



# **Reframing Reentry as Workforce, Community, and Economic Development**

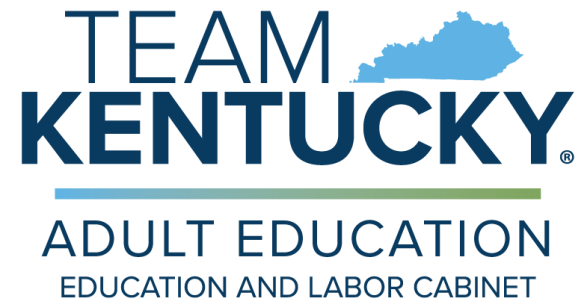
# Reentry and Employment Services (RES)

## Mission Statement:

Empowering all Kentuckians to achieve personal success by building bridges through the Putting Kentuckians First initiative that will provide employment, recovery resources, education and training, career services, vocational rehabilitation, and court-ordered programs, with a focused emphasis on those in diversion and re-entry pathways to Kentucky's workforce, that will create a brighter path to self-sufficiency and achievement of their lifelong learning goals.

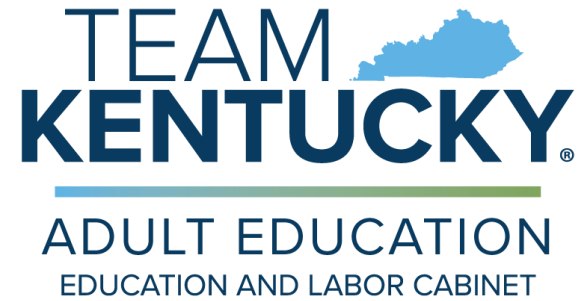
## Vision:

To remove barriers for those in diversion and re-entry pathways to Kentucky's workforce through integrated and collaborative resource alignment between state, regional, and local agencies for all Kentuckians to achieve their education, employment, and training goals effectively and efficiently

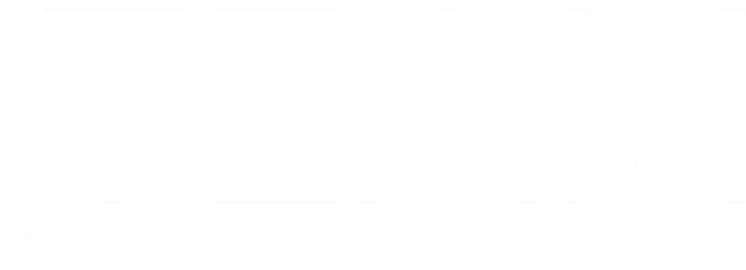


**Being justice involved is a spectrum**





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



# 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

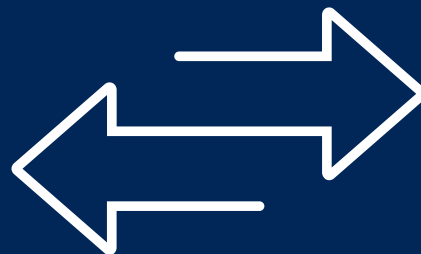
Targeted orientation classes serve as an extension of the local career center offices in each county. These classes are held monthly, enabling Putting Kentuckians First participants to receive referrals and interact directly with the workforce system.

