



Governor Beshear Announces Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Awarded \$22.9 Million in CARES Funding

Money will help public transit agencies hard-hit by COVID-19 pandemic

Gov. Andy Beshear announced today that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has been awarded nearly \$22.9 million for relief of public transit agencies that have been hit hard by the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding, part of the CARES Act, is from the Federal Transit Administration. KYTC will distribute it in grants to 17 public transit agencies across Kentucky.

“Public transit agencies and their employees are a lifeline to thousands of Kentuckians who depend on them for daily transportation,” Gov. Beshear said. “For those Kentuckians, the bus service is how they get to doctor appointments, the grocery and other essential locations.”

Kentucky Transportation Secretary Jim Gray noted that public transit agencies have lost ridership because of the pandemic and have experienced much employee time lost to illness. “These agencies are struggling financially, and this funding is sorely needed to keep services running and our people protected,” Secretary Gray said.

CARES – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security – was enacted by the U.S. Congress to stimulate the economy while much of the nation’s workforce stays healthy at home.

The newly announced grant is for \$22,894,101. The funding will sustain the transit agencies by covering some operational expenses, including administrative leave for employees forced to self-isolate because of exposure to people infected with COVID-19.

Other eligible expenses include purchases of fuel and procurement of personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfection services and protective barriers between drivers and passengers.

A list of the transit agencies, amounts of potential awards and areas of service is available [here](#).

More information about Gov. Beshear's actions and Kentucky's response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at the main [Kentucky COVID-19 webpage](#).

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About The KYTC

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on KYTC contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with KYTC as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

Your Guide to Selecting Hand & Head PPE for the Jobsite

Best practices & tips for selecting gear that keeps your employees safe

The range of new personal protective equipment (PPE) coming on the market is growing at a fairly steady clip. This is partly due to highly innovative engineering, intensive research and development, new composite and synthetic materials and advanced production techniques.

In this article, we will look at two universal examples of PPE—hand and head protection. According to the rubric of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), these forms of PPE are not actually called “gloves” or “hard hats.” They are correctly described as “hand protection” and “head protection.” This clarification might seem like semantics, but it illustrates OSHA’s line of thought—and there are actually a lot of ways to protect both the hands and the head from jobsite hazards. We naturally default to gloves and hard hats, but in reality, the decision regarding selecting the best protection is a bit more complex.

In the OSHA parlance, “the employer” should ideally perform a “hazard assessment” to “recognize and identify” hazards in the workplace. OSHA offers guidance on something called the “Hierarchy of Controls,” which specifies the order of priority to eliminate or control the identified hazard. Engineering controls are first, followed by administrative controls, and lastly, PPE.

Those working in the construction trades typically default directly to the PPE control, because of the wide-ranging and diverse multitude of hazards on a typical jobsite. Luckily, OSHA has already done the research on these industry-specific hazards, and an assessment form can be found at osha.gov.

Next on the front lines of protection equipment is the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ANSI is partnered with a group called the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA). They set the acceptance standards for performance criteria on most articles of PPE. It’s important to note that all PPE is subject to the following minimum requirements:

- Must be paid for by the employer. Keep in mind it’s not a blank check. Reasonable controls apply on employee usage.
- Must be ANSI/ISEA-rated. Task-specific hand protection and hard hats are subject to this requirement:
 - Examples include welding gloves, high-cuff rubber gloves, lineman’s gloves, nitrile-dipped and acid-resistant gloves, etc.
 - Many other trades require specialized gloves that will carry an ANSI rating for cut resistance, impact protection, puncture resistance, electrical insulating properties, etc. These are called “defined hazards,” and the definition is crucial when it comes to making the call on what those are.

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CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.