

**Lake Cumberland  
Area Development District  
Long-term COVID-19 Recovery Plan  
2022**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Coronavirus Disease 2019, commonly referred to as COVID-19, is a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus first detected in Wuhan, China, in November 2019. In March of 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

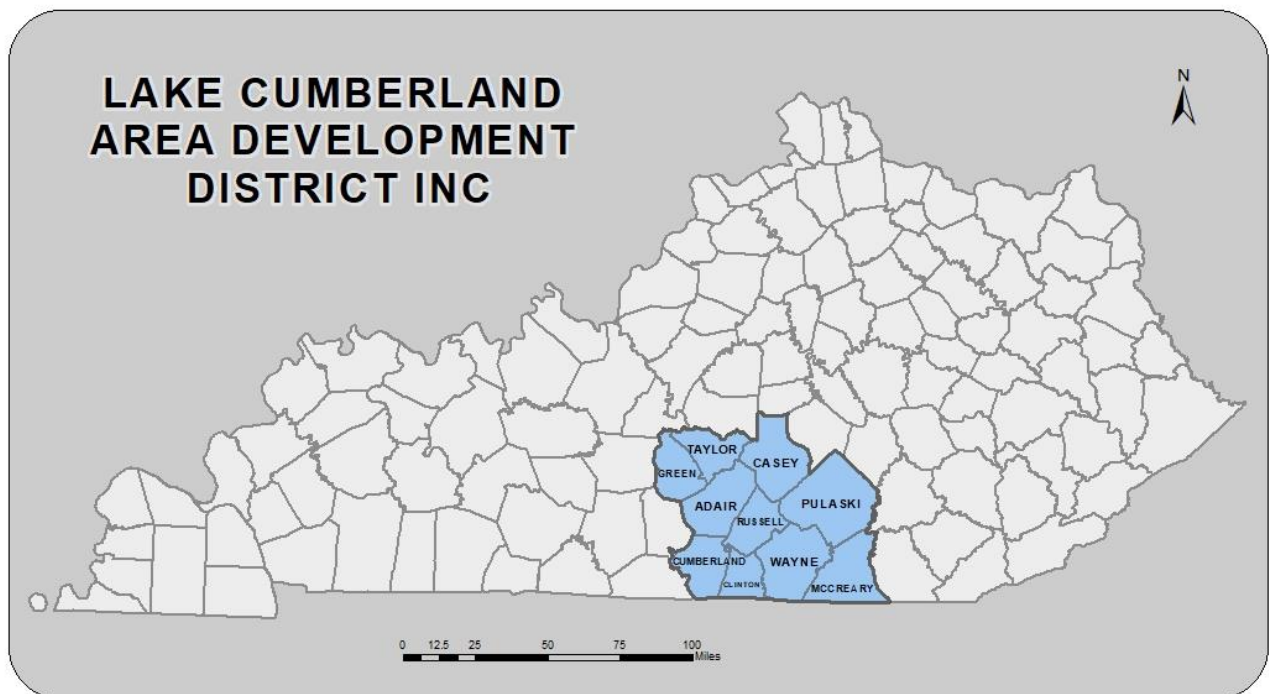
The purpose of the Lake Cumberland Area Development District COVID-19 Recover Plan is to

- analyze the pandemic's impacts on the economy, education, healthcare, workforce, and other sectors,
- identify the various emergency responses implemented by the affected agencies, and
- propose strategies for continued recovery and future resiliency of the region.

Funding for this plan was provided by the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act through the Economic Development Administration and Joint Funding Administration Program. The plan will be made available to the public via the agency's website ([www.lcadd.org](http://www.lcadd.org)) and social media.

## MULTIJURISDICTIONAL PLANNING

Lake Cumberland Area Development District (LCADD) encompasses approximately 3,701 square miles in rural, South-Central Kentucky. LCADD serves the following 10 counties: Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, and Wayne, and the 14 municipalities located within their boundaries. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, 206,583 persons live in the LCADD region.



LCADD staff collected data from various on-line databases, conducted email surveys and interviewed the following regional stakeholders:

- Governmental Agencies (county & city)
- Tourism Directors
- Lake Cumberland District Health Department
- Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency
- Cumberland Family Medical Centers
- School Superintendent
- Public Library
- Regional Non-Profits
- Lake Cumberland Senior Center Director
- Lake Cumberland Ombudsman
- Lake Cumberland Area Agency on Aging & Independent Living Director
- Cumberlands Workforce Program Director
- Duo Broadband

## INTRODUCTION

The first case of COVID-19 in Kentucky was identified in Harrison Co., on March 6, 2020 (Aquistio, 2020). This was only 46 days after the first confirmed case in the United States was found in Snohomish County, Washington (NEJM.org, 2020).

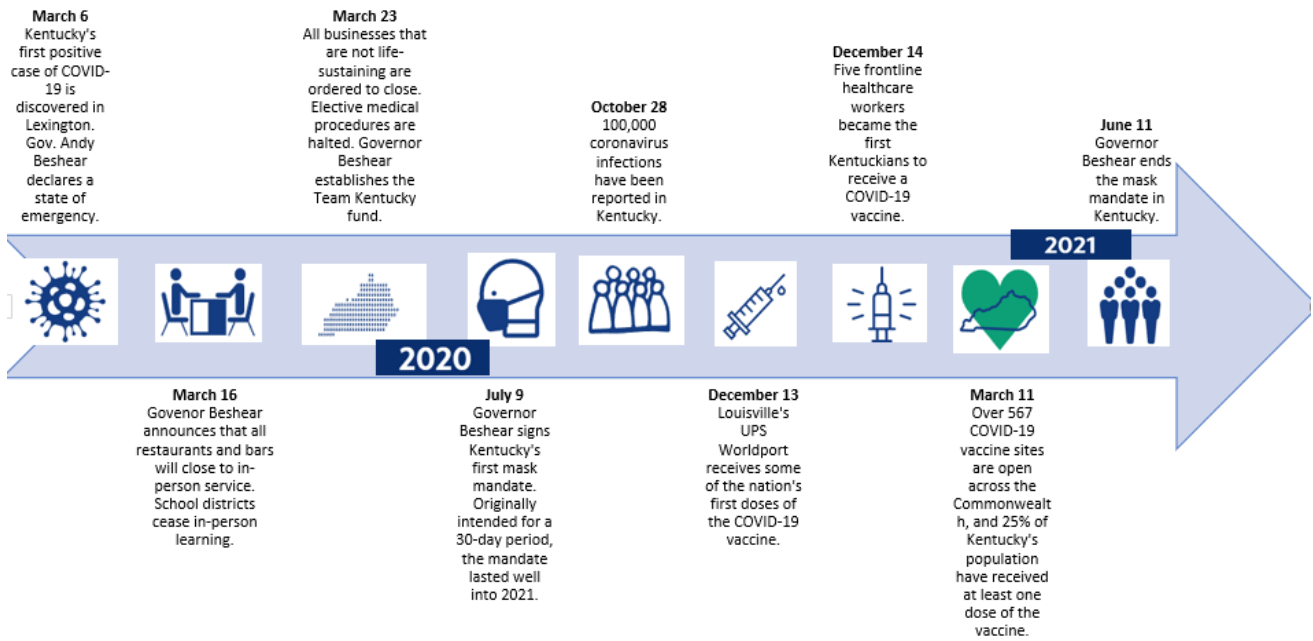
On March 6, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear held a press conference alongside acting Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary, Eric Friedlander, and Department for Public Health Commissioner, Dr. Steven Stack, to announce what the entire Commonwealth was dreading – Kentucky's first confirmed case of Covid-19.

