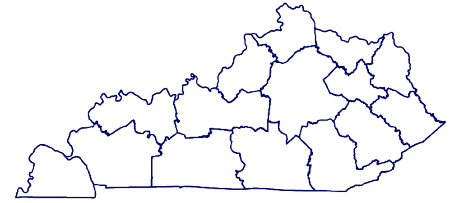


# THE REGIONALIST



A PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

ISSUE 22 | OCTOBER 2025

## Four Kentucky ADDs win national awards

Kentucky's Area Development Districts drew national praise at the National Association of Development Organizations' 2025 conference in Salt Lake City, where four districts earned Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Awards for projects that advanced housing, infrastructure and workforce readiness.

**The Purchase Area Development District** was honored for helping deliver a Barkley Regional Airport sewer extension in Paducah, replacing an outdated wastewater system with about 7,000 linear feet of sanitary line and a new pump station. The upgrade extends modern service to nearby homes and a \$43 million terminal that serves nearly 30,000 passengers a year.

**The Pennyryle Area Development District** was recognized for the Madisonville Regional Law Enforcement Training Center, which opened in February 2025. Working with the city and the state Department of Criminal Justice Training, the district supported a 20,000-square-foot facility that brings basic training closer to western Kentucky, reducing long trips to Richmond and strengthening skills such as de-escalation and building entry for more than 1,600 officers. The site also will house an upgraded 911 operations center and Real Time Crime Center.

**Northern Kentucky Area Development District** received an award for a housing strategies report developed with Brighton Center/Brighton Properties. After a year



**Staff and board members of the Lake Cumberland Area Development District (LCADD) celebrate after receiving a NADO Impact Award at the recent National Association of Development Organizations' Annual Training Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah. LCADD was one of four ADDs to receive an Impact Award.**

of community input across eight counties, the plan outlines 50 actions to improve affordability, accessibility and income alignment in urban, suburban and rural communities, offering a roadmap for local governments and developers.

**Lake Cumberland Area Development District** was cited for leading a regional initiative that helps people with opioid use disorder return to work using state opioid abatement funding. As grant administrator, the district is expanding access to training, case management and supportive services; in the first six months of the grant cycle, 37

participants secured job placements, enrolled in programs or received essentials such as transportation and work clothing.

NADO is a Washington, D.C.-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies to strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As we near the holiday season, I'm grateful to share good news for older Kentuckians affected by the recent funding reduction to the Senior Nutrition Program. Thanks to swift collaboration among state and local partners, hundreds of seniors can rest easier knowing where their next meal will come from.

The Senior Nutrition Program provides one nutritionally balanced meal each day—either home-delivered or in a congregate setting—to adults 60 and older and their spouses, regardless of age. Funding flows from the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) to Kentucky's Area Development Districts to operate the program.

On Sept. 8, ADDs were notified of a reduction in funding. Our network immediately mobilized—advocating for one of our most vulnerable populations, working with local officials and community partners to bridge gaps, and implementing temporary solutions to keep meals moving.

On Oct. 20, Gov. Andy Beshear convened ADD executive directors and members of his staff to announce a \$9.1 million reallocation to DAIL for the Senior Nutrition Program. This action allows ADDs to continue serving older Kentuckians and meet local needs during a critical time.

We are deeply thankful for the teamwork that made this possible, including DAIL and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Governor's Senior Advisor Rocky Adkins, county judge/executives and mayors across the Commonwealth, Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association Executive Director Todd Ruckel, members of the General Assembly, and Gov. Beshear and his team. Your partnership made the difference.

As we move forward, KCADD will remain engaged with our partners and the Finance Cabinet to pursue sustained, appropriate funding so Kentucky's seniors continue to receive the care, dignity and compassion they deserve. Thank you for your steadfast support of this mission.



CASEY ELLIS

# DRA board meets in Kentucky for first time, tours Henderson



The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) board held its fourth-quarter meeting in Kentucky for the first time in mid-September, marking a milestone for the region and strengthening ties among local, state and federal leaders.

The City of Henderson hosted the meeting. Mayor Brad Staton welcomed DRA staff and board members with a reception at Gallery 101 at the Depot. Among those attending were DRA Federal Co-Chair Dr. Corey Wiggins, Kentucky Department for Local Government Commissioner Matt Sawyers and Alex Caudill, a field representative in the office of Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear.

