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## Gov. Beshear: Kentucky's Rural Health Transformation Plan Accepted In Full, \$212.9 Million Secured

Gov. Andy Beshear announced that Kentucky's Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) was accepted in full by the Trump administration, securing \$212.9 million in funding to lessen the impacts of recent federal cuts and help support health care in Kentucky's rural communities. The funding was authorized by Congress earlier this year (2025) and administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"Health care is a basic human right, and it was a priority for me and my administration to submit this application and fight for funding to support our rural health communities - especially following the passage of devastating Medicaid cuts," said Gov. Beshear. "I am proud our community-driven plan was accepted in full and now \$212.9 million will help provide our fellow Kentuckians with the quality care they need and deserve."

Kentucky's plan was developed by the Beshear administration in partnership with health partners from across the state and will use the \$212.9 million over five years to help address the unique challenges rural Kentucky faces, including high rates of chronic conditions, maternity care deserts and gaps in coverage for oral care, emergency services and behavioral health.

"Our Rural Health Transformation Plan reflects the best of Team Kentucky," said Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Dr. Steven Stack. "We are working with local health leaders, hospitals, universities and community partners who share in the vision of a commonwealth where every Kentuckian can reach their full human potential and all communities thrive."

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) will lead implementation of the plan in partnership with stakeholders across the commonwealth. The Rural Health Transformation Plan addresses several of Kentucky's most pressing rural health challenges, including:

- **Chronic disease:** Seventeen percent of Kentuckians live with multiple chronic conditions, compared with 11% nationally.
- **Women's health:** Nearly 1 in 6 Kentucky women of childbearing age live in maternity care deserts, more than four times more than the national average.
- **Behavioral health:** Persistent shortages of mental health professionals in rural areas place strain on emergency departments and first responders.
- **Oral health:** Appalachian counties experience some of the lowest dental visit rates and highest rates of complete tooth loss among seniors.
- **Emergency response:** Nearly half of Kentucky's paramedics are concentrated in the state's five largest counties, limiting access in rural communities.

To address these challenges, Kentucky's plan advances five integrated care innovation models:

### Rural Community Hubs for Chronic Care Innovation

Local hub-and-spoke models focused initially on obesity and diabetes prevention and management, integrating nutrition, physical activity and digital self-management tools.

### PoWERing Maternal and Infant Health

Telehealth-enabled, community-based maternal care teams addressing prenatal and postpartum services in maternity care deserts and high-risk regions.

### Rapid Response to Recovery (EmPATH Model)

Mobile crisis response, telepsychiatry and stabilization services connecting individuals to community-based behavioral health and recovery supports.

### Rooted in Health: Rural Dental Access

Expanded dental hygiene training, externships and portable or tele-dental clinics to improve preventive oral health services.

### Crisis to Care: Integrated EMS Response

Enhanced pre-hospital care and trauma coordination through treat-in-place protocols, workforce

## 2025 Highlights

-continued from page 1

retention, and the impact of state initiatives at the school level. Her appointment gives Hancock County High School and the local district a voice in state-wide discussions on school climate, student support services, accountability measures and family engagement during her term.

The HCHS Marching Band continued a winning streak in competitions, while student musicians earned top individual honors. Hancock County High School student Abram DeJarnette earned second chair alto saxophone in the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) All-State Jazz Band; Miles Price earned seventh chair alto saxophone in the KMEA All-State Concert Band; and Andrew Owens earned third chair trombone in the KMEA All-State Concert Band. These students will represent Hancock County at the annual KMEA conference in Louisville in February 2026.

The 2025 Hornet Band earned victories at all of their competitions, including Best Color Guard, Best Percussion and Grand Champion among all small-class bands at Twin Lakes Marching Band Contest in Grayson County, and Best Color Guard and Best Percussion at Murray State University's West Regional quarter-finals in Hopkinsville and received distinguished ratings in every caption, with an overall score of 84.4, at regional competition.

Hancock County Middle School welcomed Fahlin Anderson as assistant principal, joining Principal Josh Powers in leading the school. The Hancock County Board of Education has been steadily advancing toward the construction of the new middle school project throughout its meetings each month, with new members Veronica Taylor and Dr. Mary Beth Emmick Morris sworn in in January.