"To our Kentucky families out there that are nervous," Beshear said, "this is what we've been preparing for, and we are ready." He urged everyone to remain calm, declaring there was no need to panic. He told Kentuckians that he understood that it is scary, but stated, "We will face this; we will face this together." Just prior to the press conference, Beshear declared a public health emergency, allowing Kentucky to tap into federal funds as it responded to the virus.

Within the next 18 months, Kentucky would experience school closings, business lockdowns, mask mandates, social distancing, mobile testing and vaccination clinics, and other safety tactics in an attempt to slow or stop the spread of the virus, and to protect ourselves as well as each other.

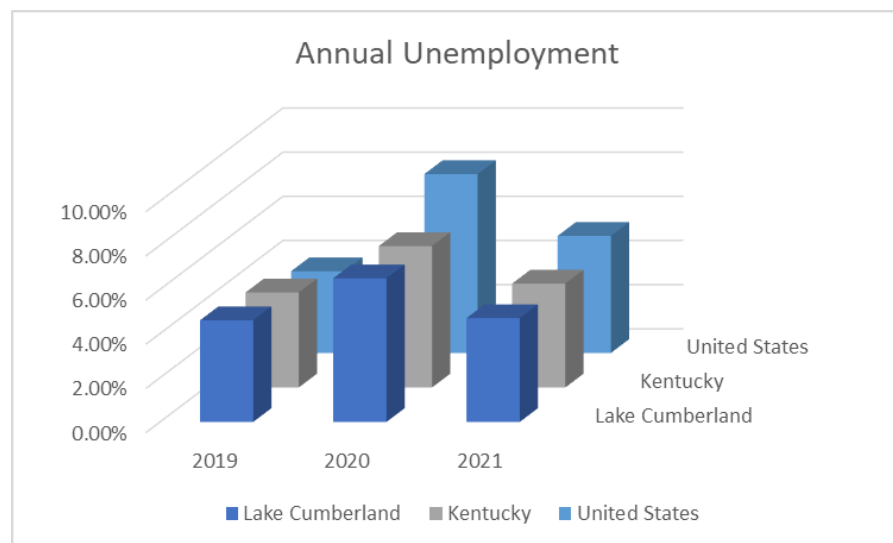


Gov. Andy Beshear announced Kentucky's first case of the coronavirus and reminds people to stay calm and practice good hygiene. The patient with COVID-19 is in isolation at a hospital in Lexington. BY JACK BEAMMER



## ANALYSIS

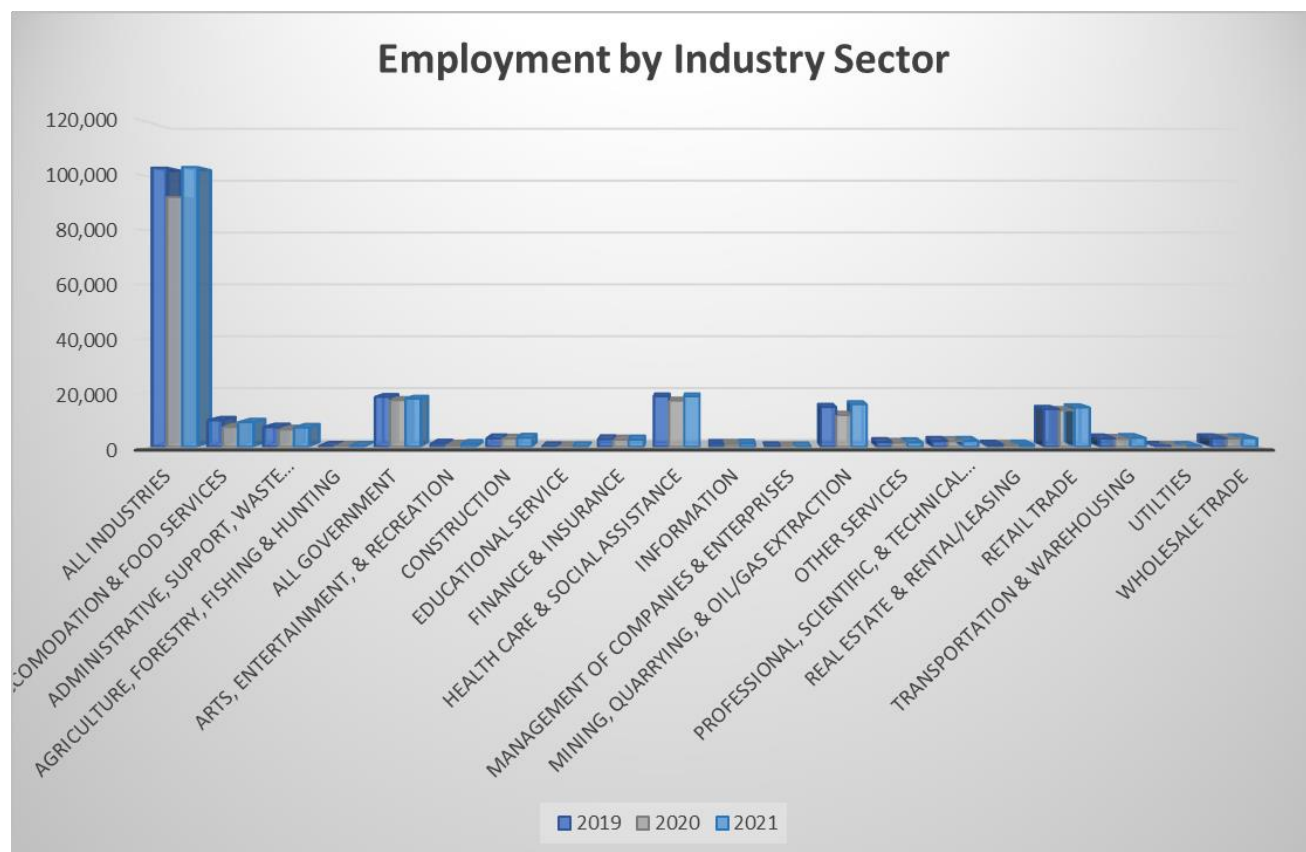
### ECONOMY, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



The graph above shows annual unemployment for the 10-county LCADD region, the state of Kentucky, and the United States. In 2020, the LCADD region experienced various percentages of unemployment, March 5.9%, April 16.5%, May 12.4%, and June 5.4%. The sudden decreases show how quickly the region's employers were able to re-employ their workforce by providing safe working conditions, proper PPE, and following CDC guidelines.

