



The Official Newsletter for Executive Branch Employees

January 2026

Featured News



We are currently accepting nominations for the 2026 Governor's Ambassador Awards. These esteemed annual awards highlight public employees who have gone above and beyond to help others.

What's in this edition?

- GAA Nominations
- Mental Health Resources Webpage
- FSA Reminder
- Tax Reporting Changes
- Performance Management
- State Holidays
- Pre-K for All
- Kentucky Deferred Comp

>> Submit a Nomination <<

Executive branch employees can be recognized for contributions in the areas of:

- Governor's Customer Service Award
- Governor's Courage Award
- Governor's Teamwork Award (three or more employees)
- Governor's Community Service and Volunteerism Award
- Governor's Extra Mile Award
- Governor's Team Kentucky Excellence Award

Award recipients will be honored at a special ceremony and will receive a personalized brick placed outside the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.

Current executive branch employees or executive branch employees who have served within the past 12 months are eligible.



Mental Health Resources
extranet.personnel.ky.gov

We are excited to announce a new webpage dedicated to mental health resources that are available to state employees. [Please take the time to visit this webpage](#), where you can filter available benefits based on what is most applicable to you.

Screenshot of new page:

- Professional Development Opportunities



Get Started on MyPURPOSE Today!

- Access over 1,200 online training courses and webinars.
- Connect with team members virtually.
- Apply for career opportunities.



Employee Mental Health Benefits and Resources

State employees are provided mental health benefits and resources for the benefit of both our employees and our work environment. Benefits may vary depending on if you're enrolled in the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan or if you are a member of management. Please click through the tabs below for more information on the offered resources.

[Kentucky Employees' Health Plan Members](#)[All KY State Government Employees](#)[Kentucky State Government Managers](#)

Mental Health Resources for KEHP Members

As a member of the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan, you have many benefits available to you not only for your physical health,



Kentucky Employees'
Health Plan

Don't leave cash on the table!

Healthcare FSA

You have until March 31, 2026, to submit your 2025 claims. You may roll over remaining funds up to \$640 to plan year 2026.

Child & Adult Daycare FSA

You have until March 31, 2026, to submit your 2025 claims. Any funds remaining in your account after March 31, 2026 will be forfeited.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
PERSONNEL EVENT
CALENDAR](#)



BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

[Click here for Blood
Donation Information](#)



Tax Reporting Changes Resulting from Federal Legislation

Public Law 119-21 requires changes to federal tax reporting that impact some employees for the 2025 tax year. For employees who were in positions eligible for overtime at the rate of time-and-a-half for hours worked over 40 in a work week, the premium portion (the "half" of "time-and-a-half") of overtime paid during the calendar year 2025, will be provided on the W-2 in **Box 14** with the label "OT Prem." The amount found in this box may be eligible as a tax deduction.

For additional information on this change, please visit the [Internal Revenue Service](#) website or consult your tax professional.

W-2 Access Information

To receive your W-2 as soon as it is generated, versus waiting for it to be sorted, mailed and delivered through the U.S. Postal Services, log into KHRIS Employee Self-Service (ESS) now to select an electronic W-2. Instructions are available on the Personnel Cabinet [website](#), along with other information such as answers to frequently asked W-2 questions.

- Requests for reprints will not be accepted until February 1, at which time employees must make that request through KHRIS ESS.
- Employees that have questions related to tax filing, should seek advice from their tax consultant.



As we look toward year-end performance evaluations, we've made a small update to the performance management system. **The self-review step is now required for all employees when completing evaluations.** While it is required for employees to check off this step before the process advances to the first-line supervisor for comments, adding your own written feedback is optional.

This change ensures you don't miss this important opportunity to celebrate your hard work and share the work you've done throughout the year with your leadership.

Completing your self-review helps you:

- Think about what you've done well this year,
- Highlight your achievements and growth,
- Share details your evaluator might not see every day,
- Plan goals and focus on what's next.

Your input helps tell your story — take a few minutes to complete your self-review and make sure your accomplishments are seen!