The meeting reflected DRA's ongoing commitment to engaging directly with the communities it serves. Along with

the board session, DRA officials toured sites that highlight the region's focus on innovation, sustainability and workforce development. The group visited Pratt Industries' 100 percent recycled paper mill and Henderson Community College's robotics laboratory to see firsthand how education and industry partnerships are shaping the Delta region's future.

"Having the DRA board meet in Kentucky for the first time is an honor for our region and the city of Henderson," said Green River Area Development District Executive Director Joanna Shake. "From the Green River Wellness Mission held here last year to the many projects still ahead, the Delta Regional Authority continues to make a real difference in our communities."

## Awards

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the economic and community competitiveness of the nation's regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO's 2025

Annual Training Conference, held in Salt Lake City Oct. 13–17. The NADO Impact Awards are presented in honor of the late Aliceann Wohlbruck, who served as NADO's first executive director for 24 years and was a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.

# 'Anchor Project' moving forward in Bowling Green



LifeSkills, Inc. and the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) broke ground recently on a regional Mental Health Crisis Intake Center, the cornerstone facility of the transformative \$20 million Anchor Project and the first of its kind in Kentucky. The ceremony marks a historic milestone in the treatment of mental health and substance abuse disorders across South Central Kentucky.

The Crisis Intake Center was designed by Stengel Hill Architecture and will be built by Kelley Construction, Inc. on a six-acre site adjacent to LifeSkills' headquarters on Suwannee Trail Street in Bowling Green. When operational, the facility will serve as the region's single point of entry for mental health and substance abuse crisis intervention, fundamentally changing how communities respond to individuals in crisis.

"Today we begin construction of a facility that will transform crisis care delivery, not just for our region, but potentially for the entire Commonwealth," said Joe Dan Beavers, President/CEO of LifeSkills, Inc. "This center represents our commitment to providing immediate, accessible, patient-centered care while reducing the burden on law enforcement, emergency rooms, and our judicial system."

*"The Anchor Project represents the kind of innovative, regional collaboration that can serve as a model for addressing complex social challenges."*

**Eric Sexton**

*Executive Director, Barren River Area Development District*

The Crisis Intake Center will serve the entire BRADD region, dramatically reducing response times for mental health emergencies. Currently, law enforcement officers spend an average of 3 to 4 hours per mental health crisis call. The new facility is designed to reduce that time substantially, allowing officers to return to community patrols while ensuring individuals receive appropriate clinical care.

"The Anchor Project represents the kind of innovative, regional collaboration that can serve as a model for addressing complex social challenges," said Eric Sexton, Executive Director of BRADD. "By bringing together local governments, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and community stakeholders, we're creating a comprehensive solution that will benefit every community in our region. BRADD is thankful for the trust the General Assembly has placed in us to help convene this regional response."

The groundbreaking ceremony

featured remarks from key project partners, including representatives from the Kentucky General Assembly who secured the \$20 million in state funding through House Bill 1, local mayors and judge/executives from across the BRADD region, law enforcement leadership, and healthcare professionals who helped design the facility's operational model.

## Comprehensive Regional Impact

The Crisis Intake Center is just one component of the three-part Anchor Project, which also includes:

- A Regional Office of Drug Control Policy to coordinate resources across 25 cities and 27 law enforcement agencies
- A Life Learning Center providing evidence-based recovery programming to transition stabilized individuals into substance-free, employed lives.

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# Shell serves as guest speaker at LCADD annual meeting



The Lake Cumberland Area Development District (LCADD) recently held its 56th annual meeting at the Lake Cumberland State Resort Park. Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell, pictured above left, served as the guest speaker. He is pictured with LCADD Board Chair John Frank. The meeting was well attended by all local and state officials, partners, board members and LCADD staff and families. LCADD Executive Director Waylon Wright, pictured right, presented awards and thanked partners for their support.



# Kentucky Career Center – Lincoln Trail to host job fair Oct. 30

The Kentucky Career Center–Lincoln Trail will host a manufacturing job fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 30 at the Bardstown Civic Center, connecting job-seekers with employers hiring for roles ranging from human resources and maintenance to janitorial services.