Analyzing annual averages masks the turmoil experienced in the economy each month as the pandemic took hold. During the first three months of 2020, unemployment rates were slightly higher at the state level than the national level. Following state-issued mandates for select businesses to close or reduce capacity,

unemployment rates peaked in April at 16.7% in Kentucky and 14.4% in the U.S. Unemployment rates dropped steadily through the remaining months of 2020 with U.S. rates higher than those in Kentucky throughout the rest of the year. However, the not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates in December 2020 were still higher than those in December 2019 by several percentage points.



The chart above references the LCADD Industry Sector Employment data for the 2nd quarter of 2020. During this quarter, there was a 10% reduction in all sectors. During the 2nd quarter of 2021, the region's workforce restored employment to pre-pandemic numbers. The Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation experienced 32% job loss and Accommodation and Food Services experienced 25% job loss, while Tourism experienced the highest percentage. The LCADD region's largest sector, Healthcare, lost 2,242 jobs from 1st quarter of 2020 to 2nd quarter of 2020 (12% in a single quarter). The Manufacturing sector lost 2,973 or 20% of jobs from 2nd quarter 2019 to 2nd quarter 2020, but by 2nd quarter 2021 the sector had experienced a 10% growth above pre-pandemic numbers.

Small businesses were significantly affected by the mandatory closures. In Kentucky, the number of small businesses in operation decreased by 8.1% from January 2020 to January 2022. However, the total small business revenue has increased by 10.3% over the same time period.

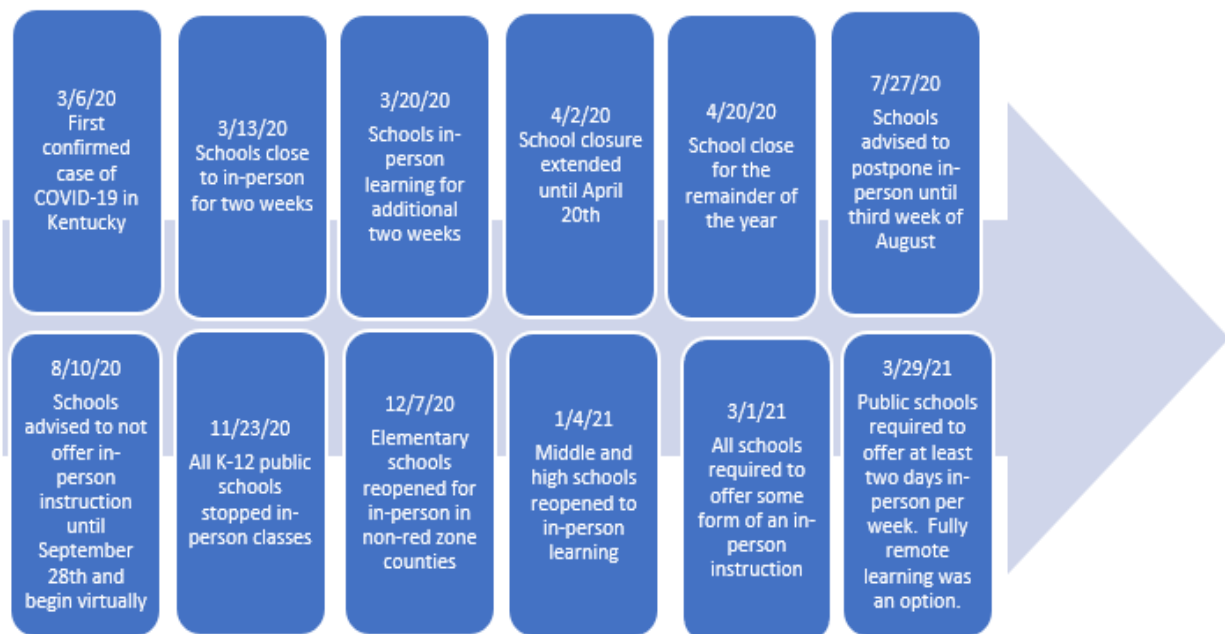
Consumer spending in the LCADD region has recovered to pre-pandemic levels. In Pulaski County, as of April 2022, total spending by all consumers increased by 56.2% compared to January 2022, outpacing the state increase of 27.2%.

The LCADD applied for \$1.34 million of EDA CARES funding to expand their Revolving Loan Fund program. The funds allowed the development agency to aid COVID impacted local businesses through accessible low-

interest working-capital loans. All \$1.34 million was loaned out as an immediate response across the district, resulting in 167 jobs being created and/or retained. Once the loans are repaid they will merge into the LCADD's original loan fund. Thus, the funding will continue to revolve and be reinvested into local businesses for years to come.

The pandemic significantly impacted consumer behavior and accelerated trends prior to March 2020. To stay safe and avoid contamination, shoppers began looking for alternatives to in-store shopping. Grocery stores throughout the nation, and the 10-county region, expanded their availability of online shopping, added delivery models, and offered curbside pick-up. Stores were only allowed to have a specified amount of capacity during COVID 19. Many stores had employees calculating customers as they entered and exited the building; for example, if the store was at the allowable capacity consumers would be required to stand outside in a line waiting for their turn.

## EDUCATION



The COVID-19 pandemic had a particularly severe impact on pre-existing vulnerable populations. This included the child welfare sector. When schools were forced to shut down in-person instruction and converted to virtual environments, school systems began tracking the information students searched for via web browsers to monitor mental health changes in the student population. This function enabled the Superintendent, School Resource Officer, and Mental Health Specialist to receive notifications through the software. If a notification was received, the school district would contact the student's parents and provide the content which they had received. The Mental Health Specialist would also offer enrollment into telehealth counseling, or a continuation of counseling from pre-pandemic. School districts experienced an increase in mental health issues during the pandemic.

Additionally, the number of child abuse reports across the school districts decreased. However, stay-at-home orders and widespread shutdown over the course of the pandemic could have shut off many children from receiving the help they needed. School personnel are among the most frequent reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect. It should be noted that Kentucky has led the nation in its rate of child abuse and neglect for the past few years.

During the pandemic, Kentucky schools operated under non-traditional instruction (NTI), while the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs continued. Meals were dropped off at homes or delivered to a centralized community location for pickup. Also, during the 2020-2021 school years, students received a week's worth of food supplies. Schools were required to provide meals to all students who wanted them, regardless of each student's free or reduced status.

The closings of in-person instruction led the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to provide a grocery benefit to reimburse families for meals lost due to COVID related disruptions. School districts qualified due to a virtual or hybrid schedule during the months between October 2020 and May 2021.

The pandemic also had a major impact on LCADD athletics across our school districts. During the beginning of March 2020, all spring season sports canceled their remaining season per orders from the Governor and Kentucky High School Athletic Association. During Fall 2020, many restrictions were set to comply with social distancing. There were limited practices, fewer games, a later start to the season, and frequent temperature checks were required. The school districts noted the larger number of vaccinated students were typically athletes or those who participated in extracurricular activities.

