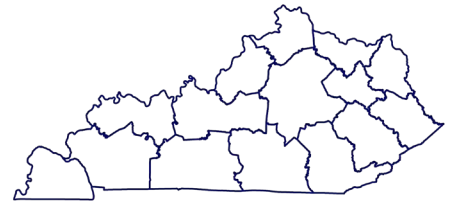


THE REGIONALIST



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BTADD receives Peggy Satterly Spirit of Kentucky Award

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Aug. 20, 2025) – A regional partnership that transformed aging infrastructure into a model of innovation and cooperation has earned the Buffalo Trace Area Development District (BTADD) the prestigious Peggy Satterly Spirit of Kentucky award.

Senior Advisor to Gov. Andy Beshear, Rocky Adkins, presented the award at this year's Governor's Local Issues Conference in recognition of the Augusta Regional Sewer Project, which replaced two failing wastewater treatment plants in Augusta and Brooksville with a new regional facility.

Both plants, built in the 1970s, had long surpassed their useful life. BTADD worked with the cities of Augusta and Brooksville, the Bracken County Fiscal Court and the Augusta Regional Sewer Authority to deliver the project, which was estimated at more than \$13 million and would not have been implemented without financial assistance.

In 2020, the project received the largest amount of Kentucky Rural Development grant funds awarded that year. The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority supported the effort with a 30-year loan at the lowest available interest rate of 0.25% and \$1.3 million in loan forgiveness.

"I'm excited this project was selected as it highlights the heart of our mission at the Buffalo Trace Area Development District," BTADD Executive Director Kevin Cornette said. "The Augusta Regional Sewer Project is proof of what can be accomplished when communities come together with a shared vision. By replacing two failing



The Buffalo Trace Area Development District received the prestigious Peggy Satterly Spirit of Kentucky award at the 49th annual Governor's Local Issues Conference, held in Louisville Aug. 13-15.

plants with one modern, regional facility, we've not only reduced costs and protected our environment, but also ensured reliable service for generations to come."

The new plant provides reliable wastewater treatment for nearly 1,000 customers, including about 80 new customers who previously depended on private septic systems. The facility also offers added capacity to support future growth across the region.

Bracken County Second District Magistrate Craig Miller, speaking on behalf of Judge/Executive Tina Teegarden during the presentation, highlighted the impact of the project despite numerous hurdles, including a location change and plan redesign.

"We turned obstacles into stepping-

stones," Miller said. "The result is a state-of-the-art treatment plant, four major lift stations and 10 miles of force main line that together provide efficient, compliant and sustainable service to nearly 1,000 customers with room for future growth. This project has saved taxpayer dollars, improved public health, supported economic development and ensured environmental stewardship for generations to come."

About Peggy Satterly

Peggy Satterly served Kentucky for 48 years, working for 11 governors' administrations. During her career, she worked at the Department for Local Government, serving 20 years as Kentucky's program manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Petrie praises ADDs' work across Kentucky

At our August 13 meeting of the Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts, we had the privilege of welcoming Rep. Jason Petrie as our guest speaker. His time with us was both affirming and energizing, and I want to share a few of the encouraging points he made about the work of our ADDs.

Rep. Petrie praised the impact our area development districts have on aging services, workforce development, and broadband expansion—all areas that directly improve the quality of life for Kentuckians. Most importantly, he encouraged us to continue serving as a clearinghouse and convener, helping local governments, nonprofits, and state partners work together efficiently.

He also spoke about the unique role we play in community planning and development. For many smaller counties and cities, ADDs are the only resource available to provide professional planning services. He made clear that without us, many of these communities would simply go without.

Rep. Petrie was quick to highlight the value of our grant writing efforts, calling attention to the critical funding we bring home to our communities. He noted that investing in skilled grant writers pays dividends many times over and that local governments and the Commonwealth as a whole is stronger because of it.

Finally, he pointed to the General Assembly's unprecedented \$200 million investment in local grants as a testament to the trust placed in ADDs. His message was simple but powerful: our work matters, and Kentucky is stronger because of it.



