

What is the Statewide Workforce And Talent Team?

The Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT) is a group of statewide organizations committed to improved measurement, coordination and delivery of workforce development solutions and services to Kentucky employers.

Who are we?

Founding Members of SWATT:

- Secretary, Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development
- Secretary, Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet
- President and CEO, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- Associate Commissioner, Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education
- Executive Director, Kentucky Center for Statistics
- Associate Vice President for Workforce Initiatives, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
- President & CEO, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers
- Chair, Kentucky State Workforce Development Board
- Associate Vice President, Workforce Development, Kentucky Hospital Association

Why SWATT – Why now?

In 2023, Kentucky saw nearly **\$4 billion** in new investment announcements, representing almost **7,000 new jobs**. At the same time, workforce and economic drivers have led to a significant talent gap. Kentucky had 126,000 unfilled positions and 88,000 unemployed persons, creating an excess gap of **38,000 unfilled jobs**.

What is SWATT doing?

In response to feedback from Kentucky employers, SWATT is designing and piloting a unified approach to provide workforce solutions to employers.

Our data-informed strategy is intended to improve coordination, responsiveness, and results among partners and ultimately drive workforce participation and business growth.

We are creating shared metrics, to roll out and assess a pilot in the industries of manufacturing and healthcare. We will then adapt the strategy as a model of operating excellence for execution with industry and workforce partners statewide.

What else is important to convey?

SWATT is not a new program; rather it is a commonsense way to work more efficiently and effectively to serve employers. Every organization at the table is a leader and a key to our state's future, sharing a commitment to defining and using a range of measures of our progress and results.

Our focus is a collective approach to creating and measuring impact for employers with rewarding career opportunities for all our neighbors. Success brings enormous economic growth for all Kentuckians and not just a few. The stakes are high, and now is the time to act.

