



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2022



The Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts (KCADD) was formed to enable the members of Area Development District (ADD) Boards of Directors to more effectively nurture regional collaboration and foster community development by focusing on the concept that local governments, along with businesses and community leadership, can accomplish more by working together than individually. Kentucky's ADDs were designed to be, and function as, the focal point of a necessary Federal-State-Local partnership for improvement of the quality of life in the Commonwealth.

Spanning six decades of success, the ADD network is more vital than ever and is recognized as an influential and diverse constituency comprising all 120 counties and 418 cities.

The following represents the Council's legislative positions and priorities for the 2022 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Joint Funding Administration (JFA) dollars provide essential funding that enables Kentucky's Area Development Districts to provide our state and local governments a wide array of both statutorily required and other much needed public services in their respective regions.

We urge our Legislators to:

- Appropriate JFA funding that meets or exceeds the previous Biennial Budget amount of \$1.984 million per fiscal year.
- Support the Appropriation of State Funds equal to 25% of the Federal Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) annual Local Development Districts (LDDs) allocation of administrative funds. Said appropriation will serve as the required state match and be designated in a separate line-itemed allocation from the JFA allocation.

AREA AGING PROGRAMS

The ADDs AAA staffs provide vitally important services to our senior and disabled populations across the Commonwealth. The Kentucky Aging Network has suffered approximately a 17% reduction in state funds over the last decade. By 2030, Kentuckians 60+ years of age will constitute nearly 27% of the population. There are currently almost 5,000 individuals on waiting lists for Aging and Independent Living services in Kentucky.

From the onset of the pandemic, Kentucky's ADDs have assisted with the delivery of over 6 million hot meals to our senior and disabled fellow Kentuckians. Said figure represents well over a 100% increase from pre-pandemic numbers. Additionally, there has not been an increase in reimbursement rates for Participant Directed Services (PDS) and Home Care Services since 2006.

We urge our Legislators to:

- Increase state funding for the Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living to enable them to provide additional in-home services for the currently unserved elderly and disabled population through the Homecare and Title III Older American Act Programs.
- Support the recommendations issued by the Home Care and Community Based Services Medicaid Redesign Task Force.
- Continue robust funding level for the Home Delivered Meals Program

TRANSPORTATION

Kentucky's ADDs have been involved in transportation planning since our inception over 50 years ago. As an integral part of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) Program. The Cabinet partners with the fifteen Kentucky ADDs to establish a comprehensive transportation planning process utilizing local, regional and statewide input. The ADD/KYTC planning relationship serves as a national model for "Regional Planning Organizations (RPO's).

Kentucky's local governments depend solely on the state's fuel tax for transportation needs for both new construction and basic roadway maintenance. All our contiguous neighboring states have established Motor Fuels Tax rates that are significantly higher than Kentucky's. As a matter of fact, when you average the rates of our 7 contiguous states, it amounts to 12 cents higher per gallon fuel.

We urge our Legislators to:

- Increase the gas tax and other transportation related fees and establish fees for electric vehicles.
- Preserve the agreed upon formula for distribution of funding to counties and cities.

PUBLIC HEALTH & INFRASTRUCTURE

The ADDs have also played a vital role in public infrastructure planning and development since their inception. ADD infrastructure planning staff, in partnership with local officials and their Water Management Councils, have been instrumental in Kentucky's success in providing over 97% of our citizens access to safe drinking water. They have also contributed much to improving waste water treatment in our Commonwealth.

We urge our Legislators to:

- Allocate a significant portion of the \$1.1 billion second tranch of Federal ARPA funds to utility infrastructure planning and development. Said investment would be a transformative step in rehabbing and expanding drinking water, waste water and Broadband development in the Commonwealth.

TAX REFORM

Local governments have experienced a substantial period of being asked to do more with less. Limitations on revenue options, coupled with ever increasing demands for services, put local leaders in a difficult situation.

We urge our Legislators to:

- Approve a measure that would place on the ballot a constitutional amendment to allow local governments needed flexibility by granting authority to levy a local sales tax.
- Increase fiscal court authority over Special Purpose Governmental Entities.

KEY DATES

February 18, 2022 – Last Day for Bill Requests

February 28, 2022 – Last Day for New House Bills

March 2, 2022 – Last Day for New Senate Bills

April 14, 2022 – Last Day of the Session & Sine Die

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