School districts were awarded COVID grant funding to purchase electronic learning equipment (chromebooks or tablets) and wifi devices. The wifi devices furnished were locked and only allowed students to access approved connections. Local Broadband providers set up free wifi points to assist those that did not have adequate broadband access during that period of time.



## HEALTHCARE

Lake Cumberland Area Development District COVID Impacts as of 05/06/22

County	2020 Population	Cases	Deaths	Hospitalized	Admitted to ICU
Adair	18,903	5,929	107	161	43
Casey	15,941	4,216	74	138	29
Clinton	9,253	3,674	52	84	20
Cumberland	5,888	2,238	33	94	4
Green	11,107	3,761	45	76	15
McCreary	16,888	5,727	82	176	48
Pulaski	65,034	18,157	293	574	172
Russell	17,991	6,446	87	115	27
Taylor	26,023	9,492	124	208	63
Wayne	19,555	6,107	92	142	38
<b>LCADD TOTAL</b>	<b>206,583</b>	<b>65,747</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>459</b>

As of May 06, 2022, only 47.39% of the Lake Cumberland Area Development District population had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, as compared to the 65% of Kentucky's total population.

Kentucky's 96 hospitals lost approximately \$1 billion in 2020 from increased COVID-19 costs, despite receiving additional federal assistance; and continued to lose money in 2021, according to Nancy Galvagni, President of the Kentucky Hospital Association, (Louisville Courier Journal, September 22, 2021).

With the exception of McCreary County, a hospital is located in each of the LCADD counties. The region's nine hospitals contain a total of 646 beds, including 45 ICU beds, and have a total of 62 mechanical ventilators. The majority of these facilities are small critical access hospitals with fewer clinical resources. Critical patients are often stabilized and then transferred to larger, better equipped hospitals staffed with specialists. Unfortunately, the surge of COVID patients meant that no beds were available in the larger hospitals to receive them. Therefore, in addition to treating the local influx of COVID patients, rural hospitals were forced to treat, to the best of their ability, an increased number of patients with life-threatening conditions creating a disproportionate strain on their staff and limited resources.

All ten LCADD counties are designated “Medically Underserved” by the Health Resources and Services Administration (data.HRSA.gov). The pandemic further exacerbated the difficulty of recruiting and retaining health care providers for rural hospitals. Area hospitals have responded by increasing pay and offering sign-on bonuses, but a critical staffing shortage remains.

Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc. (CFMC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center based in the LCADD region with 158 locations across 30 Kentucky counties. The pandemic increased the demand for acute care services at all CFMC locations. CFMC continued to treat all patients for all conditions, but their focus shifted to COVID-19 testing and treatment. They transitioned from seeing patients in exam rooms to seeing patients in their vehicles and via telehealth to minimize risks. As COVID cases decreased, the demand for delayed preventive screens increased.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services waived the clinical site requirement allowing all beneficiaries, regardless of diagnosis, to access telehealth services. Medicare also began reimbursing telehealth services at parity with in-person care. These policy changes helped sustain access to healthcare through the unprecedented use of telehealth. (“The Impact of COVID-19 on the Rural Health Care Landscape”, Bipartisan Center, May 2022).

On March 13, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a lockdown order, banning everyone except essential personnel from entering nursing homes. As a result, nursing home residents began a months-long period of isolation. The LCADD Ombudsman reported that the vast majority of calls during that time were from patients’ family members regarding visitation. Those who could, took advantage of electronic visitation, such as FaceTime or Skype; but due to a lack of resources, or the resident’s medical condition, this was not always possible. The majority of facilities located in the Lake Cumberland region are single story structures, which enabled families to conduct “window visits.”

In September 2020, CMS eased the visitation restrictions and permitted visits under limited circumstances. The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care conducted a survey of families regarding their loved one’s appearance and functionality. Some of the key findings were as follows:

- 85% noted a decline in physical abilities.
- 87% indicated their loved one’s physical appearance had declined.
- 91% reported that their loved one’s demeanor (mental status) had declined.



COVID-19 drive thru testing and vaccination  
location in Adair County



Cumberland County Hospital

## AGING SERVICES

The Lake Cumberland Area Agency on Aging & Independent Living (LCAAIL) provides a variety of vital services to eligible persons aged 60 years and older. More than 25% of the Lake Cumberland region's total population is over 60 years of age. Of those aged 60 and over, 18.9% are low income, and 24.2% live alone.

Susan Taylor, LCAAIL Director, identified the digital divide, isolation, and the lack of mental, physical and spiritual stimulation as some of the highest-priority needs that she and her staff have observed in the clients they serve.

Due to lack of broadband access, lack of technical skills, and the cost of electronic devices, many seniors in the LCADD region were unable to participate in telehealth services, online church services, and connect with friends and family. They were cut off from their traditional support systems which led to greater isolation. This age group lost a higher percentage of loved ones due Coronavirus, but they were unable to obtain closure and comfort via traditional funeral services.

In-home visits were prohibited for over a year, during which time LCAAIL adapted their service delivery methods. Telephone contacts and resource mailings to all program recipients were greatly increased, and remain more frequent for specific clients in need of this service. "Toolkits" containing stimulating and fun activities were provided to caregivers.

To ease the digital divide, "telehealth rooms" are being created in each of the 10-county senior centers and will be available to seniors at no cost. In addition to providing a computer and internet access, these rooms will be equipped with physical quality scales, blood pressure monitors, thermometers, and sound barriers for privacy.

The ARPA funding was extremely helpful in many ways, but the funds were almost received too late; and in some cases, restrictions were so stringent that the funds could not be used to meet actual client needs.

Senior centers across the region shut down on March 23, 2020 and officially reopened on April 29, 2022. The Governor's orders allowed anyone over the age of 60 to receive meal delivery or curbside pickup. Approximately, 553,351 meals were distributed, and the LCADD region experienced an increase in volunteers, estimating up to 7,000 individuals. There was not a waitlist for individuals; everyone was served. The LCADD partnered with providers to ensure more meals were supplied to those in need (e.g. Clinton County's Horseshoe Grill and Russell County's Jax's Cool Convenience Store).

Jeric Devore, Deputy Executive Director/Senior Services Director, provided statistics relative to meal delivery during the pandemic. When COVID initially began FY 2020, 3,500 meals were being delivered. By November 2020, up to 12,000 meals per week were being delivered and picked up curbside. By May FY 2021, the LCADD region has returned back to pre-pandemic weekly numbers. Per capita in Kentucky, the LCADD region held 4% of the population and delivered 10% of the meals. The LCADD region showed resilience in the continuation of meal delivery and curbside pickup during the pandemic.

LCADD's region senior center's population experienced social impacts due to the pandemic. The pandemic created a barrier for the population to congregate which led to extensive isolation. Typically, during a

congregation individuals tend to consume more food, thus another positive impact on the senior center population was lost during this time. Our region is now experiencing decreased mobility in the senior population due to the isolation and longer in-home setting time residents experienced.