CASEY ELLIS

Big Sandy ADD leads grant administration for housing project



Gov. Andy Beshear joined representatives of the Big Sandy Area Development District and local officials July 23 to break ground on the future site of New Hope Estates in Floyd County. Pictured left to right: Frontier Housing Executive Director Tom Manning-Bevin, Big Sandy Area Development District Executive Director Eric Ratliff, Prestonsburg Mayor Rick Hughes, Senior Advisor to the Governor Rocky Adkins, Gov. Andy Beshear, Floyd County Judge/Executive Robbie Williams, Rep. Ashley Tackett-Laferty, Sen. Scott Madon and Dan Tully of the Federal Home Loan Bank. (Photo courtesy of the Governor's Communications Office)

Development to provide 34 homes for flood survivors in Prestonsburg through \$10 million investment

Gov. Andy Beshear joined representatives of the Big Sandy Area Development District (BSADD) and local officials July 23 to break ground on the future site of New Hope Estates in Floyd County.

The neighborhood will consist of 34 homes for flood survivors and will be located along Cliff Road and Old Cliff Road in Prestonsburg. BSADD is providing grant administration for the project on behalf of the Floyd County Fiscal Court.

"Today, we're breaking ground on a neighborhood that will provide a fresh start for so many families," Beshear said during the ground-breaking. "These are Kentuckians who have been through so much, and they deserve a home where they will be safe and at peace. Today is a reminder that when we work together, and when we don't leave anyone behind, we can make life better for our neighbors."

The homes at New Hope Estates

will be out of the floodplain and close to downtown Prestonsburg, adjacent to the BSADD offices. Beshear first announced the site in 2023. Team Kentucky is investing \$2 million in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$8 million in CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds, for a total of \$10 million.

"Today was a great day for Floyd County as we continue to rebuild from the floods of recent years," Floyd County Judge/Executive Robbie Williams said. "The New Hope Estates will be a safe haven for our families and a place for them to create new memories. We're building back stronger and smarter, ensuring a bright future for those who call Floyd County home."

"The Big Sandy Area Development District is here to help the people of our communities," BSADD Executive Director Eric Ratliff said. "By developing the land right next door into housing for flood survivors, we're welcoming more families to the neighborhood. In Kentucky, we look out for our neighbors, and these new homes will be a constant reminder of why we show up to work every day."

Lincoln Trail ADD pioneering pavement rating system

The Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD) has marked a major step forward in its role as a leader in regional growth with the creation of its in-house engineering department.

Serving Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington counties, LTADD's new department is streamlining project execution and introducing innovative solutions to enhance infrastructure and improve community outcomes.

One of the department's most notable initiatives is the Pavement Condition Rating (PCR) program, designed to help magistrates, judge/executives and mayors evaluate local road networks and prioritize funding needs. Using a GIS dashboard, local officials can annually review deteriorating pavement areas in each magisterial district and make data-driven decisions about where to allocate resources.

Under the program, technical experts analyze test sections of roadways for five key distress types — raveling, rutting, cracking, potholes and patching. Points are deducted based on severity



Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD) GIS Specialist Ava Oljeski rolls out the Pavement Condition Rating program at a recent LTADD board meeting.

and extent, producing a final score between zero and 100.

The system aims to provide a uniform method for roadway assessments, reducing subjectivity in funding decisions. Future development could

include the integration of artificial intelligence and vehicle-mounted scanners to automate scoring and further improve accuracy.

For more information about LTADD and its programs, visit www.ltadd.org.

BTADD's loan programs support Augusta Ferry Authority

The Augusta Ferry Authority remains a cornerstone of regional transportation in the Buffalo Trace Area, providing a vital connection across the Ohio River between Augusta, Kentucky and adjacent communities in Ohio. Operating for nearly two centuries, the ferry continues to support the region's agricultural economy, tourism industry, and daily commuters.

Farmers who own land on both sides of the river depend on the ferry to maintain efficient operations and timely access between properties. Additionally, the ferry is a key attraction for visitors to Augusta, contributing to the town's cultural and economic vitality.

In 2025, the Augusta Ferry Authority successfully completed its mandatory five-year U.S. Coast Guard dry dock inspections for its two key vessels: the tugboat Jenny Ann and the passenger barge Ole Augusta. The inspection

process is part of ongoing efforts to ensure safety, compliance, and long-term operability of the ferry service.

