

# KYTC Newsletter

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Volume 86



## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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## Gov. Andy Beshear Announces \$500,000 in Grants to Four Kentucky Riverports for Infrastructure Improvements, Equipment

Well-maintained riverports are essential to Kentucky economy, standard of living

Gov. Andy Beshear, whose top priorities have included elevating Kentucky's multimodal transportation system, today announced the awarding of \$500,000 in grants to four Kentucky riverports for needed infrastructure and equipment upgrades to improve operations and access to riverports.

"An efficient transportation system in all its modes – highway, air, rail and water – is essential to our economy and standard of living," Gov. Beshear said. "Our Kentucky riverports play a unique role in that system. We're pleased to be able to support these strategic investments."

The funding, which was legislatively appropriated and must be locally matched, was awarded for six separate projects at four riverports. Kentucky Transportation Secretary Jim Gray approved the awards at the recommendation of the Kentucky Water Transportation Advisory Board, which reviewed the applications. "The grants will help these riverports meet a range of needs for both operations and capacity," Secretary Gray said.

"State investment is beyond critical to the preservation of all public ports across the Commonwealth to provide efficient and cost-effective multimodal access to our thriving Industries," Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport Authority president, said. "The Owensboro Riverport Authority serves the growing aluminum industry in Kentucky by handling over 500,000 short tons of aluminum annually. These state funds will provide a portion of the necessary dollars needed to replace aging handling equipment utilized daily to promote our mission of multimodal optimization across the state.

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### 3 Reasons Contractors Should Hire More Women

National Center for Construction Education & Research findings highlight the critical roles of women in the industry

We need more of the right people for the construction industry to keep pace with project demand.

Statistics show that for every four people leaving the industry, only one enters. But keeping up is not just about numbers.

Recent research shows that women bring unique qualities to the jobsite that will help contractors improve project outcomes. The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) conducted focus groups in 2022 with 176 tradeswomen in the U.S. and Canada and gathered information from project management teams in separate focus groups. In addition, NCCER analyzed survey responses from 770 additional women in construction. This was followed by a 2023 survey conducted by Ambition Theory, a professional coaching and leadership development company, in collaboration with NCCER.

The research revealed several reasons that contractors might want to consider hiring more women.

#### 1. Improve Productivity

Three strengths, which contribute to improved productivity, were identified in the research.

##### 1. Attention to detail and following established processes.

Women tend to be more careful in executing their tasks with the required detailed specifications, which was mentioned in 69% of the focus groups. These qualities were corroborated by members of project management teams who participated in separate focus groups. One participant said: "Women are more likely to be perfectionists. We're way more likely to double check our own work. Another thing we bring to the table is the ability to follow process and pay attention to details."

Management team members agreed, stating that women are focused on following the prescribed work process as designed instead of relying on experience and physical strength.

##### 2. Maintaining organized jobsites and taking care of equipment.

It's well known that downtime on the job is one of the factors that contributes to cost and schedule overruns. Often this is due to things beyond the individual field worker's control, such as late delivery of materials or equipment, project data resolution or coordination with other trades.

However, consider how much time is spent on a daily basis with gathering tools and materials, something that the individual worker does have control over.

### 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.



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