

EKCEP Programs Deliver Lasting Value for Eastern Kentucky

In 2025, EKCEP partnered with Lightcast, a national labor market analytics firm, to independently analyze the impact of Program Year 2023–2024 services. EKCEP, the workforce development agency for 23 counties in Appalachian Kentucky, delivers a wide range of services to jobseekers, employers, and individuals working to overcome addiction or justice involvement. The study confirmed EKCEP's programs boost earnings, expand the tax base, and generate lasting taxpayer savings.

**\$61.7
Million**

Participants in EKCEP programs gained more than \$61.7 million in new annual earnings.

**\$91.9
Million**

Higher wages are projected to generate an additional \$91.9 million in state tax revenues over the next decade.

**11,795
Enrolled**

EKCEP programs completed 11,795 enrollments in programs that help Kentuckians prepare for and secure lasting employment.

**\$11.3
Million**

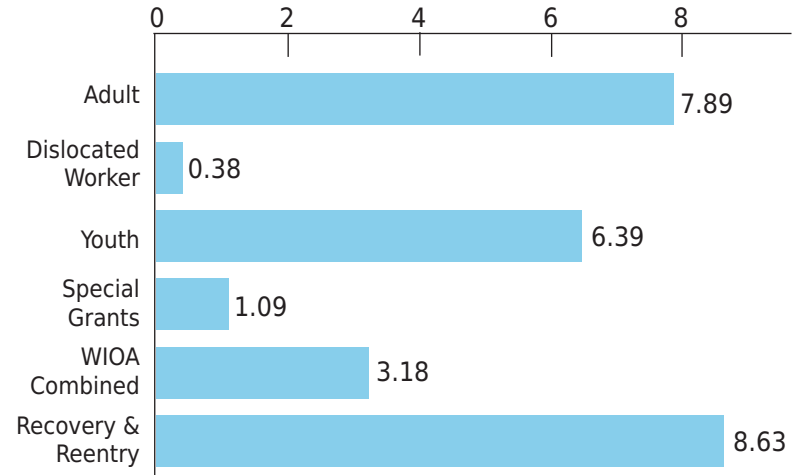
Recovery participants experienced a 65 percent increase in annual earnings, adding \$11.3 million in new wages attributable to EKCEP.

**\$8.9
Million**

EKCEP's operations generated \$8.9 million in added income for the regional economy and supported 142 jobs.

The return on investment (ROI) analysis for Program Year 2023–2024 shows that EKCEP programs generated strong economic value for participants and taxpayers alike. The Adult and Recovery & Reentry programs produced the highest returns, while Youth services also had substantial impact, proving the power of workforce investment in Eastern Kentucky.

Benefit-Cost Ratio (ROI) of EKCEP Programs, PY 2023-2024



Participants in EKCEP programs saw average annual earnings rise from \$6,274 before enrollment to \$16,573 after completion, an increase of nearly \$10,000 per year. Post-exit wages reflect this growth, with Adult participants averaging \$15.69 per hour (\$30,600 annually), Youth \$18.15, Special Grants \$17.35, and Dislocated Workers \$30.45.

Average Hourly Wages After EKCEP Services, PY 2023-2024