The Jenny Ann required only moderate repairs to meet current Coast Guard standards. However, the Ole Augusta presented significant maintenance challenges, with critical repairs identified that required immediate action. The unexpected scope and cost of these repairs placed substantial pressure on the Authority's operating budget.

To address these needs, the Augusta Ferry Authority sought strategic financial support through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Buffalo Trace Area Development District's Revolving Loan and Agricultural Loan Programs. These partnerships have been instrumental in ensuring the ferry's continued service and in preserving this important piece of regional infrastructure.



Buffalo Trace Area Development District Loan Officer Terrence Hill presents a loan proceeds check to Skip Miller, president of the Augusta Ferry Authority.

Cumberland Valley ADD backs Boone's Ridge growth project



An overview of the wildlife preserve located at Boone's Ridge.

The Cumberland Valley Area Development District (CVADD) is proud to partner with the Appalachian Wildlife Foundation (AWF) to administer an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) ARISE project at Boone's Ridge.

The project will include construction of a 7,000-square-foot plant maintenance building, 3.5 miles of access road, 2 miles of asphalt walking trail, a 39,000-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant, parking areas, sidewalks and landscaping.

Located in Bell County, just beyond the Cumberland Gap and near Daniel Boone's Wilderness Road, Boone's Ridge is a wildlife preserve offering diverse attractions and activities. The initiative is a strategic investment in revitalizing an area with a longstanding legacy of poverty, limited educational outcomes and environmental challenges.

Boone's Ridge is expected to serve as a catalyst for economic and educational development, bringing new opportunities to eastern Kentucky.

KIPDA helps secure nearly \$27 million for its communities



Through the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development's Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) program, KIPDA communities have secured nearly \$27 million in matching funds for federal grants.

The program advances federally funded projects by providing matching funds that increase application competitiveness. Since June 2024, it has leveraged \$140 million in federal funds across the region. KIPDA staff are available to assist communities in accessing GRANT matching funds.

KIPDA — serving the Kentucky counties of Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer and Trimble — provides regional planning, review and technical services in public administration, social services and transportation, as well as community ridesharing programs.

For more information on KIPDA and the services the organization provides, visit www.kipda.org. For more information on the GRANT program, visit <https://newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/GRANT>

KRADD assists HCTC in securing funds for new campus

Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) has been awarded federal and state funding to construct a new campus in Wolfe County. The Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD) assisted in securing the funding and is administering the project.

The campus will be located in the Pine Ridge Industrial Park. The effort has brought together partners at the federal, state and local levels, along with the Pine Ridge Industrial Authority and KRADD.



Central Kentucky Virtual Job Fair scheduled for Sept. 11

What began as a solution-focused conversation among workforce directors has grown into a dynamic regional partnership. Leaders from the Bluegrass, Lincoln Trail, and Northern Kentucky workforce areas came together with a shared vision: to break down silos and embrace the power of regionalism to better serve both employers and job seekers.

Motivated by the desire to respond to a shifting labor market and increase collective impact, the group envisioned a quarterly regional job fair—offering broader reach, more opportunity, and greater efficiency. That vision is now a reality with the launch of the first Regional Virtual Job Fair, taking place on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, from 2-4 p.m. This online event is designed to connect employers with job seekers across district lines, giving businesses access to a wider talent pool and helping individuals explore career opportunities throughout the region.

By aligning strategies, pooling resources, and sharing expertise, this collaboration is paving the way for a more connected and



**IS YOUR BUSINESS HIRING?
Then don't miss this event !**

**CENTRAL KENTUCKY REGIONAL
VIRTUAL JOB FAIR**

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

TIME: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

responsive workforce system. For more information or to register for the upcoming event, visit ckycareers.com and check the "Events" section.

If other workforce areas in Kentucky are interested in partnering to host a regional virtual job fair, please contact Bluegrass Business Services Manager

Rolando Thacker at rthacker@bgadd.org.

Together, these districts are building a stronger, more innovative workforce ecosystem—one that prioritizes collaboration, regional impact, and long-term success for Kentucky's workforce.

