

2023/2024

NEWSLETTER



"committed to improving our communities...one life at a time"





The list below provides program specifics such as total dollars allocated per program, number of applications completed per county, number of dollars spent to date, and current amount of funding remaining per program as of the end of May.

LIHEAP Spring Subsidy (Began: April 16, 2024)

Total Allocation: \$284,578.58
 Total Applications: 1,017 (As of 5/20/2024)
 Bell County—730
 Whitley County—287
 Total Spent: \$147,019.00
 Funds Remaining: \$137,559.58

WX Applications:

Applications Completed (Mar-May): 8

KU HEA/Delta DEAP Applications:

(although slots are full, applications are still taken for the waiting list)

KU HEA Total Slots: 99
 KU HEA Total Enrollment: 99 (full)
 KU HEA On Waitlist: 76
 HEA applications taken in April & May: 0

Delta DEAP Total Slots: 86
 Delta DEAP Total Enrollment: 85
 Delta DEAP On Waitlist: 7
 Delta DEAP applications taken in April & May: 0

Goodwill Voucher Program

Total Allocation 2nd Quarter (Apr-June): \$1,841.00
 (New quarterly allocation received April. 1st)
 Total Applications (Apr-May): 19
 Total Spent: \$1,210.00
 Funds Remaining: \$631.00

CSBG Client Services (Rent & Utilities)

Total Budgeted Amount SFY 2024: \$15,000
 (Includes Carryover from SFY 2023)
 Total Applications: (March-May): 22
 Total Spent: \$5,562.17
 Funds Remaining: \$2,966.14

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance(TBRA)

Total 2 Year Allocation: \$75,000.00
 Total Applicants Enrolled: 5
 Available Slots: Possibly 1 (if re-cert fails)
 Currently Working with re-certifications
 On Waitlist: 45

As a Kentucky Career Center, JobSight—Affiliate Center, the KCCJ Pineville office houses not only the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act staff (WIOA) but also other community partners such as SKILLS U, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Office of Vocational Rehabilitation-Blind Services, and Senior Citizens Service Employment Program (SCSEP) to provide services for those seeking employment or training to obtain employment. These services are provided to walk-ins and by appointment, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

The WIOA staff works diligently to ensure employment services are provided to both the Job Seekers and Employers in Bell County. Various funding streams from our contractor, EKCEP make it possible to provide the following services:

Adult Services: provides assistance to individuals who are 18 or older, unemployed or underemployed, who need assistance obtaining or retaining employment. Services include career advising, tuition assistance, and supportive services. As we near the end of the fiscal year, all adult funding for tuition has been expended until the new budget is released on July 1.

Dislocated Worker Services: provides services to individuals 18 or older who cannot return to previous employment or obtain new employment without WIOA assistance. Services include career advising, tuition assistance, supportive services, and needs-based payments.

Youth Services: provides services to both In-School and Out-of-School youth. Out-of-School youth are classified as individuals between the ages of 18-24 who are not currently attending school of any kind and are at risk of long-term unemployment or under-employment due to specific barriers set forth within WIOA policies. OSY provides tuition assistance, supportive services, work experience, and internships. In-School youth are classified as individuals between the ages of 16-21 who also meet eligibility and specific barriers set forth within the WIOA policies. Services for ISY include career advising and case management services, supportive services, and paid work experience.

H1B: is the Rural Healthcare Grant designed to alleviate healthcare workforce shortages by creating sustainable employment and training opportunities. This grant currently provides funding for individuals interested in the following programs: CNA, Medical Assistant, LPN, and RN.

Youth Summer Employment—Work Experience Services: The Summer Employment program will specifically service individuals aged 18-24. This funding is labeled STORM money, so each individual has to fall within the age range, be unemployed, and be a Bell County resident. Local work areas were awarded funding through the legislative state budget to serve youth. This is not WIOA money; EKCEP applied for this money to serve In-School Youth. We do expect this money to be released in the new fiscal year. The amount or how it can be spent has not yet been released.





Head Start / Early Head Start

2023-2024 Federal Review:

The FA 2 review was conducted from 4/8/2024 and 4/12/ 2024 with no areas of noncompliance or deficiencies.

2023-2024 CLASS Review:

CLASS review was conducted 01/03/2024-03/13/2024. We scored well above both the Quality Threshold and Competitive Threshold.

2023-2024 Spring TSG Child Assessment Report:

There is growth in all areas of development.

Grant Application: The continuation grant application was submitted.

Enrollment:

Head Starts last day was May 22.

EHS is fully enrolled.

Preservice training for staff will be the week of July 29.

Head Start is designed to ensure that all children - regardless of their family's income, race, or ethnic background - are able to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Weatherization

For the period of July 2023 thru April 2024 the weatherization has completed work on nine homes. Seven of the nine homes completed received a new heat pump or gas package unit as well as attic and floor insulation, air sealing, duct sealing, base-load measure such as hot water tank and pipe insulation, low-flow shower heads and LED lighting retro-fits. Health and safety measures including smoke and co detectors, vapor barriers, whole house ventilation and proper exhaust venting have also been installed. We have spent a total of \$145,375.73 in direct costs on those five homes averaging \$16,152.85 per home.



