drug courts.

## ID and Wrap Around Services for those involved with RES Operations and Adult Education

# PUTTING KENTUCKIANS FIRST

## JUDICIAL REFERRALS

Judicial referrals are direct pipelines from judicial system entities, including county attorneys, child support, specialty courts, and pre-trial agencies. Putting Kentuckians First provides updates and accountability measures to judicial partners for a collective approach.

## TARGETED ORIENTATION CLASSES

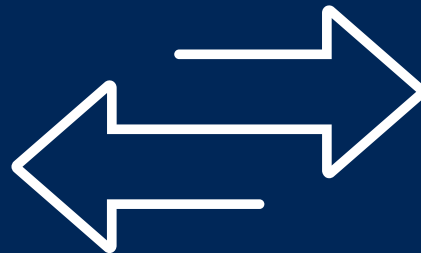
Targeted orientation classes serve as an extension of the local career center offices in each county. These classes are held monthly, enabling Putting Kentuckians First participants to receive referrals and interact directly with the workforce system.

## JAIL REFERRALS

Jail referrals support and educate incarcerated individuals at local jails and detention centers and create pathways to Putting Kentuckians First and the workforce system.

## PUTTING KENTUCKIANS FIRST

Putting Kentuckians First is the central nervous system of the justice-impacted ecosystem. It creates **two-way communication** with partner agencies, judicial, jail, community partners, employers, and the workforce system while directly serving the individuals seeking services.



## PARTNERS

State, regional and local organizations remove barriers, provide referrals and direct communication to other partners on mutual efforts.

## EMPLOYERS

Direct-to-employer referrals and pipeline creation ensure individuals are properly equipped and qualified for employment referrals. Maintaining and cultivating relationships with employers also helps to better understand their requirements and needs for successful referrals.

## WORKFORCE SYSTEM

The workforce system engages with partners to ensure the most appropriate agencies assist individuals with available education, workforce and training resources.

### For more information, contact:









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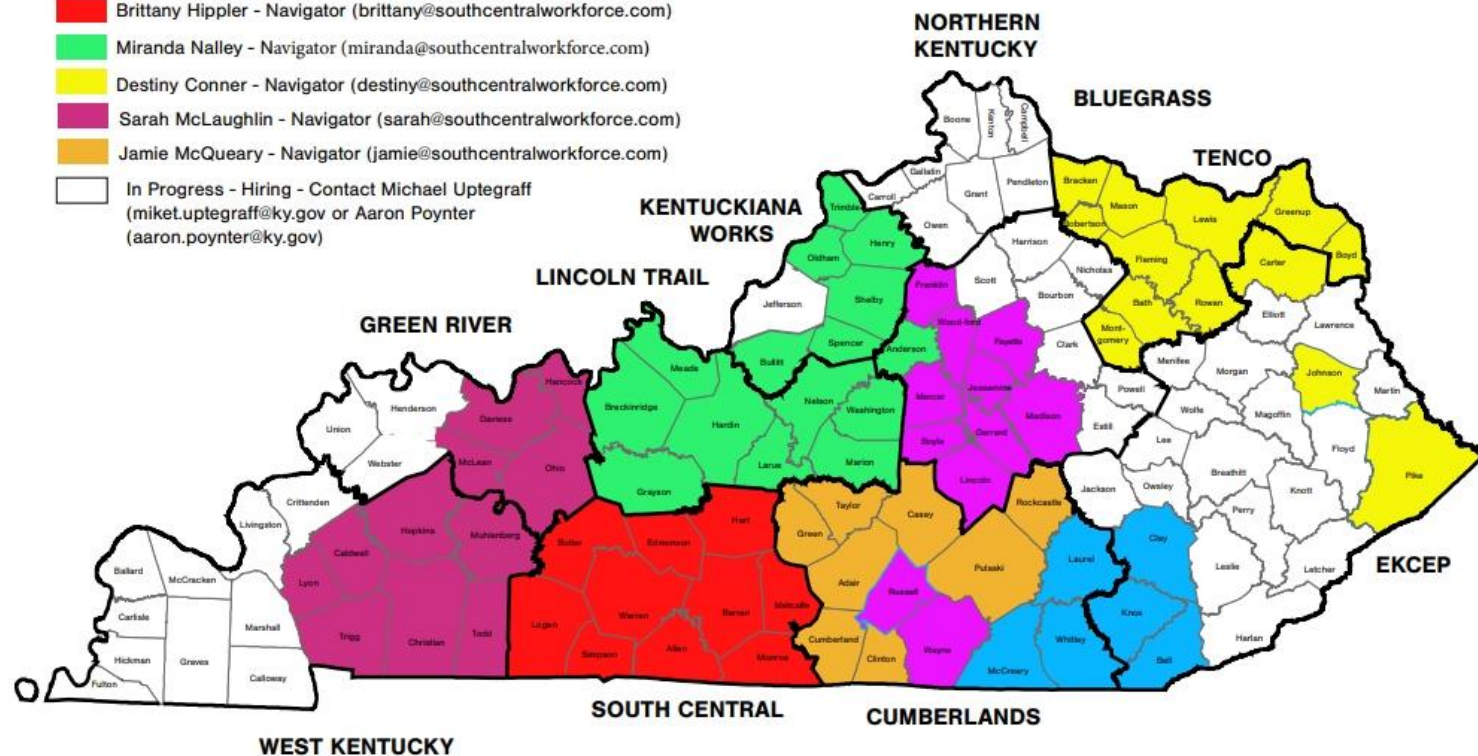
[kyae.ky.gov](http://kyae.ky.gov)