The event caps a month of activities highlighting manufacturing’s role in the Lincoln Trail region economy. Across Kentucky, more than 6,000 facilities employ more than 260,000 people.

KCC–LT kicked off Manufacturing Month with an in-person job fair Oct. 1 in Elizabethtown. As part of its “Let’s Talk Tuesdays” series, the center held virtual job fairs Oct. 7 and Oct. 21 on

the Premier Virtual platform, allowing job-seekers to interact with employers by chat and teleconference. The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and Team Kentucky also hosted a statewide online job fair Oct. 15, reserving 10 to 11 a.m. for veterans and family members before opening 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to all candidates.

Community partners marked the month as well. The Hardin County Chamber of Commerce held its annual Manufacturing Expo Oct. 8 in Elizabethtown, with remarks from the Elizabethtown–Hardin County Industrial Foundation. EHCIF also partnered with local schools for a third year to offer Manufacturing Month programming and tours of area facilities.

# Marshall Co. Caring Needline celebrates re-opening

## Renovation funds secured by PADD

The Marshall County Caring Needline has reopened its newly remodeled facility, marking a new chapter for the nonprofit that has long served as a safety net for residents across Marshall County.

The renovation was funded through Community Development Block Grant dollars, with the Purchase Area Development District assisting in writing the grant. The upgrades modernize and expand the space to better serve families and individuals seeking help.

The Needline provides free food, emergency assistance and other programs aimed at meeting basic needs. Ahead of the ribbon cutting, the organization held a produce giveaway that served 650 people, underscoring its role in addressing food insecurity.

Staff and volunteers — often described as the “unsung heroes” of rural communities — say the revamped facility will help them operate more efficiently and increase capacity for years to come.

# BTADD assists with 2 covered bridge restorations

Fleming County celebrated the restoration of two 19th-century covered bridges with an Oct. 3 ribbon cutting, a project led locally by the Buffalo Trace Area Development District and the Buffalo Trace Covered Wooden Bridge Authority.

The Grange City and Ringos Mill covered bridges — each 86 feet long and built between 1865 and 1869 — were returned to their original splendor through a nearly \$2.6 million Kentucky Transportation Cabinet investment. BTADD and the bridge authority managed contracting and project coordination, bringing in Arnold M. Graton Associates Inc. of New Hampshire, a nationally recognized firm in historic bridge preservation.

“These bridges are not only part of Fleming County’s heritage, but they are also part of Kentucky’s story,” Fleming County Judge/Executive John Sims Jr. said. “Thanks to this restoration, future generations will be able to experience these remarkable pieces of craftsmanship and history.”

Known as the “Covered Bridge



Capital of Kentucky,” Fleming County is home to three of the state’s 11 remaining historic covered bridges, including the previously restored Goddard Covered Bridge. Once numbering more than 400 statewide, most wooden covered bridges have been lost to time, flooding or fire.

The restorations were designed to preserve as much original timber as possible while ensuring long-term du-

rability. The Grange City Bridge, closed to traffic in 1968 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, underwent stabilization in 2020 after severe structural threats. Full restoration began in 2023 under the leadership of Tim Dansereau, son of the late master restorer Arnold Graton. The Ringos Mill Bridge, also listed on the National Register in 1976, was restored in 2024-25 alongside Grange City.

# Pennyrile ADD backs Hopkinsville Walk to End Alzheimer’s

Pennyrile Area Development District (PeADD) staff partnered again this year with the Alzheimer’s Association for the annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, held Sept. 27 in downtown Hopkinsville.

The Walk to End Alzheimer’s is the Alzheimer’s Association’s largest annual fundraiser, supporting research aimed at finding a cure for Alzheimer’s disease. Proceeds also fund local services, including caregiver training, support groups and public education initiatives that assist families and care providers across the region.

In the lead-up to the event, PeADD staff hosted multiple fundraising activities to boost donations and awareness. Officials said the efforts helped highlight the impact of Alzheimer’s disease while connecting residents with resources available through the



Pennyrile Area Development staff, Rylee Massie, Miranda White, Melissa Thompson, Marcie O’Neal, Stephanie Thompson and Harley McCarty (kneeling), participate in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, held Sept. 27 in downtown Hopkinsville.

