

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Committee on November 12, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Type: Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund (HWIF) Steering Committee
Date: September 17, 2025
Time: 1 p.m. ET
Location: Virtual meeting; livestreamed in CPE YouTube page

CALL TO ORDER

The Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund Steering Committee met September 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM. Committee chair LaDonna Rogers presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members who attended: Mason Dyer, Tim Gaillard, Donovan Layne, Cliff Maesaka, Michael Muscarella, Ladonna Rogers, Beth Shafer, Michael Yoder

HWIF PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL ROUND 4 & HWIF TOOLKIT OVERVIEW

Ms. Michaela Steverson, CPE Program Manager for Healthcare Workforce Initiatives, presented an overview of the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund (HWIF) Partnership Proposal Round 4 and the updated HWIF Toolkit. She shared that the submission and evaluation processes will transition to Microsoft Forms to streamline proposal collection, review, and feedback. This shift aims to enhance efficiency of proposal review. Ms. Steverson also provided an overview of the HWIF toolkit resources designed to support applicants and evaluators throughout the proposal process.

BRAINSTORMING – SUSTAINING HWIF IMPACT IN TIGHT BUDGET ENVIRONMENTS

Committee Chair LaDonna Rogers led the committee in a discussion on the potential impacts of upcoming Medicaid changes and broader budget constraints on Kentucky's healthcare employers. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that HWIF investments continue to provide meaningful, sustainable support to healthcare providers despite financial challenges. The committee explored strategies to maximize the fund's impact, strengthen partnerships, and prioritize initiatives that address critical workforce needs in a fiscally responsible manner.

ADVISOR PRESENTATION – UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF DIETETICS AND HUMAN NUTRITION

Dr. Liz Combs, Director of the Accelerated Coordinated Program in Dietetics at the University of Kentucky, highlighted the critical role of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) in managing chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and hypertension. She noted Kentucky's high chronic disease rates, the limited workforce of 1,417 licensed dietitians—especially in rural areas—and the educational and financial barriers limiting entry into the field. Dr. Combs emphasized that the HWIF could address these gaps by supporting scholarships to students, therefore expanding the dietetics workforce and improve access to care statewide.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m. ET.