The LCADD and Health Departments created a unique partnership during the pandemic. When vaccinations were first provided to the public, the healthcare sector targeted individuals 60 and older. The Health Department did not have access to a list of individuals in our 10-county region, who fit this criteria, therefore, they partnered with the LCADD Senior Centers. Initial contact was made by the LCADD to provide the population with vaccination schedules and information. Afterward, the Health Department would follow up for scheduling, further inquiries, and the actual vaccination process.



Pictured left is the Taylor County Senior Center drive-thru meal pick up during COVID 19.

## TOURISM

Unlike many areas across the country, as indoor recreation facilities closed, LCADD counties experienced an increase in tourism due to the availability of wide open spaces, outdoor adventures, hiking, biking, and boating. As many people began working from home or became unemployed, they had more time available for leisure activities. The availability of indoor leisure activities (movie theaters, shopping malls, or restaurants) had become restricted; consequently, many people began to engage in more outdoor recreation, which was deemed safer than congregating indoors. Russell County Tourism Director stated, "Lake Cumberland Tourism experienced the best income tax revenue in 25 years during 2020."

"Visitation declined 8.1% and visitor spending dropped 26.5% as the pandemic severely affected travel. In 2020, nearly 68 million visitors still traveled to and within the state of Kentucky. Visitors to Kentucky spent \$5.9 billion across a wide range of sectors in 2020."

Kentucky -SKV River Region - 2020									
County	Employment		Share of State	Share of County	Labor Income (Millions)		State & Local Taxes (Millions)	Spending (Millions)	
	Direct	Total			Direct	Total		Direct	Total
Adair County	78	111	0.1%	1.5%	\$1.5	\$2.5	\$0.8	\$8.1	\$13.0
Casey County	52	84	0.1%	1.3%	\$1.1	\$2.0	\$0.5	\$4.4	\$7.9
Clinton County	103	140	0.2%	2.6%	\$1.9	\$3.1	\$0.7	\$7.4	\$11.4
Cumberland County	97	120	0.2%	3.8%	\$2.2	\$3.1	\$0.8	\$8.3	\$11.6
Green County	26	42	0.1%	1.0%	\$0.4	\$0.8	\$0.3	\$3.0	\$5.0
McCreary County	101	137	0.2%	3.1%	\$1.6	\$2.8	\$0.9	\$8.8	\$12.7
Pulaski County	749	1,025	1.4%	3.0%	\$16.2	\$26.4	\$8.0	\$79.0	\$115.0
Russell County	244	330	0.4%	4.1%	\$5.0	\$8.2	\$3.0	\$32.7	\$44.2
Taylor County	212	307	0.4%	1.9%	\$4.5	\$7.5	\$2.4	\$21.0	\$33.1
Wayne County	133	196	0.3%	2.4%	\$3.0	\$5.3	\$1.4	\$16.4	\$23.5
Region Totals	1,795	2,492	3.3%	24.9%	\$37.5	\$61.5	\$18.9	\$188.9	\$277.5
Kentucky, total	53,715	75,655	100.0%	3.1%	\$1,525.2	\$2,474.8	\$625.3	\$5,864.9	\$8,878.3



Green River Lake - Adair and Taylor Counties



Lake Cumberland - Pulaski, Russell, and Wayne Counties

## GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIAL

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted nearly every aspect of society. This is also true for our local judicial systems, recovery communities, and detention centers. Local courts were canceled, delayed, and transitioned into a virtual court model. Virtual intake and referral systems were strategically developed and deployed at local county attorney offices to assist in reaching/servicing the justice involved population. Recovery Centers and Addiction Resources were also affected by the restrictions put in place to combat the pandemic. Meetings transitioned to virtual monthly meetings and presentations with our recovery partners to reach and serve individuals. Reduced capacity in acceptance to recovery homes and addiction resource centers spurred action, requiring the expansion of the network to ensure individuals were able to receive services as they needed. This included the partnership with behavioral health and substance use providers which were able to serve individuals via telehealth. Programming at local detention centers was forced to cease; however, our workforce group was still able to reach the detention center population. One such success specifically in a detention center was the ability to develop a Welders Certificate Program and Work Release Program where inmates were able to attend a local community college, receive a welder's certification, and transition into a work release program with a local employer. This program was developed

and launched during the middle of the pandemic and has yielded three graduations, 18 graduates, and multiple individuals working.

Community Development Block Grants - COVID 19 funds were made available in Kentucky. Each Recovery Center could apply for \$200,000 of additional funds to offset the financial impacts of the pandemic.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency, Inc., (LCCAA) is a private, non-profit community-based organization serving the LCADD region. LCCAA reports encountering the following COVID impacts and the agency's response:

- Tablets were purchased to enable students to continue Head Start education at home when in-person learning was shut down.
- Added technology and training to enable staff to telecommute and virtual meetings.
- Obtained CARES loan to acquire PPE and will maintain 200% of future anticipated need.
- Increased need of utility assistance was met with an increase in federal LIHEAP funding.
- Offered \$200 gift cards to incentivize staff to receive COVID-19 vaccine.
- Increased pay and offered more flexible schedules to fill vacant positions.
- Provided provisional immunization records for children unable to get wellness visits in a timely manner.

Libraries across the region were closed to the public for in-person services. However, libraries reacted proactively and provided curbside pickup, as well as online and digital services to the community. In October 2020, the Pulaski County Public Library was able to open an inclusive play space designed to meet the physical, sensory, and socialization needs of all children. The park features equipment designed to appeal to multiple senses - making the play experience richer by engaging children more fully in play and cognitive development, fine motor skills, language development, and self-awareness.



Throughout the pandemic, nonprofit organizations showed resiliency in serving their communities. ARC (Adair, Russell, Casey) Pregnancy Center provided curbside service pickup assistance initially during the pandemic and later transitioned to appointments only one to two days per week. The nonprofit saw a decrease in donations, and they are not currently back to pre-pandemic consumer levels.

The Bethany House Spouse Abuse Center in Pulaski County remained open throughout the pandemic. Initially, they saw a decrease in clients but then resumed to average quota.