The Owensboro Terminators won the 1A state title at the Special Olympics Kentucky State Softball Tournament, and Hancock County Middle School sixth-grader Bella Rearden won first place in her division at the 2025 Kentucky State Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. Young Nolan Hunt of Lewisport captured a ROAR National Championship as well.

In August, the City of Hawesville completed a multi-year backlog of financial audits after spending more than \$125,000 and devoting substantial staff

time since Mayor Rob McCormick took office in January 2023. This cleared the way for state funding that had been frozen, including approximately \$180,000 in KYTC Municipal Road Aid, and restored access to vendor numbers needed to move forward with projects such as construction of a downtown park next to the Hawesville Fire Station and a storm-water treatment plant. McCormick said the city also paid off debts dating back to 2016 and credited his team—including City Manager Jake Powers and City Clerk Amy Roberts—and thanked state officials such as Rocky Adkins, Governor Andy Beshear, Rep. Scott Lewis and Senator Gary Boswell for their help as the city seeks prompt release of grant funds and pursues new investment.

Southwire announced an expansion in Hancock County this year, reinforcing its long-standing presence as one of the community's largest industrial employers and a major supporter of local projects. Commonwealth Rolled Products marked an anniversary year at its Lewisport aluminum rolling mill and announced a new partnership with MetalX, which will provide scrap metal services for the operation and support continued investment at the site.

Commonwealth Rolled Products' Lewisport employees became the first workers to graduate from an Ivy Tech federal apprenticeship program, completing advanced training designed to build skills for high-demand technical roles at the plant. The apprenticeship graduation gave the company a new cohort of federally registered journey-level workers and highlighted the company's focus on formal workforce development in local manufacturing.

Through the Kenergy-Conexon Connect partnership, fiber installation was completed so that all residents now have access to broadband, high-speed internet.

The Lewisport Library celebrated its 55th birthday, 3RSN celebrated 15 years in April, and the Dilly Dahlia farm experience opened under Grayce Emmick, while the Riverview Restaurant welcomed new managers. Norman and Rebecca Hedden were named 2025 Historians of the Year by the Hancock County Historical Society.

Regional advocacy and civic representation extended beyond the county. Judge-Executive Roberts traveled to Washington, D.C. on March 11 with judge-executives from surrounding counties for a Kentuckians in

## LEGAL NOTICES

**Administrator Notice**

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Michael T. Boling  
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Attorney:  
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Washington event hosted by Kentucky's Area Development Districts, where they met national legislators and emphasized how inclusion in the Delta Regional Authority program would benefit Hancock County, which along with Daviess and Union is not currently in the program, unlike McLean, Henderson and Webster counties.

Southern rock band Ole 60, whose original members include Hawesville natives Ryan Laslie and Jacob Ty Young, played a sold-out "Outta My Way Tour" show at Beaver Dam Amphitheater on June 13, breaking the venue's all-time attendance record with 6,060 tickets sold. The band previously broke a 28-year attendance record at Owensboro After 5 in 2024, reaching No. 1 on the Apple Country Music Album chart with their 2023 debut EP "Three Twenty Four," earning two 2024 People's Choice Country Awards nominations and continuing to tour nationally, release new music and build a YouTube audience nearing 1 million subscribers.

The cities of Lewisport and Hawesville also moved forward together on a long-term infrastructure project that will affect every household in the county. The two cities signed an initial agreement this summer for a new regional water plant in Lewisport that will

replace both communities' aging systems and, once completed, serve all of Hancock County. Lewisport received an additional \$2 million from Congressman Brett Guthrie's office this year, bringing total secured funding for the project to about \$24 million, and Mayor Gregory said the goal is to retire the remaining cost within 10 years while continuing to pursue further support.

The plant design calls for wellhouses in small buildings next to the Lewisport Library, with the treatment facility and chemical processes located indoors and the site fenced with controlled access for safety, security and appearance. Construction is expected to begin in 2026, with completion projected around 2028, and the facility will use a reverse osmosis process that has already performed well in Lewisport pilot testing at removing emerging contaminants such as PFAS, providing a more reliable, higher-quality water supply for residents. This partnership between the two sister cities will also negate the need for outsourcing.

2025 has brought major milestones in service, education, infrastructure and community life in Hancock County. As 2026 begins, county leaders and residents look forward to building on that momentum.

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