Kentucky Skills U provides free adult education services in each of Kentucky’s 120 counties.

The vision of Kentucky Skills U is that Kentuckians will experience a higher standard of living and quality of life through increased educational attainment.

Kentucky Skills U is committed to providing academic and essential skills instruction to help ensure that Kentucky adults get the education they need for long-term jobs in high-demand fields that provide sustainable wages.

OUR FEDERAL MANDATE: The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act states, “The (AEFLA) program seeks to increase opportunity in the educational and workforce development of adults as workers, parents, and citizens. While playing a critical role in adult attainment of a secondary school diploma, the program also aims to assist in the transition to postsecondary education and training through the use of career pathways.”

**Employers need a skilled workforce**

In 1973, 72% of the workforce had no more than a high school diploma.

By 2020, 62% of all jobs in Kentucky will require some level of postsecondary education.

A skills gap survey of advanced manufacturing executives reported the percentage of those who indicated current employees are not sufficient in the following key skills:

- **Technology/computer skills**: 70%
- **Math skills**: 60%
- **Problem-solving skills**: 69%
- **Basic technical training**: 67%

**Kentuckians need upskilling**

A Kentucky Chamber of Commerce survey indicates that the two largest challenges related to finding good employees are skills-related. Less than 10 percent of those surveyed believe the overall workforce has good skills.

- **Technology/computer skills**: 70%
- **Math skills**: 60%
- **Problem-solving skills**: 69%
- **Basic technical training**: 67%

**Skills U services help close the gap**

Kentucky Skills U programs provide free academic instruction aligned to college-and-career readiness standards, as well as preparation and coaching for next steps (i.e., college and career) for individuals:

- Without a high school diploma;
- With a high school diploma but with emergent needs;
- Requiring English language acquisition (ELA) instruction (literacy and civics);
- Participating in integrated education and training; and
- In corrections facilities.

Our services are designed to assist individuals in becoming college and career ready, via stackable credentials, for one or more of the following:

- The GED® high school equivalency test;
- Postsecondary education and training;
- The Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate, (addressing soft skills);
- Career readiness certificates; and/or
- Workforce preparation and employment.

**PROFILE**

Despite significant progress, there are still 347,000 Kentuckians ages 18-64 without high school/GED® diplomas.

347,000
Our target populations face many challenges

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, KY Skills U programs enrolled 19,476 students. Of the 64% of those students who did not have a high school or GED® diploma, more than 70% enrolled at below a ninth grade level.

Skills U celebrates state progress, continues to strive

Kentucky’s GED® pass rate for 2017-18 was 86% – which exceeds the national pass rate!

*Among those states that report GED® data; Kentucky’s GED ® pass rate exceeds the national pass rate of 79%.

“Kentucky has much more experience than most states in strengthening adult access to postsecondary education.”

– “Graduating to College: Three States Helping Adult Education Students Get A College Education,” Working Poor Families Project

The two images above show a county-by-county view of the percentage of the population without a high school credential.

In 2000, there were 0 counties with the lowest population (0-10%) without a high school credential, for a total of 34 counties with a population of 20% or less (lightest blue).

In 2016, there were 21 counties with the lowest population (0-10%) without a high school credential, for a total of 101 counties with a population of 20% or less without (lightest blue and white).

Incidence of challenges among working-age adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>With HS diploma</th>
<th>Without HS diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Difficulties</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision Difficulties</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Difficulties</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistance</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a Disability</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Low-skilled adults are:

2x more likely to be unemployed
3x as likely to be in poverty
4x as likely to be in poor health
8x as likely to be incarcerated

“(Low foundational skills are) a fundamental barrier to every major challenge facing Kentucky, including early childhood education, education reform, economic development, and improving the health and well-being of Kentucky’s families and communities.” – The Kentucky Adult Education Act of 2000

Fourth best in the nation!

From 2000 to 2016, there was a 35% decline in the number of working-age Kentuckians without a HS/ GED® diploma.

Kentucky Skills U • www.KYSkillsU.ky.gov

1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 250 • Frankfort, KY 40601 • www.facebook.com/KYSkillsU