## 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:

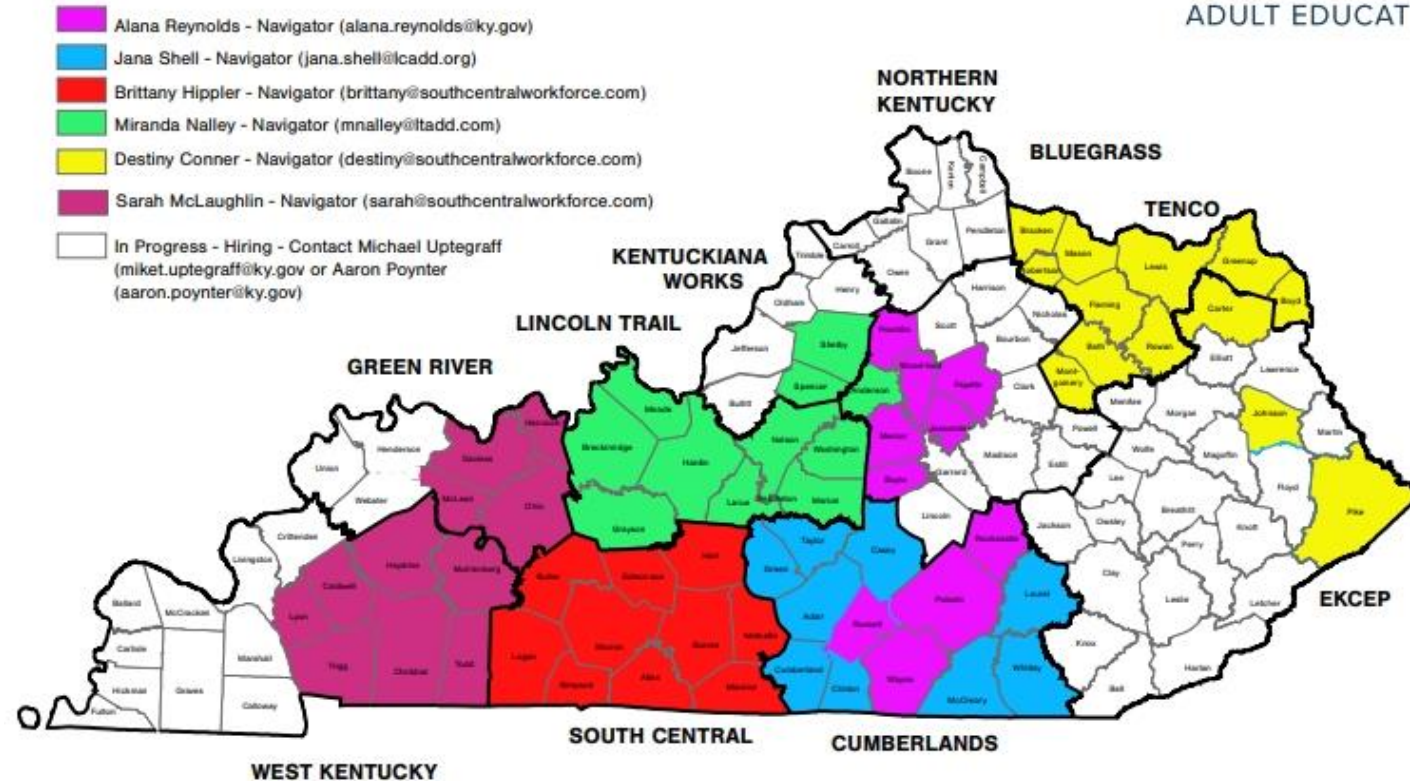
Aaron Poynter  
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[kyae.ky.gov](http://kyae.ky.gov)

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**Kentucky**  
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## Putting Kentuckians First Operations



## Reentry and Employment Services Branch

Updated March 7, 2025

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**Aaron Poynter - Director (aaron.poynter@ky.gov)**



**TEAM KENTUCKY.**  
ADULT EDUCATION

# PUTTING KENTUCKIANS FIRST INITIATIVE



## 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](https://www.americanjobcenter.org/) 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

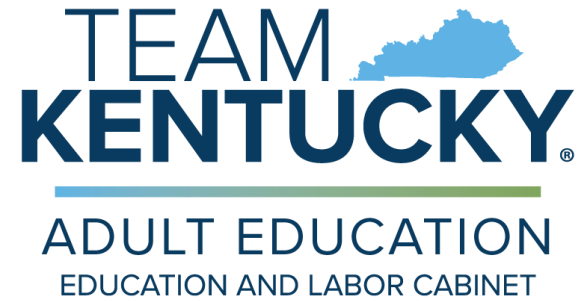


### HARDIN/LARUE COUNTY



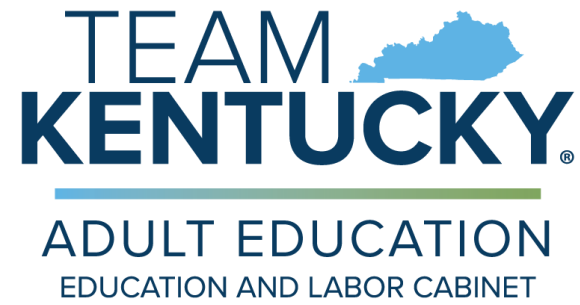
Third Friday of every month  
9:00 am to 10:30 am (EST)

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



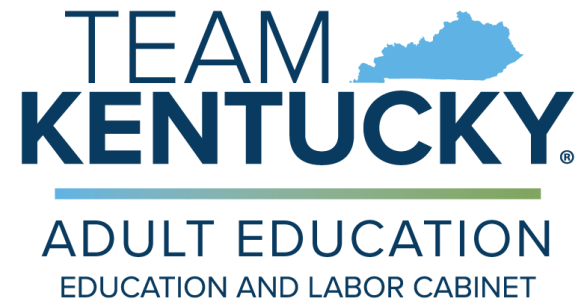
**It isn't top down or bottom up: its all-hands-on deck**





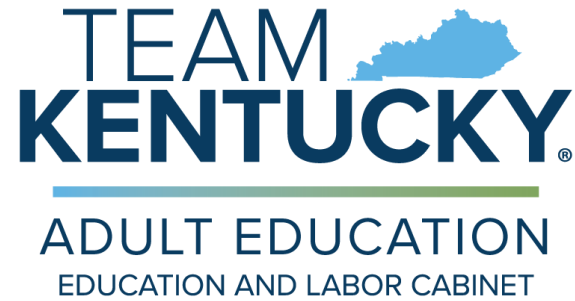
## What is reentry ready?