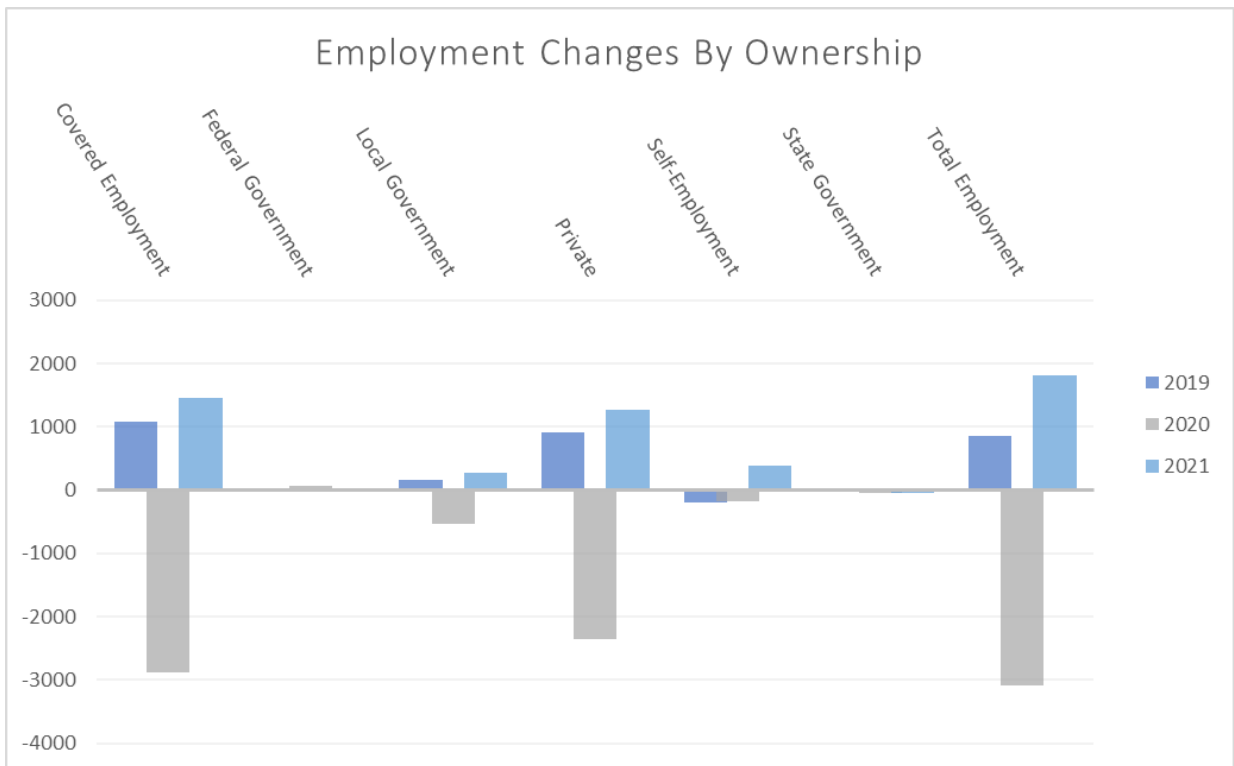
## WORKFORCE

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every level of the workforce from a national stage to locally owned small businesses. The local Workforce Development Board was presented with a unique challenge to address and mitigate this impact initially as well as from a collateral damage point of view. Innovative techniques to reach and serve those hit hardest by the shut downs, lay-offs, and other COVID related consequences became first priority. Utilizing a virtual services model, the development of virtual intake forms/needs assessments, as well as the expansion of a network of resources for our community members, were a necessity. Emphasis was placed on reaching dislocated workers due to the pandemic and equipping those individuals with the resources, skills, and opportunities to reenter the workforce. We also placed significant importance on the development of talent pipelines from the “justice involved” population working alongside Judicial Partners, County Detention Centers, and Recovery Centers to supply a work ready talent pool to our local employers to alleviate some of the workforce shortage. The development of “work-from-home” and “virtual” job opportunities were also explored and developed with partners and employers from across the region and nation, as well as the development of a virtual coding class to upskill displaced workers while creating talent pipelines for their return to the workforce.



Outdoor Job Fair

The Kentucky Career Center - Cumberland county locations were closed to the public in April 2020 and remained closed for over a year. During that time, participants were served by private appointment, virtual platforms, email, telephone, calls, and text - the method that was most convenient for the participant. The program began accepting DocuSign signatures which proved to be an essential tool.



The chart above shows our region faced the peak of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Wages and employment decreased in 2020, likely due to shutdowns, shortages, and overall turmoil. As the region's employers entered 2021, they began to raise wages to accommodate the changing economy and to incentivize people to reenter the workforce. These efforts seem to have worked as employment increases in 2021 and is projected to continue increasing over the next year.



The Industry Snapshot below summarizes a 3-year history of employment change and 1-year projection of employment growth for the LCADD region. Industries are grouped by 2-digit NAICS codes within the table. Of the 21 industries listed, 15 depict a decrease in employment during the COVID period. Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction and Management of Companies and Enterprises were impacted in particular compared to other sectors. Demand has also been lower for these industries in recent times; however, other

industries are still seeing a demand in the region. Overall, industries are projected to see slight growth in the next year while recovering from COVID impacts.

LCADD Industry Snapshot					
Industry	3-Year History		Total Demand	1-Year Forecast	
	Employment Change	Annual % Change		Employment Growth	Annual % Growth
Health Care and Social Assistance	-306	-0.8%	1,393	142	1.1%
Manufacturing	-74	-0.2%	1,155	-36	-0.3%
Retail Trade	122	0.4%	1,125	-97	-1.1%
Educational Services	-224	-1.1%	680	25	0.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	-27	-0.2%	1,042	95	1.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	86	0.7%	442	13	0.3%
Construction	281	2.5%	370	-4	-0.1%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	139	1.3%	444	6	0.1%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	-128	-1.1%	420	-25	-0.7%
Public Administration	-1	0.0%	315	-8	-0.2%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	-52	-0.7%	279	6	0.2%
Wholesale Trade	188	2.8%	240	-8	-0.3%
Finance and Insurance	-88	-1.4%	169	-10	-0.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	-12	-0.3%	138	4	0.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	-83	-3.1%	138	21	2.5%
Information	-32	-1.4%	75	3	0.4%
Utilities	-23	-1.0%	61	-6	-0.9%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	-23	-1.1%	65	-1	-0.2%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	-85	-16.1%	13	0	0.2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	-70	-15.3%	9	0	-0.3%
Unclassified	-7	-22.4%	1	0	0.3%
Total - All Industries	-420	-0.2%	8,503	144	0.2%

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events, parades, fairs, and festivals bring individuals together with a positive economic impact on rural development in our Lake Cumberland region. During the pandemic adaptive methods were created to allow limited participation in social gatherings.



Pictured left, Somerset High School held a graduation parade for the Class of 2020 as opposed to a traditional in-person ceremony due to the pandemic.



Pictured left is the High School graduation ceremony for Wayne County Class of 2021. Social distancing was recommended; therefore, many graduation ceremonies took place outdoors with 6 feet of spacing.

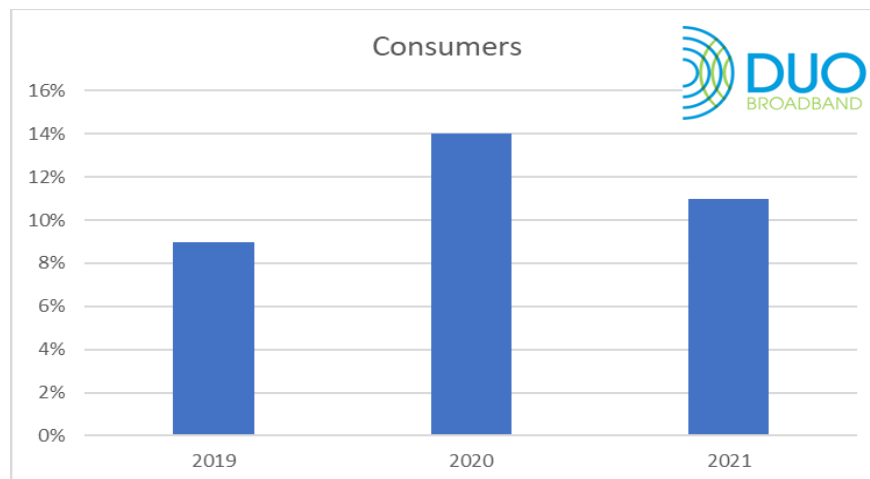
Currently, High School graduation ceremonies are limiting each graduate to a maximum number of tickets. This limits the graduates to only immediate family members, with siblings sometimes not included.