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ADULT EDUCATION

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ADULT EDUCATION

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  | Alana Reynolds - Navigator (alana.reynolds@ky.gov)   |
|  | Jana Shell - Navigator (jana.shell@lcadd.org)  |
|  | Brittany Hippler - Navigator (brittany@southcentralworkforce.com)  |
|  | Miranda Nalley - Navigator (miranda@southcentralworkforce.com)   |
|  | Destiny Conner - Navigator (destiny@southcentralworkforce.com)   |
|  | Sarah McLaughlin - Navigator (sarah@southcentralworkforce.com)   |
|  | Jamie McQueary - Navigator (jamie@southcentralworkforce.com)   |
|  | In Progress - Hiring - Contact Michael Uptegraff<br>(miket.uptegraff@ky.gov or Aaron Poynter<br>(aaron.poynter@ky.gov) |



## Reentry and Employment Services Branch

Updated July 31, 2025



# PUTTING KENTUCKIANS FIRST INITIATIVE

**TEAM  
KENTUCKY.**  
ADULT EDUCATION



## MISSION STATEMENT

*Empowering Kentuckians to achieve personal success by providing access to employment, recovery resources, education and training, career services, vocational rehabilitation, and court-ordered classes that create a brighter path to achieving their goals.*

## ASSISTANCE WITH:

- Finding substance abuse and recovery programs
- Medicaid/healthcare support
- Food, clothing, and shelter
- Obtaining birth certificates, IDs, driver's licenses, and social security cards
- Employment and job readiness
- Transportation
- Disability resources
- Adult education, GED® diploma, other certification, and training
- Childcare and family services

## We believe in your success.

- Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Kentucky Workforce Development Board
- EKCEP - Strategic Initiative for Transformational Employment
- Kentucky Career Development Office
- Kentucky Office of Adult Education

For more information about our program, contact one of our Navigators:

**Jana Shell, Lead Navigator**  
Cumberlands/East Kentucky  
Cell: 270.566.1125  
Email: [jana.shell@lcadd.org](mailto:jana.shell@lcadd.org)

**Alana Reynolds, Navigator**  
Cumberlands/Corrections  
Cell: 270.566.8923  
Email: [alana.reynolds@lcadd.org](mailto:alana.reynolds@lcadd.org)

**Michael Uptegraff, Navigator**  
Southcentral/Lincoln Trail  
Cell: 860-917-4480  
Email: [Michaelu@southcentralworkforce.com](mailto:Michaelu@southcentralworkforce.com)

FROM THE REENTRY & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES BRANCH, COMMONWEALTH OF KY, "PUTTING KENTUCKIANS FIRST"

# MOVE YOUR CAREER & LIFE FORWARD.

## TARGETED SERVICES ORIENTATION



### A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT FROM:

- ✓ Reentry and Employment Services Branch, Commonwealth of KY
- ✓ Lincoln Trail and South Central Workforce Development Boards
- ✓ KY Adult Education
- ✓ Career TEAM
- ✓ Career Development Office & Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

**POINT OF CONTACT:**  
**Michael Uptegraff**  
Regional Coordinator  
(270) 883-1821



A proud partner of the **americanjobcenter** network.