FIVCO, partners host small business growth session



FIVCO Executive Director Lance Hanshaw, above, discusses the organization's Revolving Loan Fund program at a recent "Let's Grow Your Small Business" session, co-hosted by the organization.

The FIVCO Area Development District, in partnership with the City of Ashland's Community and Economic Development Department and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, recently hosted an event to help small businesses grow and succeed.

Held at the historic Ashland Train Depot, the "Let's Grow Your Small Business" session offered information on the Commonwealth's business incentives, tax credits for job creation and exporting assistance.

FIVCO Executive Director Lance Hanshaw and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Coordinator Janey Orcutt discussed the district's RLF program, a key resource for local entrepreneurs seeking to launch or expand their ventures. The presentation included real-world examples of how the

program is fueling economic development throughout the region.

FIVCO's RLF program is a locally controlled source of capital that helps finance start-up and expanding businesses whose projects will create jobs. The RLF is not a substitute for conventional lending sources but is designed to fill credit gaps in existing local financial markets, Hanshaw and Orcutt said. As borrowers repay their loans, the payments are returned to the RLF to make new loans to other businesses. The fund serves as an ongoing, revolving financial tool available to businesses in Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup and Lawrence counties.

More than two dozen business owners and community members attended the session, leaving with practical tools and new connections to advance their goals.

Green River region families attend Back to School Bash

Families across the Green River region—Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster counties—geared up for the new school year by attending the second annual Back to School Bash, supported in part through the Green River Workforce Area Development Board.

The event was hosted by Precision Studios in partnership with the Kentucky Career Center. Open to all school-aged children, the community-centered gathering provided free haircuts, school supplies and hygiene essentials to help students feel confident and prepared for the classroom.

“We know money can be tight when school starts, so this event is a chance for parents to get their kids a fresh haircut, school supplies and hygiene products, all at no cost, thanks to Precision Studios,” said Kentucky Career Center Project Director Matthew Bartlett.

In addition to resources for students, parents received “Grab-A-Bag” packages filled with employer information and job opportunities from local businesses and organizations. The event was supported through the Green River Workforce Development Area with funding from the Workforce Innovation



Green River region families participate in Back to School Bash activities.

and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

This year’s Back to School Bash served more than 180 children with fresh haircuts, while 260 students went home with new school supplies and hygiene products. One hundred parents received bags filled with job listings and valuable community resources.

The Precision Studios team powered through six hours of nonstop haircuts, sending kids out the door with confidence and style. Families also enjoyed bounce houses, hot dogs and hamburgers, making the day one of fun, laughter and community spirit.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program returns to GADD

The Gateway Area Development District (GADD) is pleased to announce the return of the Kentucky Family Caregiver Program, commonly known as the “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program,” for fiscal year 2026. The program is now accepting applications from eligible participants across the five-county region of Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, and Rowan.

Originally established in 2006, the program is designed to support grandparents who serve as the primary caregivers for their grandchildren. It offers a range of services, including access to community resources, support group information, counseling, and guidance on navigating available assistance. Participants may also



receive limited financial support to help cover essential needs such as clothing, educational supplies, and other approved expenses.

Eligibility requirements:

- Grandparent is the primary caregiver for grandchildren under 18.
- Grandparent is related by blood,

marriage, or adoption.

- Household income is 150% of the federal poverty level or less.

- Neither the grandparent nor the grandchild receives Kinship Care funds.

- Grandparent must be a Kentucky resident.

- Parent of grandchild does not live in the home.

For more information about the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program, including financial assistance and eligibility details, please contact Program Coordinator Regina Thompson by calling the GADD Aging and Disability Resource Center at 859-882-5307, emailing adrc@gwadd.org or visiting www.gwadd.org/grandparents.

Bluegrass staff attend 50th annual USAging Conference

In the final week of July, staff from the Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living (BGAAAIL) joined colleagues from across the country at the 50th Annual National Conference of USAging, held in Chicago. USAging is the national association that represents and supports the work of Area Agencies on Aging, and this milestone event brought together aging professionals, advocates, and thought leaders from across the nation to reflect on five decades of progress and explore innovative solutions for the future of aging.

