## State Releases County Unemployment Data for July 2020

Jackson County sits at 8.3% Unemployment

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 27, 2020) - Unemployment rates rose in 109 Kentucky counties between July 2019 and July 2020, fell in 10 and stayed the same in Carlisle County, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Oldham County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the Commonwealth at 4.2 percent. It was followed by Carlisle and Pendleton counties, 4.5 percent each; Cumberland, Hancock, Shelby, Spencer and Washington counties, 4.6 percent each; and Todd and Woodford counties, 4.7 percent each.

Magoffin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 15.3 percent. It was followed by Harlan County, 12.9 percent; Martin County, 11.1 percent; Letcher County, 11 percent; Leslie County, 10.8 percent; Breathitt County, 10.6 percent; Perry County, 9.8 percent; Floyd County, 9.7 percent; Knott County, 9.4 percent; and Carter, Clay, Elliott and Pike counties, 9 percent each.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 6.2 percent for July 2020, and 10.5 percent for the nation.

Kentucky's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was released on Aug. 20, 2020, and can be viewed at https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activitystream.aspx?n=EducationCabinet&prId=439. In that release, Kentucky's statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are adjusted to observe statistical trends by removing seasonal influences such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. For more information regarding seasonal fluctuations, visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.htm#why.

Unemployment statistics are based on estimates and are compiled to measure trends rather than actually to count people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The data should only be compared to the same month in previous years.

## KSP Launches Campaign Targeting Aggressive Drivers

Offers Tips to Safely Share the Road

Frankfort, Ky. (September 1, 2020) — The KSP Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) Division announced the start of a three-week statewide enforcement blitz targeting aggressive driving behaviors. The Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT) Campaign targets drivers (both passenger car and commercial vehicle) who exhibit dangerous driving behaviors. These include improper lanes changes, following too closely, not leaving enough space to pass and excessive speed.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division Director Major Nathan Day offered tips to drivers of both passenger cars and commercial trucks.

"At the end of the day, all of us want to make it home safely to our families," says Day. "Sometimes it's as simple as being willing to be the driver who does the 'right thing' when others are displaying the wrong behavior."

Day says the best defense against an aggressive driver is a seat belt and plenty of patience. "You can't control what other drivers are doing but you can safeguard yourself and your passengers by always buckling up," adds Day. "Be a courteous driver and don't fall into the category of an aggressive driver."

Aggressive driving is defined as any behind-the-wheel behavior that places another person in danger through willful action without regard to safety.

KSP provides the following tips to avoid being an aggressive driver:
Allow more time to get to your destination. It reduces stress dramatically.
Don't tailgate large trucks. If you can't see the truck driver's side view mirrors, then know that they can't see you.
Leave extra space when passing each other.
Understand that it take a large truck twice the amount of time to come to a stop than a regular passenger car does.
In 2019, there were 6,147 crashes involving commercial trucks on Kentucky roadways resulting in 88 deaths.

TACT enforcement and public information efforts are funded by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

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## The Center for Rural Development Receives $7.8 million ARC Grant to Help Local Communities Expand Broadband Access

SOMERSET, Ky. -- Today, U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers (KY-05) announced a $7.8 million federal grant for The Center for Rural Development to help communities in Southern and Eastern Kentucky connect to the KentuckyWired Project. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded the competitive grant to expand The Center's outreach in 26 communities where broadband access is needed the most.

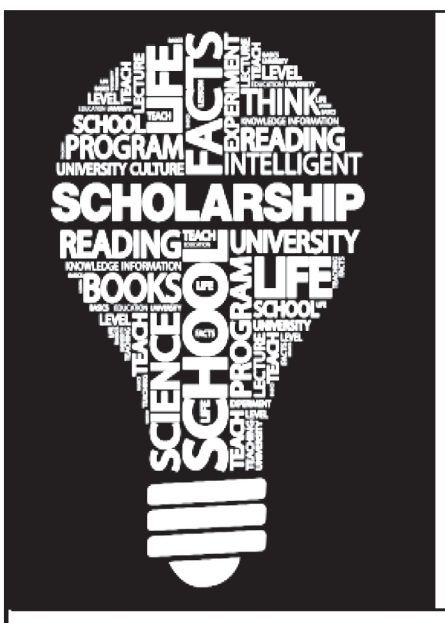
"As school districts strive to educate our students online during the pandemic, many of our students are getting left behind without access to high speed, high capacity broadband. They are the future leaders of this region and we simply can't afford restrictions and delays to their education. The urgency for broadband access in the mountains has never been greater, and this grant gets tools out the door to help our communities connect to the state's new high performance broadband network," said Congressman Rogers, who helped champion regional access to the KentuckyWired network. "I applaud the ARC for investing additional resources in Kentucky's Appalachian region to bridge the gap between local and state connectivity."

The Center will provide assistance for local last mile feasibility studies, engineering and design services, and necessary equipment for connectivity. Local leaders will also have the opportunity to partner with broadband experts throughout the process.

"We are so thankful to Congressman Rogers, the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, particularly the Kentucky Communications Network Authority (KCNA) on helping to get funding for our region's communities to gain last mile access to high speed broadband," said Lonnie Lawson, President/CEO of The Center for Rural Development. "If there is one thing this pandemic has shown us, it is the desperate need to have high speed broadband in our communities for our children to be able to continue their education and for our residents to have access to valuable healthcare and to be able to do their jobs. At The Center, we are working every day to make that happen."

Currently, Kentucky ranks among the weakest in the nation for average Internet connection speeds, and Eastern Kentucky ranks even lower than the state average. Kentucky ranks 46th in the nation in broadband availability, while 23 percent of rural Kentucky has no wireline broadband access available. Only half the state's households subscribe to a broadband service.

KentuckyWired will support increased access and greater bandwidth availability for schools, public safety, healthcare institutions and government offices with direct connections to the network, providing between 1 to 10 Gig depending on need. In addition to ARC funds, the Commonwealth of Kentucky will provide $1.9 million bringing the total project funding for this phase to $9.7 million.




Scholarship Essay Contest: September 1 to November 30

High school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or trade school are invited to apply!

To apply, please submit a cover sheet and your essay of 1,000-1,500 words discussing the following:

**"Due to the spread of COVID-19, the year 2020 brought unprecedented challenges that impacted everything from our world economy to our local rural communities. As you continue to plan for your future, how will these changes we have experienced impact you moving forward? Also, what plans and provisions could be implemented for our local communities, businesses and schools to assist them in overcoming existing obstacles, turning their deficits into profits, staying successful moving forward - all while keeping everyone safe and healthy?"**

Mail cover sheet and essay to:
Jackson Energy Cooperative, Attn: Scholarships,
115 Jackson Energy Lane, McKee, KY 40447
or email cover sheet and essay to:
scholarship@jacksonenergy.com

Essays will be accepted through November 30, 2020

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