Weatherization Works

Five of the nine homes that were worked on, we also used a program called weatherization ready that allows for repairs to be made to the home that would otherwise have rendered the home a deferral. The repairs included things such as: mold remediation, termite spraying, a new roof, domestic hot water heater replacement, plumbing repairs and flooring repair. The total spent on those repairs totaled \$26,750.00

We have also continued our partnerships with Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency and the Lexington Community Action Council to provide weatherization DNE and QCI services.

Housing Initiatives Program

The Housing Counseling:

The counseling program has added 6 new clients. The one-on-one counseling program coaches and provides clients with supportive tools to meet the goal of home ownership. Bell-Whitley is dedicated to assisting clients in the following areas: pre-purchase, post-purchase, loss mitigation, foreclosure/default, and homeowner rehab. The housing office manages a plethora of programs/duties.

Housing:

We have now completed and closed on both homes, through the HOME 2021 grant. We have also completed AHTF home repairs on 9 homes in Bell and Whitley counties through the AHTFHR 2021 grant. We have received funding to build an additional 2 homes through the HOME 2023 grant and we are hoping to get started on building a new home very soon. We have also received additional funding through AHTFHR 2023, which will allow us to do additional home repair projects. We had the Whitley County Repair Affair on May 4, 2024. Repair Affair is a community activity that Bell-Whitley organizes, in which volunteer groups help low-income, elderly and/or disabled persons do minor repairs to their homes. These are repairs that can be completed in one day, such as building ramps, porch repairs, and exterior painting. We had 3 teams that completed 3 projects for elderly/disabled persons in Whitley County. The projects consisted of 2 tear down/rebuild of porches with one porch including a ramp for the client. The other project was a ramp. We had a total of 26 volunteers for the event. We have applied for and been approved for 8 home repair projects through the Carol Peterson grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. We have applied for 2 additional projects and are waiting on approval. We will begin work on these very soon.

HOAF – Homeowner Assistance Fund – (Mortgage Assistance)

Kentucky received \$85.4 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to create the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HOAF) program. This program will be administered by Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) to provide relief to homeowners experiencing financial hardship on or after January 21, 2020.

Kentucky's program opened on February 7, 2022. Homeowners can go to the website www.protectmykyhome.org to sign up for the program. All applications are completed online, and all documents are to be uploaded into the application. If a client is unable to do this themselves, they can contact a counselor and they can assist them with this.



The guidelines for the program are as follows:

Event must have been after January 21, 2020.

Must be a reduction in income due to job loss, illness, or caregiving.

As of October 17, 2022, clients can receive up to \$60,000 in assistance, it had been \$35,000.

Must meet eligibility requirements which may include income, property, etc.
Not to exceed 6 months of mortgage assistance or \$60,000 – whichever is reached first.

Bell-Whitley can assist clients from throughout the state.

Bell-Whitley has processed 61 applications, 29 have received approval. There were 13 applications that were ineligible, and 19 have been denied.

Kentucky Housing has created a new program called the J Program. Through this program, any past approved clients who previously had a Partial Claim or Payment Deferral may be eligible to receive additional assistance. To be eligible: (1) the Partial Claim/Payment Deferral must have an origination date before the original HOAF approval (2) Cannot exceed our state cap of \$60,000 (3) Must have a signed Partial Claim Mortgage Note or Payment Deferral Agreement.

Kentucky Housing is currently in the process of updating eligibility guidelines for this program, which will begin soon.

Bell-Whitley receives \$600 for each approved application.

Loss Mitigation Program:

This program consists of counseling a client to assist them in working with the lender to modify mortgage payment, so that the payment is affordable for the individual. We have the ability to serve clients throughout the state. We are still accepting applications for this program. We have assisted several households throughout the commonwealth with the program, over the past year or so.

Apartments:

At this time, all eight (8) units have been leased. You can visit our website www.bellwhitley.com, for the application and some photos.

Conclusion:

In closing, I hope that it is apparent that Bell-Whitley Housing Department strives to assist not only our community, but when necessary our state with the tools that we have. We are always seeking ways to obtain grants and work with other local agencies to get assistance for our community members. We believe the betterment of one equals the betterment of all.

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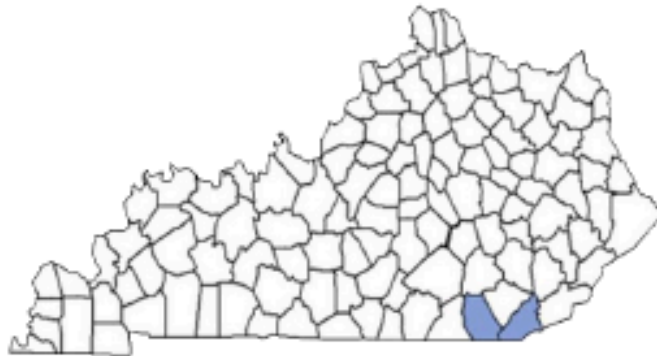
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improves communities,
and makes America a better place to live.
We care about the entire community,
and we are dedicated
to helping people help themselves and each other."



**Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency, Inc.
Bell County Office
129 North Pine Street
Pineville, Ky. 40977
606-337-3044**

**Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency, Inc.
Whitley County Office
215 North 4th Street
Williamsburg, KY 40769
606-549-3933**

www.bellwhitley.com



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