If you're interested in **ANY** of the following, our hour-long session **IN YOUR COUNTY** is exactly what you need:

- CAREER NAVIGATION ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT
- ESL CLASSES
- DIGITAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS
- COLLEGE & CAREER PREP
- TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES & GUIDANCE
- RECOVERY AND/OR REENTRY RESOURCES
- GED INFORMATION



Third Friday of  
every month  
9:00 am to 10:30 am  
(EST)

### HARDIN/LARUE COUNTY



Hardin County Adult Ed.  
ECTC Campus, 600 College St.  
OTB 300, Room 314  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

# RES: Behavioral Health Conditional Dismissal Program

## Behavioral Health Conditional Dismissal Program – SB90

- Oversight of the Education Training and Work Barrier Relief Funding
- Dedicated navigation for participants to ensure completion of educational and vocational assessments
- Coordination and funding to assist individuals in achieving educational and workforce goals



# Operations: BHCDP/ SB90

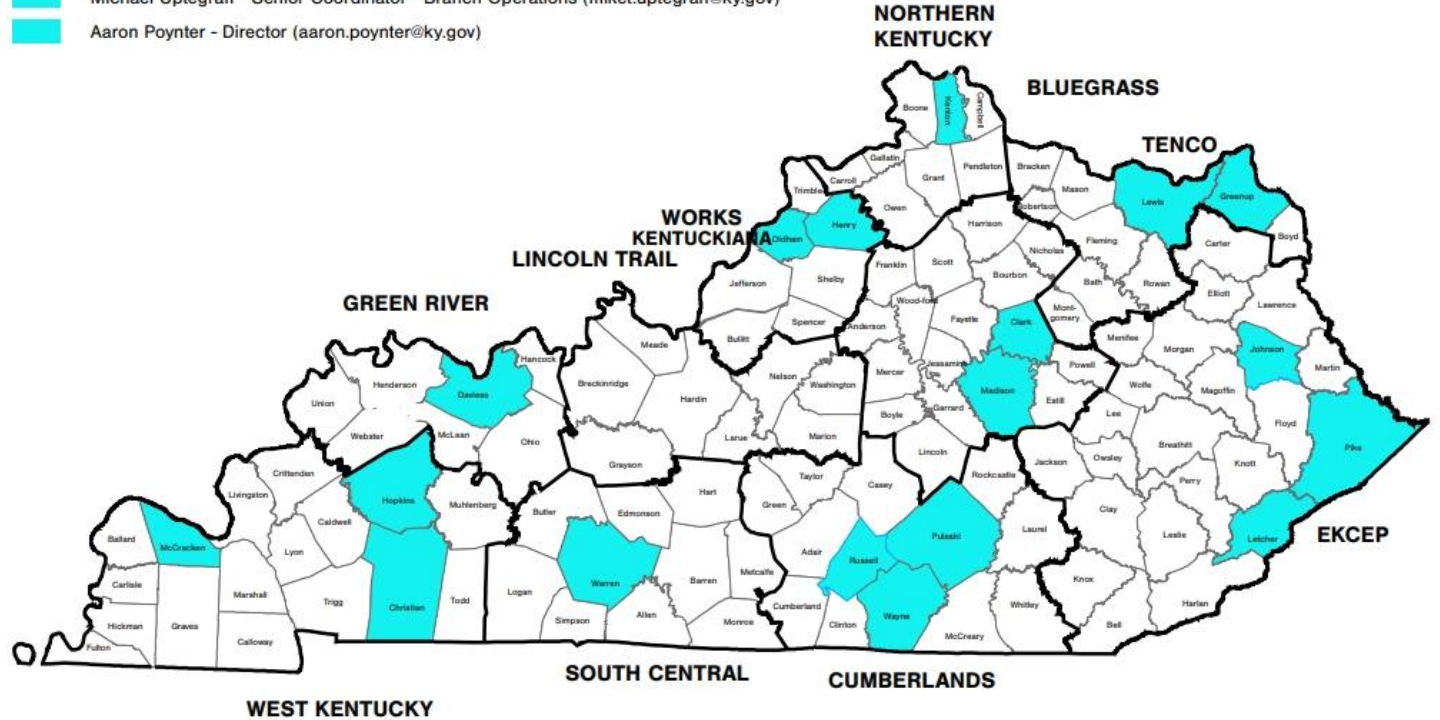
## 18 Active Counties – Highlighted “entry points”

