“Area Development Districts embody the spirit of true partnership. They play a critical role in bringing counties and communities together to address a local need, problem or opportunity while preserving the character of each district region in the commonwealth. The Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts does an outstanding job of working across county lines and party lines to improve the quality of life for all Kentuckians.”

- Governor Steve Beshear

Your 15 Area Development Districts (ADDs) comprise a statewide network of multi-county planning and development organizations covering all of Kentucky’s 120 counties and 435 cities. While our individual ADDs have primary service delivery areas, we work statewide and across local boundaries to advance state and regional priorities.

- Your 15 Area Development Districts (ADDs) generate a Return on Investment of more than $100 for every $1 in local government dues each year.

- Your ADDs have assisted with 504 infrastructure projects and contracts, valued at $519 million, and $249 million in transportation projects with full transparency, accountability and proven results during the past year.

- Since inception, your ADDs have helped secure over $470 million in Economic Development Administration assistance for a total project cost of over $810 million. These projects have assisted in creation of 24,313 jobs and the retention of 34,422 jobs.

- Collectively, your ADDs have provided 45 gap financing and start-up loans worth $9.7 million to entrepreneurs and small businesses during the past year, leveraging $50 million in additional private investment.

- Your ADDs partnered with regional and local job training providers to serve 5,202 workforce participants in the most recent 12 month reporting period; with the initial 6 month earnings for those individuals placed in employment totaling $30 million.

- Through the ADD-managed Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living (AAAIL), 224,171 seniors have benefited from our nutrition, health and wellness services in the past year.

- We have worked together with state and local partners to allow seniors and individuals with disabilities to stay in their homes with quality care and attention under the Consumer Directed Option program.
Our strategic mission is simple: We strive to foster regional strategies, solutions and partnerships that achieve sustainable economic growth and improve the overall quality of life for the citizens of Kentucky.

Over the past 40+ years, our 15 ADDs have evolved from conduits for regional and local economic development planning to catalysts of change in almost all aspects of life throughout the state and in our individual regions.

We are focused on developing and sustaining the fundamental building blocks for our state, regions and local communities to compete in today’s rapidly changing global marketplace.

This includes our traditional emphasis on strategic planning and project funding for clean and safe drinking water systems, health care facilities, affordable housing, small business development and transportation improvements. Today, our programs and expertise extend even further, into areas such as aging, broadband, emergency preparedness, environmental stewardship and workforce development.

Most importantly, we have established a statewide, state-of-the-art Geographic Information System (GIS) platform to enhance our strategic planning and decision-making tools for state and local government officials, as well as our business, nonprofit and education partners.

By working in concert with our federal and state officials, our local government shareholders and our private and nonprofit sector partners, our ADDs have helped the state of Kentucky make great progress for over 40 years.

Our pledge is to make the effort and investments needed today to make the state even better sooner.

“For over 40 years, Kentucky’s Area Development Districts have been linking local governments together as partners in a regional approach to planning and problem solving. This synergy, coupled with the valuable resources and technical assistance provided by the Area Development Districts, has resulted in enormous public improvements which have benefited our citizens immeasurably.”

- Tony Wilder, Commissioner Department for Local Government
“Area Development Districts bring a unique and requisite leadership to regional planning and economic development. Especially in rural communities where resources are scarce, Kentucky ADDs tackle everything from water resource issues to GIS mapping to assisting the elderly.”

- U.S. Representative Harold "Hal" Rogers