Typical Halloween Trick or Treat events transitioned to drive-thru Trunk or Treat events during 2020.

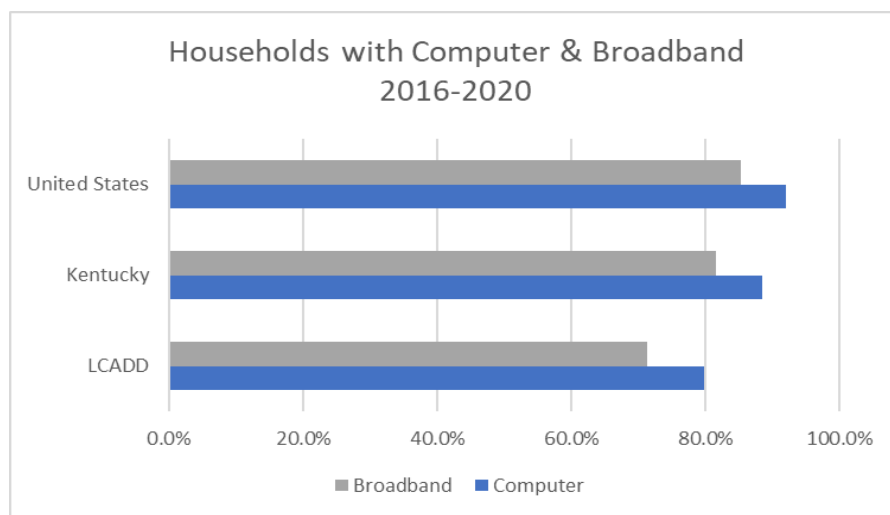
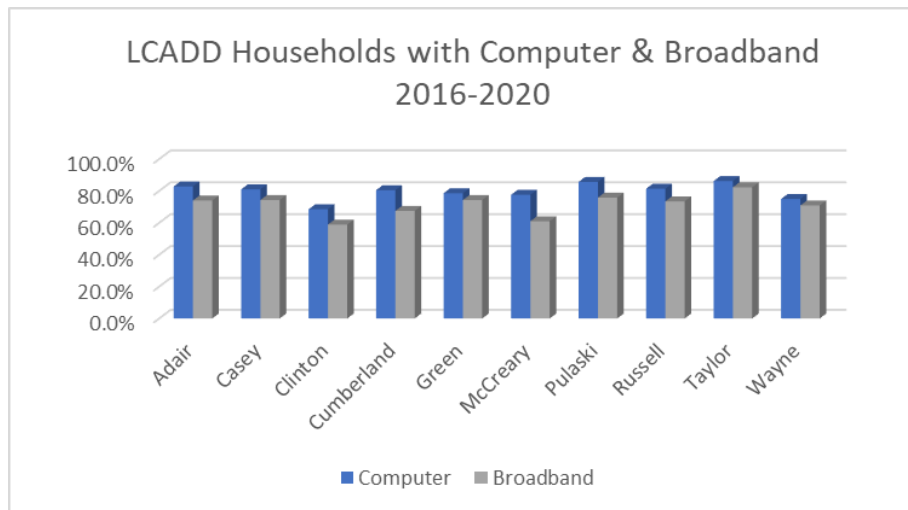
COVID-19 impacted many festivals and county fairs throughout the region. Many festivals were canceled due to the high number of cases and fairs were limited to agriculture shows and activities that included social distancing. The Kentucky State Fair was closed to the general public in 2020, only agriculture competitions and the World's Championship Horse Show were allowed.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

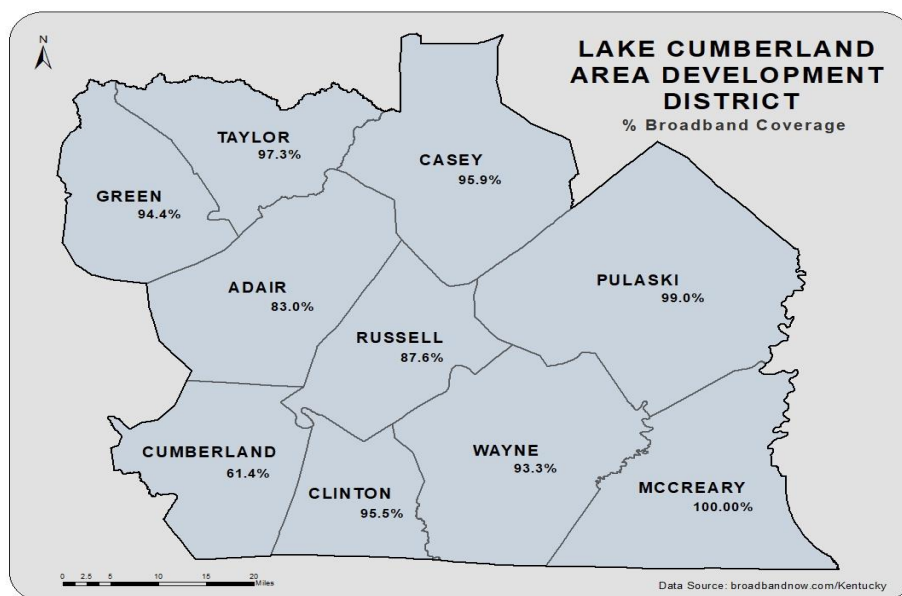
With virtual learning and people working from home, the lack of broadband impacted the entire Commonwealth. Access to the internet is extremely limited in rural America and became a major concern during the pandemic. DUO Broadband, which provides service to Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Russell, and Taylor Counties, showed a 6% increase in consumers from 2019 to 2020 and a 3% decrease in consumers from 2020 to 2021 (shown in table below).



The chart below shows the number of households in the LCADD region with a computer and broadband access. The next chart provides a comparison of the LCADD region, Kentucky, and the United States access to computers and broadband services. LCADD's average is significantly lower in comparison which affects education, remote-work, telehealth, ability to file unemployment, and connection to family or friends.



Below is a map of broadband coverage of the LCADD 10 county region.



In March 2020, the Kentucky Public Service Commission issued an order to halt disconnections for non-payment and fees for late payment for utilities. During this time, Governor Beshear issued an executive order (EO 2020-323) to do the same for utility services not regulated by KPSC. This moratorium from KPSC ended on October 20 and the statewide moratorium ended on November 6. With this termination, Governor Beshear's executive order then designated \$15 million in federal COVID 19 relief funds for the Healthy at Home Utility Relief Fund. This order requires utility companies to provide a payment plan over a six month period for residential customers. This is specifically for water, wastewater, electric, or natural gas services to customers. Utility companies have partnered with community assistance agencies to assist customers with financial assistance for past-due balances.



