



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2026-266
May 13, 2026

In Kentucky, we are reigniting the American Dream.

That Dream starts with a job. Good paying jobs provide stability and opportunity, ensuring our Kentucky families remain strong.

And every Kentuckian deserves the opportunity to find that great job and provide for their family right here at home in the Commonwealth.

Despite harmful tariffs, trade deals, and economic policies from Washington, Kentucky continues to grow.

This Administration has created more than 70,000 jobs in Kentucky during the past six years alone, and has attracted more than \$50 billion in new investment to the Commonwealth. Through the New Kentucky Home initiative, this Administration has elevated Kentucky's presence on the global stage, and has welcomed people and businesses the world over to invest, live, and work in their New Kentucky Home.

Although much of this investment is from medium and large businesses, small businesses continue to be the backbone of Kentucky's economy. They represent most of our Kentucky-based companies and employ more than 700,000 of our hardworking citizens.

This Administration has partnered to help grow our small businesses, through programs like the Kentucky Small Business Tax Credit, the Kentucky Innovation Hubs, the Kentucky Enterprise Fund, the Kentucky Product Development Incentive, and the Kentucky State Small Business Credit Initiative.

During this Administration, these programs have contributed to the creation of more than 5,000 jobs and an investment of \$27.4 million by our small businesses that are growing in Kentucky. They have helped serve more than 15,000 startups and entrepreneurs, have had more than \$600 million in private capital raised by startups working with the Innovation Hubs, and have invested more than \$60 million in state and federal funds in early- and growth-stage startups, which has leveraged over \$115 million in private capital.

But we recognize that new businesses need to become operational as soon as possible. So, this Administration launched an innovative Speed-to-Market initiative, which has helped streamline the process of starting a new business in Kentucky by breaking down silos, identifying business needs, and connecting entrepreneurial Kentuckians and businesses to the agencies that will help them get them up and running as soon as possible.

Team Kentucky remains committed to helping small businesses grow and succeed – for our people and our communities. Expanding entrepreneurship throughout Kentucky strengthens all those who pursue the American Dream and reinforces the foundation of a fair economy in all 120 counties of the Commonwealth.

But our work continues.

The continued growth and prosperity of Team Kentucky depends on a vibrant small business sector that can navigate the complexities of a modern global economy.



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It is essential for the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth – the Governor – to receive direct, actionable advice from small business owners and advocates to ensure state policies, regulations, and economic development initiatives foster an environment where entrepreneurship can flourish.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Kentucky Constitution and KRS 12.029, do hereby Declare, Order and Direct the following:

- I. The Team Kentucky Council on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is hereby created and housed in the Office of the Governor.
- II. The Team Kentucky Council on Small Business and Entrepreneurship shall serve as the voice and resource for the small business community at the highest level of Kentucky state government. The duties of the Council shall be as follows:
 1. Identify specific regulatory barriers and economic challenges currently facing Kentucky's small businesses;
 2. Identify methods to increase the number of Kentuckians who start their own businesses;
 3. Advise the Governor on how state agencies can connect Kentucky entrepreneurs to programs, resources, mentors, and networks;
 4. Provide recommendations on state-funded grant and loan programs to improve accessibility;
 5. Advise on workforce training initiatives tailored to the needs of small businesses;
 6. Conduct forums at which representatives of the small business community may engage members of the Council and contribute to the ongoing work of the Council by providing industry insight; and
 7. Submit recommendations to the Governor to grow small business in the Commonwealth and propose legislative or executive actions for the year 2027.



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- III. The Governor shall appoint the members of the Council from Executive Branch agencies and small business owners and operators, as he deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Order.
- IV. The Council shall be composed of members who have a broad range of experience in small business, economic development, and workforce development. The membership of the Council shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
1. The Governor, Andy Beshear, or his designee, who shall serve as Chair;
 2. The Secretary of the Executive Cabinet, or designee, who shall serve as Vice Chair;
 3. The Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, or designee;
 4. The Executive Director of the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation;
 5. Representatives from the small business community, to include:
 - i. Kristina Joyce, Executive Director, Small Business Development Center;
 - ii. Ashley Smith, Owner and CEO, Blacksoil;
 - iii. Joshua Ravenscraft, CEO, New Frontier,
 - iv. Sara Bradley, Owner and Chef, freight house;
 - v. Maggie Harlow, CEO and President, Signarama Downtown;
 - vi. Adrian Hothem, President and CEO of Camco Chemical; and
 - vii. Will Harvey, The Burl.
 6. Experts in local and regional economic development:
 - i. Jason Slone, President and CEO, Morehead Chamber of Commerce;



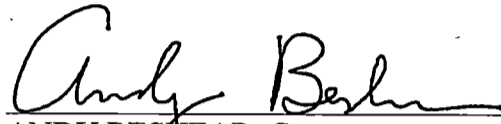
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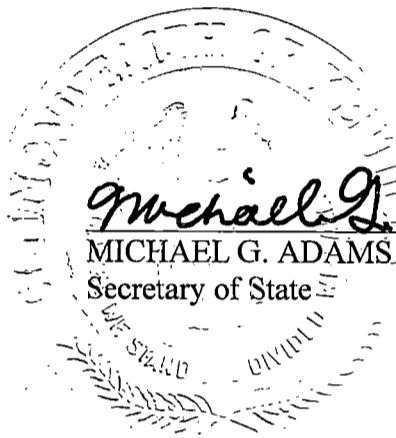

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This Order shall be effective May 13, 2026.



ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State

RECEIVED AND FILED

DATE May 13, 2026

MICHAEL G. ADAMS

SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BY Katherine Ellis