

SITE



Strategic Initiative
for Transformational Employment

Year Two Report

Clients Served
2,576

Employer Contacts
1,797

Clients Employed
789

Client Referrals
1,373



In just two years SITE has provided services for nearly 2,600 Kentuckians. SITE clients pictured above, from left to right: Jessica Jones (EKCEP), Patti White (EKCEP), David Halloway (TENCO), Jim Tanner (EKCEP), Beth Viscanti (Bluegrass) and Justin Marcum (EKCEP).

SITE YEAR TWO: Continued Success in Assisting Individuals With Substance Use Disorder Gain Employment

Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program's Strategic Initiative for Transformational Employment (SITE) recently completed its second successful year of helping individuals recovering from substance abuse re-enter the workforce and become self-supporting.

Funded by a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant and support from the Office of Drug Control Policy, SITE is available to individuals recovering from addiction in all of Kentucky's 120 counties and is designed to bridge the gulf between recovery and productive participation in the workforce by providing valuable career, training, and supportive services while actively cultivating meaningful job opportunities. SITE also provides services to Kentucky employers and partners with a full array of training, technical assistance, case management, and other services necessary to assist current employees and people in recovery who are seeking employment and training.

During SITE's second full year of activity, staff and contractors continued to maintain working relationships with community partners around the Commonwealth, including treatment facilities or skills development organizations such as TrueNorth in Owensboro, Life Learning Center in Covington, and Addiction Recovery Care headquartered in Louisa. These partnerships play a pivotal role in providing referrals and support for SITE clients as they maintain their recovery and step on to a career path.

SITE's second year was also bolstered by a community of successful former clients entering careers in the recovery space who also refer new clients for services, as well as a network of transformational employers that realize both the value these men and women represent for their own workforces, but also the societal benefits of providing employment for those in active recovery.

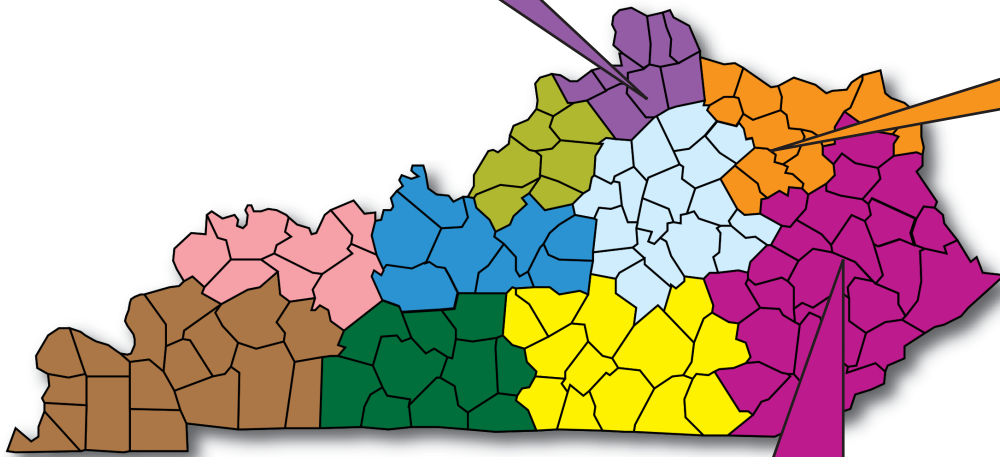
EKCEP looks forward to continuing the SITE program and focusing on assistance for Kentuckians in active recovery as they maintain their sobriety and become active and positive members of the Commonwealth's workforce.



SUCCESSSES

Northern Kentucky

- **Timothy Covey** was living in his car when he enrolled with SITE in July 2021. Though his background raised red flags, NKY Job Entry and Retention Support Specialist (JERSS) Adam Fargo and Success Coach Summer Wainscott secured an interview with Dorman Products in Warsaw, Ky., where he began working on August 9. Thanks to SITE, “now I think anything is possible,” Tim said.
- **Evan Hughes** was a candidate at Life Learning Center when he enrolled with SITE in March 2021. He successfully completed the 12-week program. NKY JERSS Adam Fargo connected him with an open position with SkilCraft LLC, where he started working in June 2021. He has since received a promotion.



TENCO

- **Brandon Stevens** enrolled with SITE onsite at AppHarvest in June 2021, where he was hired as a crop care specialist. Since he began working with SITE Success Coach Jimmie Wilson and JERSS Brittany Kegley, Brandon has obtained housing, purchased a vehicle, and been promoted to a new position with AppHarvest's Emergency Response Team. “I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for the help of my success coaches, Jimmie and Brittany,” he said.
- **Mark Holt** enrolled through SITE after he completed treatment at Morehead Inspiration Center in July 2021. He decided to remain in Morehead, where SITE assisted him in obtaining his Peer Support Certification, after which he was offered a position at the Inspiration Center as a detox associate. Once Mark found his own housing in Morehead, SITE assisted him with his deposit and transferring utilities into his name. Mark still checks in with JERSS Brittany Kegley every two weeks, and recently noted that due to the help of SITE he was able to fly home to California and attend a family member's funeral. While there, he saw his children for the first time in nine years and began mending relationships with his family. “I am so grateful for all of your help,” he said. “I know I would not have been able to be where I am today without your help and encouragement.”