## MITIGATION RECOVERY EFFORTS

City and county governments were awarded funding as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to reimburse local governments for expenses incurred in response to the public health emergency caused by the pandemic. The funds were administered by the Department of Local Government (DLG) and were used for reimbursements of expenses necessary to comply with public health guidelines and protect Kentuckians. Eligible local governments could apply for COVID 19 related expenses from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. The funding was allocated to the city and county governments based on approximate population size as recorded in the most recent census data. The table below provides CARES funding amounts for the LCADD region:

<b>Adair County</b>	\$ 728,755.00	<b>Pulaski County</b>	\$ 2,961,610.59
Columbia	\$ 471,525.00	Burnside	\$ 90,637.00
		Ferguson	\$ 67,880.00
<b>Casey County</b>	\$ 736,494.00	Science Hill	\$ 36,119.49
Liberty	\$ 152,370.00	Somerset	\$ 1,172,298.00
<b>Clinton County</b>	\$ 465,715.74	<b>Russell County</b>	\$ 816,894.11
Albany	\$ 204,092.00	Jamestown	\$ 182,210.00
		Russell Springs	\$ 266,509.00
<b>Cumberland County</b>	\$ 301,453.00		
Burkesville	\$ 149,448.00	<b>Taylor County</b>	\$ 1,174,498.00
		Campbellsville	\$ 820,524.00
<b>Green County</b>	\$ 372,499.00		
Greensburg	\$ 197,150.00	<b>Wayne County</b>	\$ 926,736.70
		Monticello	\$ 568,673.00
<b>McCreary County</b>	\$ 586,650.00		

Kentucky counties and cities received a direct total allocation from the State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds legislation as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The table below provides amounts from the U.S. Treasury for the LCADD 10-county region:

<b>Adair County</b>	\$ 3,729,763.00	<b>Pulaski County</b>	\$ 12,621,409.00
Columbia	\$ 1,192,247.25	Burnside	\$ 218,302.44
		Eubank	\$ 85,456.47
<b>Casey County</b>	\$ 3,138,696.00	Ferguson	\$ 245,234.18
Liberty	\$ 551,582.68	Somerset	\$ 3,000,040.06
<b>Clinton County</b>	\$ 1,984,727.00	<b>Russell County</b>	\$ 3,481,333.00
Albany	\$ 518,435.93	Jamestown	\$ 463,795.58
		Russell Springs	\$ 683,133.85
<b>Cumberland County</b>	\$ 1,284,692.00		
Burkesville	\$ 379,115.98	<b>Taylor County</b>	\$ 5,005,326.00
		Campbellsville	\$ 2,973,367.28
<b>Green County</b>	\$ 2,125,161.00		
Greensburg	\$ 193,442.38	<b>Wayne County</b>	\$ 3,949,447.00
		Monticello	\$ 1,550,646.52
<b>McCreary County</b>	\$ 3,346,920.00		

Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act and administered by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), \$250 million was appropriated through a bipartisan agreement at the close of the 2021 General Assembly for clean drinking water and wastewater grants to fund projects across Kentucky. In the LCADD region, 21 projects were awarded \$7,689,295 in Cleaner Water grant funding.



Pictured above are Governor Beshear, McCreary County Judge Executive, Jimmie Greene, and Stephen Whitaker with McCreary County Water District.

## MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A goal is a statement that explains what the program wishes to accomplish. It sets the fundamental, long-range direction. Typically, goals are broad general statements. Objectives break the goal down into smaller parts that provide specific, measurable actions by which the goal can be accomplished.

The following goals and objectives are collectively beneficial in the recovery process; however, jurisdictions may be at varying levels of implementation.

### **GOAL #1: IMPROVE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND RESILIENCE**

OBJECTIVE 1.1: EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

OBJECTIVE 1.2: PROVIDE ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

OBJECTIVE 1.3: PROMOTE “BUY LOCAL” THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICES, ADVERTISEMENTS, SIGNAGE, ETC.

OBJECTIVE 1.4: TAILOR TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS TO MEET LOCAL WORKFORCE GAPS

### **GOAL #2: EXPAND BROADBAND SERVICE**

OBJECTIVE 2.1: EXTEND BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS THROUGHOUT THE REGION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: DEVELOP ADDITIONAL WIFI HOTSPOTS THROUGHOUT COMMUNITY TO ASSIST UNDERSERVED RESIDENTS

OBJECTIVE 2.3: EXPAND CURRENT COMMUNITY COMPUTER ACCESS FOR LOW-INCOME AND UNDERSERVED PERSON

### **GOAL #3: ENHANCE MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS**

OBJECTIVE 3.1: DEVELOP A STOCKPILE OF NECESSARY MEDICAL SUPPLIES

OBJECTIVE 3.2: PROVIDE FREE TELEHEALTH HUBS IN EACH COUNTY

OBJECTIVE 3.3: IMPROVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO TREAT DEPRESSION RESULTING FROM ISOLATION

## **GOAL #4: EXPAND EDUCATION SYSTEM’S RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH FUTURE SHUT-DOWNS**

OBJECTIVE 4.1: DEVELOP METHODS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION TO SPECIAL POPULATIONS, I.E. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

OBJECTIVE 4.2: SECURE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO PROVIDE TUTORING, SUMMER AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

OBJECTIVE 4.3: DEVISE STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPACTS OF ISOLATION

## **GOAL #5: ENHANCE SOCIAL SERVICES TO IMPROVE RESILIENCE**

OBJECTIVE 5.1: PROVIDE FREE BASIC SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING TO ELDERLY SO THEY ARE ABLE TO STAY VIRTUALLY ENGAGED

OBJECTIVE 5.2: EXPAND/DIVERSIFY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

OBJECTIVE 5.3: CREATE MORE DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REENTRY AND JUSTICE INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

## **PROJECT LISTING**

**The following projects, in various stages of planning and implementation, address needs that arose or were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic:**

Adair County CDBG-CV Utility Assistance  
Albany CDBG-CV Utility Assistance  
Casey County CDBG-CV Utility Assistance  
Cumberland County CDBG-CV Utility Assistance  
Green County CDBG-CV Utility Assistance  
McCreary County CDBG-CV Utility Assistance  
Russell Springs CDBG-CV Utility Assistance  
Russell County CDBG-CV Utility Assistance  
Wayne County CDBG-CV Utility Assistance

Clinton County Senior Center Rehabilitation  
Green County Food Pantry  
The Healing Place (Recovery) 20C-003  
Kentucky Wildlands Regional Tourism Cluster Dev.  
Senior Center Telehealth Hubs  
Southern KY CARES Complex  
Teleworks Virtual Training and Job Fairs  
Wayne County Broadband Expansion  
Revolving Loan Fund