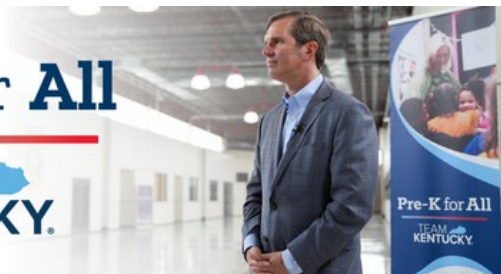
2026 Holiday Calendar

As stated in KRS 18A.190, KRS 2.110, KRS 2.190, and Executive Order 2024-355, state offices shall be closed and state employees shall be given a holiday on the following days:

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** January 19, 2026
- **Good Friday:** April 3, 2026 (1/2 day)
- **Memorial Day:** May 25, 2026
- **Juneteenth:** June 19, 2026
- **Independence Day:** July 3, 2026
- **Labor Day:** September 7, 2026
- **Veterans Day:** November 11, 2026
- **Thanksgiving:** November 26–27, 2026
- **Christmas:** December 24–25, 2026
- **New Year's:** December 31, 2026–January 1, 2027

Pre-K for All

TEAM
KENTUCKY.



When kids miss out on pre-K, we all feel it. Not just in our schools, but in our economy too. Building a stronger Kentucky begins with investing in our kids. A brighter future for our Commonwealth starts by increasing access to preschool.

This isn't just an education issue. It's a bottom-line issue. Pre-K for All:

- Increases Kindergarten Readiness
- Expands Kentucky's Labor Force
- Boosts Take-Home Pay
- Grows Kentucky's Economy
- Attracts Pre-K Professionals
- Eliminates Child Care Deserts
- Saves Out-of-Pocket Child Care Costs

Learn more about Pre-K for All and ways to get involved at prek4all.ky.gov!



Start off the new year with this checklist to help boost your retirement readiness through KDC!

- Set up a [KDC online account](#) to open a wealth of resources to help you plan and invest through Kentucky Deferred Comp.
- Update your [beneficiary designations](#) to ensure that the forms we have on file reflect your current wishes.
- Use [My Income and Retirement Planner](#) to take a fresh look at your goals and create a downloadable Retirement Readiness Report.
- Consider our auto increase service to easily increase contributions each year. This can be set up through your online account or with a KDC Retirement Specialist.
- Ask about our [Free Financial Planning Program](#), which is an included service for all KDC participants and is designed to help you create a comprehensive financial plan.
- Join us for an [educational webinar](#). Check out our offerings throughout the year as we add future dates.

Want personalized support? Call 1-800-542-2667 or 502-573-7925 to speak with a Kentucky Retirement Specialist.



Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

View the professional development opportunities provided by the Kentucky Employees Assistance Program (KEAP) and Governmental Services Center. Employees should log in and request training in [MyPURPOSE](#) under “MyLEARNING” - “Event Calendar”

Manager approval is required.

January

- Wednesday, Jan. 14th 10:30-11:30
EST: [*Fundamentals of Personal Budgeting*](#)
- Wednesday, Jan 28th 10:30-11:30 EST: [*Burnout: Definitions, Diagnosis and Prevention*](#)

February

- Wednesday, Feb. 11th 10:30-11:30 EST: [*Verbal De-escalation*](#)
- Tuesday, Feb. 24th 10:30-11:30 EST: [*Mindfulness: Managing the Emotional Brain*](#)
- Wednesday, Feb. 25th 10:30-11:30 EST: [*Credit Repair*](#)

March

- Tuesday, March 10th 10:30-11:30 EST: [*Sleep Matters*](#)
 - Thursday, March 12th 10:30-11:30 EST: [*Your Most Healthy Brain*](#)
 - Wednesday, March 18th 10:30-11:30 EST: [*Change Challenge: Tips for Growing Healthy Responses to Change*](#)
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About the Personnel Cabinet

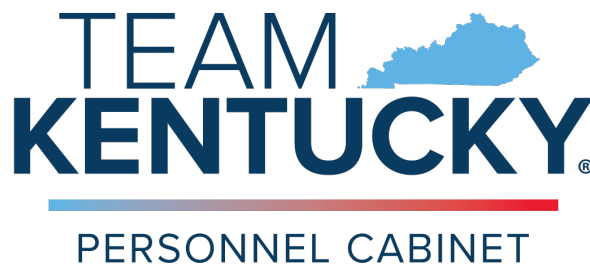
The Personnel Cabinet provides leadership and guidance to attract, develop, motivate, and retain a talented, diverse workforce that provides outstanding service to state agencies and citizens of the Commonwealth; foster an understanding of and adherence to legal requirements; and create a positive and inclusive work environment that supports the holistic well-being of all employees.

The Personnel Cabinet is located at 501 High Street, Frankfort, KY 40601
Normal business hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

EEO Statement

The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy or related medical condition, marital or familial status, ancestry, political affiliation, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with state and federal laws.

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CONNECTED:



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