## Participants can receive services statewide

## Barrier relief and Education/workforce relief supportive services

## BHCDP/SB90 Operations

- Monique Shaw - Senior Coordinator - Education, Training, & Workforce Trust Administrator (monique.shaw@ky.gov)
- Becky Wilson - Senior Coordinator - Case Manager/LPN Coordinator (becky.wilson@ky.gov)
- Michael Uptegraff - Senior Coordinator - Branch Operations (miket.uptegraff@ky.gov)
- Aaron Poynter - Director (aaron.poynter@ky.gov)



## Reentry and Employment Services Branch

Updated July 31, 2025

# Removing Barriers 101

**Identification : ID's, Birth Certificates, Social Security Cards**

**Employment Focused: Resumes, Tools, Supportive Services**

**Education Focused: GED, Training, Post Secondary, Certifications, Tuition, Books, Supplies**

**Transportation: Gas Cards, Vouchers**

**Not achieved by 1 sole source: The System – State, Regional and Local**

# By the Numbers

## FY24

### Footprint Expanded from 12 Counties to 47 Counties

- 1136 Incarcerated Individuals served through pre-release classes
- 414 Individual Assist
- 185 ID's/Birth Certificates Provided
- 452 Individuals Enrolled in PKF
- 318 Individuals Accepting our Services
- **244 Positive Employment Outcomes**
- 76.73% Employment and Retention Rate

### Classes Given

- 66 Pre-release Classes provided
- 91 Community Based Targeted Orientation Classes

## FY25

### Footprint Expanded from 47 Counties to 65 Counties +18 Counties through SB90

- 2355 Incarcerated Individuals served through pre-release classes
- 627 Individual Assist
- 525 ID's/Birth Certificates Provided
- 1097 Individuals Enrolled in PKF
- 804 Individuals Accepting our Services
- **610 Positive Employment Outcomes**
- 75.87% Employment and Retention Rate

### Classes Given

- 141 Pre-release Classes provided
- 231 Community Based Targeted Orientation Classes
- 549 – State and Workforce Partners Trained

# Final Thoughts

Success is in the System – Recidivism, Economic Development, Public Safety, Fiscal Concerns

Braided Funding – Shared Initiatives

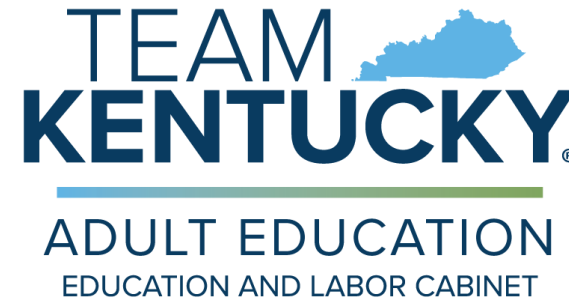
Force Multiplier to existing efforts

Employer Resources : WOTC and Fair Chance/Federal Bonding

Streamlining of workforce development efforts

Reducing the Stigma

Trauma Informed Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Reentry Simulations



# Questions?

**Aaron Poynter, Director**

Reentry and Employment Services Branch

Office of Adult Education

Education and Labor Cabinet

[Aaron.poynter@ky.gov](mailto:Aaron.poynter@ky.gov)

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