EKCEP

- **Jessica Jones** learned about SITE while completing Leslie County Drug Court. Unemployed and living with her grandmother in Perry County at the time, she worked with JERSS Barbara Smith to enter a work experience with a goal to become a registered peer support specialist. After earning certification, she landed her first recovery center job at the Volunteers of America Freedom House. Currently, Jessica is employed as a Peer Support Specialist at All In Recovery. She also has her own place to live, bought a car, and has her children back at home.
- **Lisa Burton** and **Kenna Smith** were referred to SITE via Volunteers of America. While already certified in peer support, they were interested in obtaining registered KY alcohol and drug counseling certification while working full-time at VOA. A year after beginning that training they opened the first transitional living home for women in Clay County. Now, one year after opening Living Clean LLC, they have expanded and currently operate two women's and one men's facility. They have hired three SITE clients who now work for them full-time.
- **Sabrina Hudson** was referred to SITE from Leslie County Drug Court. JERSS Barbara Smith assisted Sabrina with a work experience at Debra K. Lewis Tax Office in Hyden. She excelled in this position and later was hired full-time. Two years later, she is remaining on the job and actually training to run the office when Lewis retires.



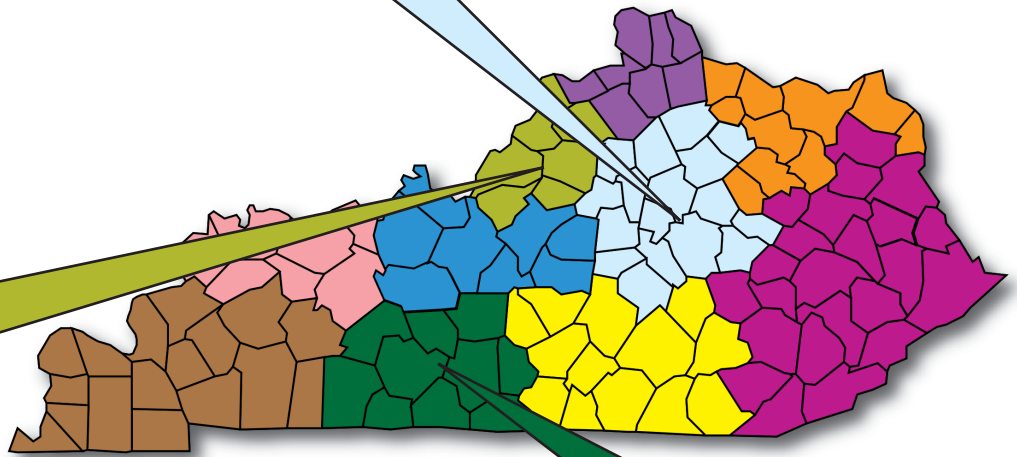
SUCCESSSES

Bluegrass

- **Patrick Biddle** entered sober living in Georgetown in fall 2020. SITE bought tools for Patrick to work in maintenance at Bluegrass Property Management and later purchased auto parts for his car. JERSS Terri Hudson located a grant through Bluegrass Community Action to help with Patrick's basic expenses as a student and wrote a letter of recommendation on his behalf. He has maintained his sobriety, is working on an associates degree in business administration, and is still working at Bluegrass Property Management.
- **Brittany Brandenburg** came to SITE as a server at Texas Roadhouse, but had broken her leg and was unable to continue working. JERSS Terri Hudson completed a résumé with her and provided some rental assistance. SITE paid for her peer support training in April 2021, and today she serves as the outreach coordinator for Oxford House, overseeing all of the company's houses (men's and women's) in Central Kentucky.

Kentuckianaworks

- **Peggy Rose Wood** enrolled with SITE in June 2021. JERSS Millie Stevens quickly established a rapport with Peggy through weekly visits. SITE helped her obtain her birth certificate and assisted in finding housing after recovery, paying her deposit and first week's rent. Stevens helped her create a résumé and connect with a new job in Jefferson County, for which SITE provided her with work clothes, a coat, and a 30-day bus pass. "You don't know how much you have helped me," she said. "I was terrified of living in a big city, but now I am feeling more confident."
- **Sara Brownstein** enrolled in SITE in April 2020 and began working with JERSS Millie Stevens, who provided support including a bus pass to help her get to and from work, and is helping her obtain peer support certification. Sara fell behind on rent following emergency surgery in the fall of 2021, for which SITE assisted her in covering most of her required costs. She recently returned to work and also completed her six-month follow-up with GPRA.