## Why does it matter?





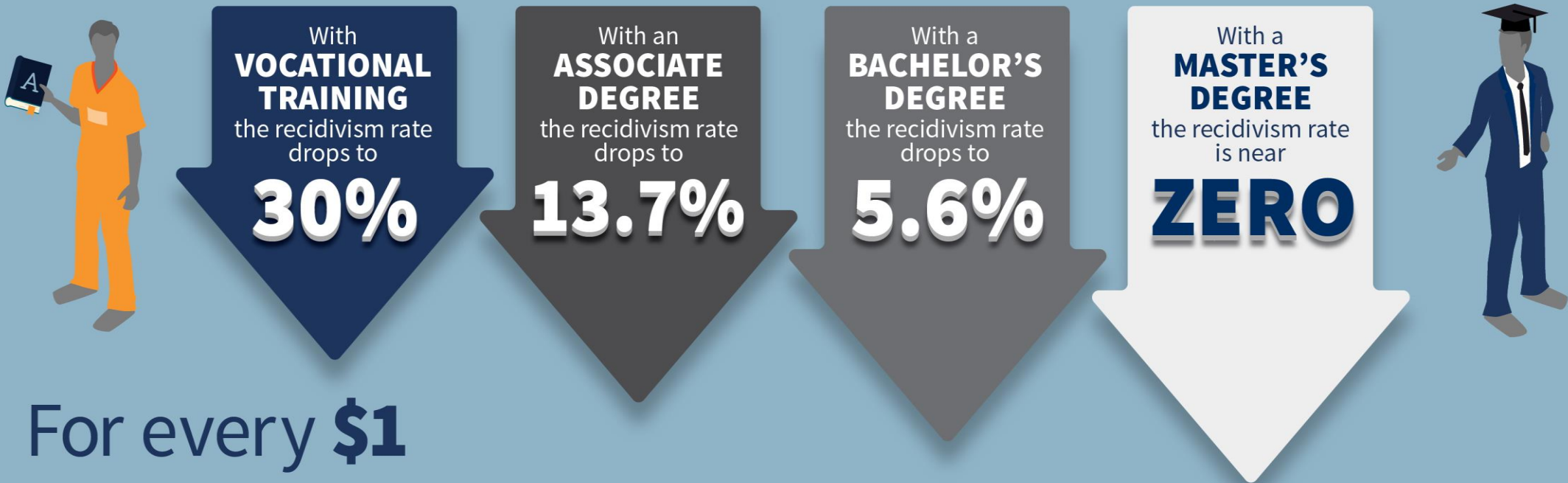
**30% Decrease in overdose deaths in 2024 from 2023.**

**Nearly 70% of individuals released from state custody in 2022 have not been reincarcerated.**

**The 2024 Crime in Kentucky Report released by Kentucky State Police indicated a nearly 8% decrease in serious crime offenses.**



WHEN INMATES PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, THE RECIDIVISM RATE DROPS SIGNIFICANTLY.



For every **\$1**  
**spent** on **education** programs,  
**\$4** is **saved** on **reincarceration** costs.



# 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



ADULT EDUCATION  
EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

**Workforce**

**Public Safety**

**Education**

**Judicial**

**Social Services**

**Faith Based**

**Economic Development**



**Extending the reach of the Kentucky Workforce System**

**Mutually Reinforcing Activities**

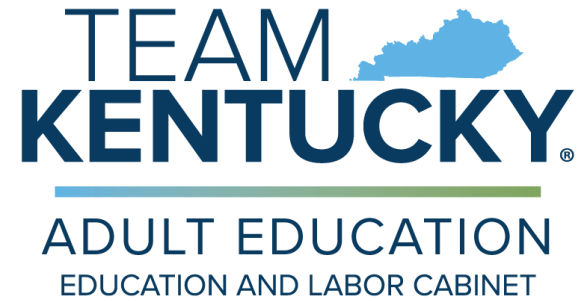
**Community Presence**

**Referrals – Traffic**

**Mutually Reinforcing Activities**

**Community Presence**

**Training – Mental Health First Aid and Trauma Informed Care**



**A New Kentucky Home is created when stakeholders from judges to jailers to workforce practitioners understand the resources available and see their role in helping all Kentuckians turn their dreams into reality.**





# TEAM KENTUCKY®

ADULT EDUCATION  
EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET



# 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)

502-401-9847

**KYAE.KY.GOV**