Alzheimer’s Association.

Locally, the organization has offered numerous training sessions and caregiver support groups for families and direct care providers, underscoring its continuing emphasis on education and community support.

For more information about the Alzheimer’s Association or ways to get involved, contact Miranda White at (270) 886-9484 or Miranda.White@ky.gov



# KRADD performs first test of underwater drone equipment

The Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD) on Sept. 29 conducted the first test of its underwater drone equipped with advanced sonar, a milestone officials say will strengthen disaster response and infrastructure inspections across eastern Kentucky.

The trial at the Hazard Pavilion demonstrated how the device can inspect water tanks, dams and intakes, and map areas affected by flooding and other water-related emergencies. The drone collects real-time data beneath the surface, allowing teams to identify problems earlier and respond more effectively during crises, KRADD officials said.

The technology will support routine infrastructure management as well as emergency operations by improving visibility in murky or hazardous conditions where divers or boats may face added risk.

The initiative is part of KRADD's broader effort to deploy new tools for disaster preparedness and community safety. The district's GIS Manager and Disaster Team led the testing and will oversee integration of the system into future assessments and incident responses.

KRADD serves counties in eastern Kentucky with planning, emergency management support and regional



coordination. Further demonstrations and training are planned as the district builds capacity for the drone's use in the field.

# Big Sandy hosts Residents' Rights Forum



The Big Sandy Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program on Oct. 2 held a Residents' Rights Forum at the Big Sandy Area Development District offices, highlighting dignity, safety and quality of care in long-term care facilities.

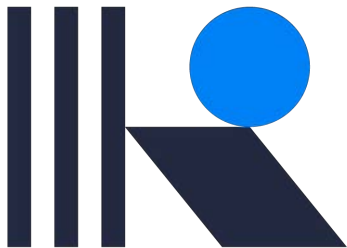
This year's theme, "Stand with Me," emphasized solidarity and the role of families and communities in advocating for residents. Twelve residents representing three nursing homes in the region attended. Participants discussed their quality of life and

the places they call home, with many saying a strong sense of family and inclusion is the best part of life in their facilities, program officials said.

The Big Sandy program serves 924 long-term care residents in 10 facilities across Floyd, Johnson, Martin, Magoffin and Pike counties.

Officials thanked community partners, including the Big Sandy Elder Maltreatment Council and Good Shepherd Health and Rehabilitation, for sponsoring food at this year's forums.

# KIPDA seeks feedback on Participation Plan



The Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA) is inviting public comment on its updated Participation Plan, the guidebook for how KIPDA involves residents in transportation planning across the region.

The plan outlines when, where and how the public can take part in decision-making and is required to be updated at least every four years. KIPDA officials said the latest draft includes clarified language and new opportunities for public input.

The document is available for a 45-day review period through Nov. 17, 2025, at <https://www.kipda.org/transportation/core-products/public-participation-plan/>

Comments may be submitted by email to [kipda.trans@kipda.org](mailto:kipda.trans@kipda.org).

# Northern Kentucky ADD announces new executive committee

The Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) named new officers for 2025-26 and seated a reconstituted executive committee at its annual board meeting Sept. 9.

The officers are Boone County Judge/Executive Gary Moore, board chair; Carrollton Mayor Robb Adams, first vice chair; Gallatin County Judge/Executive Jon "Ryan" Morris, second vice chair; Kenton County citizen member Brittaney King, treasurer; and Campbell County Administrator Matt Elberfeld, immediate past chair. At-large executive committee members are Williamstown Mayor David Henson, Owen County Judge/Executive Todd Woodyard and Pendleton County Judge/Executive David Fields. Members were appointed by majority vote of the full board.



Northern Kentucky Area Development District's new officers for 2025-26, left to right: Brittaney King, Matt Elberfeld, Robb Adams, Gary Moore, and Jon "Ryan" Morris.

The executive committee, which includes officers and representatives from counties not otherwise represented, held its first meeting with newly appointed officers and at-large members on Sept. 29. The structure maintains representation across the region and preserves a majority of

elected officials on the panel, officials said.

The committee provides leadership and operational oversight between board meetings, including strategic, financial and personnel matters. The transition supports NKADD's three-year strategic plan to increase member engagement in decision-making

and advance services and outcomes throughout Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen and Pendleton counties.

