



Kentucky is 12%-20% short of needed nursing staff, and the state is projected to need more than 16,000 additional nurses by 2024. Nationally, the healthcare workforce crisis is driven by retirements, declining labor force participation and low birth rates. In Kentucky, the problem is compounded by a skills gap and the state's lower than average educational attainment rate.

Kentucky's colleges and universities are facing challenges to address these gaps:

- Shortage of nursing and other healthcare faculty.
- Limited access to clinical sites for student training.
- A lack of modern training equipment and supplies.
- Few mental health and social support services for students in these highly competitive programs.

The Collaborative's Role

Kentucky's Healthcare Workforce Collaborative is a \$10 million initiative funded by the Kentucky Legislature to bring together state leaders, policy experts, campus leadership and the healthcare industry to address Kentucky's healthcare workforce shortage crisis.

The appropriation, designated in the 2022 budget bill and administered by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, will:

- Provide direct grants to Kentucky's public institutions to expand programs that train healthcare providers in high-demand areas.
- Raise student awareness of and interest in healthcare occupations.
- Improve pathways between high school career and technical programs to college-level healthcare programs.
- Help healthcare organizations support career growth for their employees.

HWC Advisory Group

The Council convenes the Healthcare Workforce Collaborative Advisory Group, consisting of college faculty, state leaders and members of the healthcare sector.

Membership

Healthcare Sector

Hollie Harris Phillips, Appalachian Regional Healthcare

Jody Prather, Baptist Health

Tony Houston, Catholic Health Initiatives/St. Joseph Health

Garren Colvin, St. Elizabeth Healthcare

Postsecondary Education Institutions

Daniel Czech, Eastern Kentucky University

Paul Czarapata, KCTCS

Joy Coles, Kentucky State University

Jay Morgan, Morehead State University

Bob Jackson, Murray State University

Valerie Hardcastle, Northern Kentucky University

Robert DiPaola, University of Kentucky

Lori Stewart-Gonzalez, University of Louisville

Tania Basta, Western Kentucky University

Government/Citizen Partners

Jackie Richardson, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Derrick Ramsey, citizen member

Aaron Thompson, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Mary Pat Regan, Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet

Jason Glass, Kentucky Department of Education