

# Kentucky – State Spotlight

RETAIN Awardee Convening

Crystal City, VA

September 19-20, 2023

# Inclusive Worker Health Leadership Network

RETAIN Kentucky's Inclusive Worker Health Leadership Network (IWHLN):

- is comprised of medical professionals, public health leaders, employers, workforce development, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, and consumers;
- focuses on coordination of state and local initiatives to accelerate opportunities for Kentuckians to stay at or return to work; and
- makes annual recommendations to the governor regarding policy and systems change to promote more timely, coordinated, and effective services, leading to better employment outcomes for Kentucky citizens.

## What is an **Inclusive Workforce**?

An **inclusive workforce** is one in which the unique skills, contributions, and diversity of qualified individuals, including those with disabilities, are actively recruited, valued, and integral for success. It is an environment where the engagement, development, retention, and advancement of an increasingly skilled and diverse workforce is promoted and supported across all employment sectors and levels.

To learn more about RETAIN Kentucky, visit **KYRETAIN.org**.

RETAIN Kentucky is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration under a grant award of \$21,600,000 to the Kentucky Office of Employment and Training that will be incrementally provided. 100% of grant funding is from U.S. Federal funds. This document does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor or the Social Security Administration, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



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In its most recent report to the governor, the IWHLN recommended actions to help advance state workforce efforts, including efforts to address workforce shortage.

- Increasing employer awareness of workplace accommodations;
- Centralizing access to stay-at-work and return-to-work best practices for employers, healthcare providers, and employees; and,
- Highlighting people with disabilities as an untapped talent pool in our state's workforce system.

# Inclusive Workforce Webinar & Summit

*An Inclusive Workforce: What it is and why it matters to Kentucky (virtual - June 15)*

*Inclusive Workforce Summit: Engaging the talent of Kentuckians with disabilities (in person - September 13)*

- Highlighted people with disabilities as an untapped talent pool; and
- Suggested that intentional focus on the engagement, development, retention, and advancement of qualified individuals with disabilities is essential to grow Kentucky's workforce and advance its economy.