NKADD officials said they look forward to the group's leadership, collaboration and regional insight as the organization continues serving communities across Northern Kentucky.

# Cumberland Valley ADD attends T.R.A.C.E.



The Cumberland Valley Area Development District attended the ninth annual T.R.A.C.E. Senior Health and Wellness Fair themed "Heart of the Hills" at the Corbin Center Oct. 3. This year's fair was packed with great resources such as health screenings and valuable health information, local and community resources, live entertainment, great door prizes, and more, all free for Tri-County residents aged 55 and up.

# FIVCO launches internship program



The FIVCO Area Development District has introduced a new internship program aimed at developing future leaders across northeastern Kentucky. The initiative provides college students and recent graduates with hands-on experience in community and economic development, social services, and regional planning. Interns work alongside experienced professionals, gaining practical skills, mentorship, and connections that prepare them for careers in public service. Learn more at [www.fivco.org/internship-opportunities](http://www.fivco.org/internship-opportunities).



# Duttlinger concludes distinguished naval service

Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) Executive Director Rear Admiral David Duttlinger recently celebrated his retirement from the U.S. Naval Reserve after more than 33 years of honorable service to his country. A formal ceremony was held in Washington, D.C. in September, where he was joined by family, friends, and BGADD staff members in recognition of his extraordinary military and civic contributions.

Rear Admiral Duttlinger, a Berea native, was commissioned as an ensign in 1992 through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship program after earning his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Vanderbilt University. He went on to earn a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Stanford University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Kentucky.

Throughout his decorated military career, Rear Admiral Duttlinger held numerous leadership and operational roles, including Company Commander and Engineering Officer with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40, Operations Officer for the Seventh Naval Construction Regiment, and Deputy Operations Officer for the First Naval Construction Division.



**Bluegrass Area Development District Executive Director Rear Admiral David Duttlinger recently celebrated his retirement from the U.S. Naval Reserve.**

He also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and is a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer and Registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

His service has been recognized with multiple military honors, including the Legion of Merit (two awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Joint Ser-

vice Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, among numerous unit and campaign awards.

In his civilian career, Rear Admiral Duttlinger brought his engineering expertise and leadership to the Bluegrass Area Development District, first as a Project Manager improving access to public water systems and currently as Executive Director, a role he has held since 2013. His commitment to public service and community development has left a lasting impact across the Bluegrass region.

Rear Admiral Duttlinger's decades of dedication were recognized at both the federal and local levels. Congressman Andy Barr honored him on the U.S. House Floor on September 23, and Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton proclaimed September 24, 2025, as "David Duttlinger Day" in the City of Lexington.

Rear Admiral Duttlinger officially transferred to the U.S. Navy Retired Reserve on October 1, 2025, marking the conclusion of an extraordinary military career defined by integrity, leadership, and service to both nation and community.

## ANCHOR

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In 2023, the Bowling Green Police Department alone responded to over 900 mental health crisis calls. Across the 10-county region, similar patterns strain law enforcement resources, contribute to jail overcrowding, and often result in inappropriate emergency room utilization for mental health treatment.

"We're not just building a facility—we're implementing a new model of care that treats mental health and substance abuse crises with the clinical expertise they require," said Sue Parrigin, Bowling Green City Commissioner and Chair of the Anchor Project Committee. "This approach will reduce costs for our

communities while providing better outcomes for individuals and families in crisis."

### Evidence-Based Design and Operations

The facility design incorporates best practices from successful crisis centers, including elements inspired by national best practices while adding comprehensive substance abuse services under one roof. The center will feature:

- 24/7 crisis triage;
- 15-person capacity voluntary observation unit;
- 6-person capacity involuntary admission observation unit;
- 10-person adult crisis stabilization

unit;

- 12-bed short-term residential substance use disorder treatment unit for men;
- 12-bed short-term residential substance use disorder treatment unit for women;
- Integrated mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment;
- Pharmacy services for medication management;
- Coordination with existing LifeSkills programming and other regional healthcare providers.

LifeSkills will operate the facility as part of its comprehensive behavioral health services, leveraging almost 60 years of experience serving the region's mental health and substance use disorder needs.