South Central

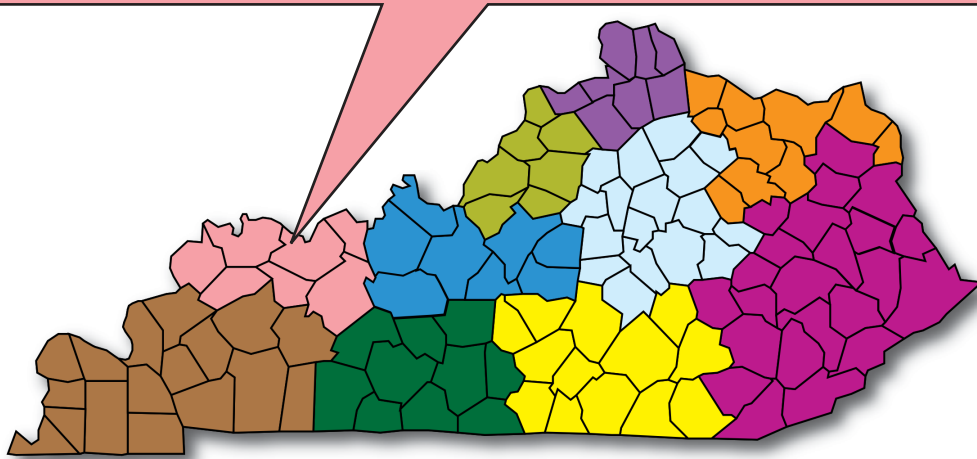
- Kevin Kilmon began working with SITE JERSS Meredith Hester in October 2020 as he was not enjoying his current job. He was new to a sober living home in Warren County, and had recently gotten out of a short stint in a rehab facility. Kevin and Meredith worked together to create a résumé, discuss career plans and goals as well as find him a more suitable job. In the short few weeks he had enrolled with SITE, Kevin has a new job that he thoroughly enjoys and is extremely happy in his current living situation.
- Carri Forrister first met with JERSS Meredith Hester in August 2021. Hester ensured that she had a social security card, access to resources in the area, and bus passes to get to and from work. Very recently, Carri found out she is pregnant and Hester connected and referred her to local resources in the community to assist. With multiple agencies now working with Carri as well as her prioritizing her sobriety and living in a sober living home, Carri maintains a full-time job working at a hotel in Warren County.
- Jeremy Whitsett met with JERSS Meredith Hester in July 2021, who worked diligently to connect him with a job in the field for which he has both an education and experience. Jeremy now works full-time at GM. Jeremy still remains in a leadership position at Victory Lane Sober Living even though he transitioned out of living in one of their sober living homes and into the very first home of his own.



SUCCESSSES

Green River

- **Raven Lamar** is recently sober (1 month), but before she her addiction wanted to become a nurse. She enrolled with SITE with a need to find a job in the home health field. JERSS Brittany Hippler referred her to Home Instead in Owensboro. Raven interviewed for the job the next day and was hired. She is planning for her future career path to start certified nurse aid school and continue on that career path until she can become a nurse. SITE assisted her with a bus pass and work attire to be able to begin her position as a CNA.
- With help from SITE JERSS Brittany Hippler, **James Paris** found himself behind on rent at TrueNorth Treatment Center. SITE provided funding to help him catch up and later connected him with a job at Hood Container. Since September he has graduated from TrueNorth, and SITE's continued assistance includes funding to help him with housing to be able to live on his own as he continued to work and attend school to earn a degree in information technology.
- **Billy Rigdon** is a client at TrueNorth and sober for 18 months. He suffers with mental health issues (anxiety) and does not like working in public. After enrolling with SITE, JERSS Brittany Kipler helped him catch up on his rent and connected him with a local job in construction. In September he was promoted and able to work his own jobs. SITE covered the cost of tools required for his new position that would allow him to continue to work and earn a living.



Featured SITE Success Story: Samuel Dyllan McDaniels

Samuel Dyllan McDaniels was making his way through the Knott County Drug Court curriculum when his case was initially referred to east Kentucky Addiction Recovery and Training (eKART), a subset of the SITE program that combines EKCEP's array of workforce services with job entry and retention support specialists and success coaches.

Employment was a part of the drug court curriculum, but McDaniels had no training and little experience. He wanted to work toward a career as a lineman, and began consulting with eKART's Tesa Turner to determine next steps.

Turner connected McDaniels with a grounds man position at Hurley Electrical Contracting (HEC), a com-

pany based in nearby Perry County that performs repairs on electrical transmission or fiber optic lines. HEC agreed to hire McDaniels as part of an on-the-job (OJT) training contract that would allow him to hold a job while he trained to ultimately join a lineman crew with the company.

In addition to assisting with his OJT, eKART covered the cost for McDaniels to purchase the gear and tools he would need on the job. And now, after more than 18 months of continued employment and sobriety, McDaniels not only achieved his goal of becoming a lineman, but also received a pay raise and is now the foreman of his own crew.

"I always wanted to be a lineman but never really

thought it could happen," McDaniels said. "Now, not only am I a lineman, I have my own crew, which is something I never dared to dream of. You will never know how grateful I am to be able to do what I'm doing and it could never have been possible without eKART."

eKART is funded in part by a grant from the Appala-

chian Regional Commission Partnership Opportunities and Workforce and Economic Revitalization Initiative. The Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE), funded entirely by federal grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides additional support.



Samuel McDaniels, fourth from right, is pictured above with his lineman crew with Hurley Electrical Contracting.