The conference opened on a heartfelt and uplifting note with a performance by The Good Memories Choir—an ensemble of volunteers, individuals living with memory loss, and their caregivers. The room came alive with singing and dancing as participants joined in, highlighting the powerful role music can play in connection, healing, and memory care.

Throughout the week, sessions focused on ideas and strategies to shape the next 50 years of aging services, with an emphasis on



Staff from the Bluegrass Area Development District recently attended the 50th annual National Conference of USAging, held in Chicago. Pictured above: A panel discussion from the conference.

inclusivity, innovation, and improving quality of life for all older adults and caregivers.

Representing the BGAAAIL at the conference were Sarah Eldridge, Assistant Director, and Molly Newman,

ADRC Program Manager. They were joined by fellow aging services professionals from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. BGADD staff returned with renewed inspiration and actionable insights to strengthen services in their local communities.

Risk assessment training enhances community preparedness

The Pennyriple Area Development District (PeADD) recently hosted the “Conducting Risk Assessments for Critical Community Assets” training. Through a combination of lectures, group discussions and hands-on activities, participants explored how threats, vulnerabilities and consequences factor into assessing risk.

PeADD sends a special thank you to the Christian County Sheriff’s Office, Hopkinsville Police Department, Christian County Justice Center, and HWEA Water Plant for graciously allowing on-site vulnerability assessments at their facilities. Their support helped bring real-world context to the valuable training.



Project WORK grads celebrated

The Project WORK Welding Graduation was held July 17 at KCTCS in Somerset. The six-week training program is funded by Opioid Abatement Grant funding through the Lake Cumberland Area Development District and offers real work training and experience, short-term career certifications and supportive services to those in recovery.



NKADD's Johnson-Noem among NKY Chamber honorees

Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) Executive Director Tara Johnson-Noem and her husband Shane Noem will be honored at the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Annual Dinner, presented by Fifth Third Bank.

The Annual Dinner, the Chamber's largest and most anticipated event of the year, will be held Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Northern Kentucky Convention Cen-

ter. Each year, the celebration recognizes business leaders and community champions whose work strengthens the region.

The Noems will receive the Horizon Award, presented by the Horizon



Johnson-Noem

Community Foundation of Northern Kentucky.

This award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of individuals who exemplify dedication, integrity, and honorable service to Northern Kentucky through community leadership. Recipients have devoted their time, talents, and expertise to serve the public good, and have made significant, demonstrable, and direct contributions to the community's well-being.

Courtney retires after 28 years at Purchase ADD

Stacey Courtney, who dedicated 28 years to the Purchase Area Development District, recently retired from his role as Director of Planning. Throughout his career, Courtney was instrumental in leading planning initiatives that supported community development, infrastructure growth, and long-term regional strategies across the Purchase Area.

His nearly three decades of service left a lasting impact on the organization and the communities it serves.



Courtney

BRADD recognizes senior center staff

The Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) officially assumed the role of service provider for 14 senior centers across its region July 1. Since the transition, participation at the centers has continued to grow as older adults return for meals, social activities and community connection.

To help reintroduce residents to their local senior centers, BRADD is spotlighting center managers who lead day-to-day operations and play a key role in supporting seniors. Among those highlighted are Butler County Senior Center Manager Katherine Johnson and Simpson County Senior Center Manager Kitty Thomas.

Thomas, a familiar face at the Simpson County Senior Center, has worked there for nearly six years. She said her motivation comes from the daily interaction with participants.

"I'm excited about seeing my seniors each day and knowing the good our services do for them," Thomas said.

Outside of her work, Thomas enjoys drawing, painting, reading and fishing.

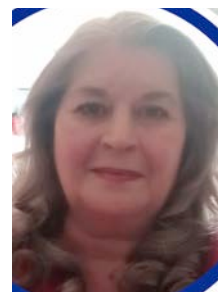
Johnson, who manages the Butler County Senior Center, said she values the opportunity to build programs and strengthen community ties.

"I love that I get to grow the center and see the positive effect we have on people's lives," Johnson said.

When she is not working, Johnson enjoys art, spending time on the water in her kayak and enjoying time with her family.



Johnson



Thomas