

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General Economic Development Updates

What recent economic development initiatives have been approved in Franklin County?

Franklin County has recently approved the Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and secured funding through the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI) Grant. These initiatives aim to enhance business growth, job creation, and infrastructure development in the region.

Where can I find updates on economic development efforts?

Information and updates are available on the Franklin County website and the Kentucky Capital Development Corporation (KCDC) website. Additionally, video news releases and podcasts will be shared regularly to keep the community informed.

The Comprehensive Plan

What is the Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-term guide for Franklin County's growth and development. It was created over two years in collaboration with McBride Dale Clarion and includes strategic land allocation for economic growth. The plan is updated every five years.

What are the key goals of the Comprehensive Plan relative to Economic Development?

- Designating land for business growth and job creation.
 - Addressing the lack of large land parcels for advanced manufacturing.
 - Balancing economic development with community needs.
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Employment Center and Light Industrial Land Use Classification

What is the Employment Center and Light Industrial land use classification?

This classification designates areas intended to attract major employers, particularly in advanced manufacturing and technology-based industries. These sites are selected based on infrastructure availability, proximity to highways, and access to a regional workforce.

Why was this zoning classification established?

Franklin County is planning for job expansion and has identified strategic areas that can support economic expansion. The selected land is relatively flat, has existing and available

utility service. The land runs along the four-lane United States Highway 127S. It is well-positioned for future business development over the long term.

How is land acquired to be used in conjunction with the plan?

People who desire to sell their property for a proposed project are able to do so. No one is forced to sell or required to sell against their will. The future land classifications are not zoning actions. Any land used acquired for a proposed project must be properly rezoned through the Franklin County Planning Commission after due process. Rezones are then routed through a public process at either the City or County depending on the location of the land.

Eminent domain (compulsory purchase or compulsory acquisition of private property for public use) is restricted in Kentucky. The government can only acquire private property in this manner if it is for a clear public use or a necessity and not solely for economic gain. It can be used to redevelop and eliminate blight and slum areas.

Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI) Grant

What is the KPDI Grant?

Established in 2022 by the Kentucky General Assembly, the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI) provides \$100 million in funding for site and infrastructure upgrades to promote economic growth across Kentucky.

How much funding is available through KPDI?

Each county can receive up to \$2 million per project. Regional collaborations are encouraged as it allows counties to combine their funding sources.

How has Franklin County benefited from KPDI?

Franklin County partnered with Anderson County, Lawrenceburg, and the City of Frankfort to form the Franklin Anderson Regional Industrial Development Authority. This partnership secured a \$4 million match grant for site development and marketing.

How much land is needed for the KPDI project?

The best practice for Economic Development recommends communities set aside at least 350 acres for their project. A maximum of 1,000 acres would indicate a project capable of attracting a minimum of 1,500 jobs. To date Franklin County has optioned about 220 acres for the project.

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What will the rezoning process be for any KPDI acquired land?

Land will need to be rezoned in order to be used for the commerce and technology purpose stated as part of the grant program. The Planned Industrial District will be the category sought in a rezoning hearing in front of the Frankfort and Franklin County Planning Commission. The Planned Industrial District application will include these intended sectors and subsectors the community is working to attract. Using the Team Kentucky Blueprint for the Commonwealth (new KY Strategic Plan for Economic Development) we envision the following: Investing in high-potential opportunities such as Aerospace, Agritech, Life Sciences, Automotive, and Manufacturing.

What is the estimated economic impact of new jobs to the community?

1,000 jobs at an average wage of \$50,000/year has a significant impact in Franklin County. City and County governments collect taxes and provide services. These taxes provide valuable operating funds for County schools, public works, roads, waste collection, public services, parks, arts, and culture.

These jobs also have an indirect effect on spending on things like groceries, gas, restaurants, and housing. The addition of just 1 new job in the Information and Manufacturing sectors can result in the creation of at least nine total jobs in the national economy. Source: [The Multiplier Effect: Which Industries are the Biggest Job Creators?](#)

Franklin Anderson Industrial Development Authority

What is the Franklin Anderson Industrial Development Authority?

It is a multi-county industrial authority established through an interlocal agreement between Franklin County, Anderson County, Lawrenceburg, and Frankfort. The authority will oversee the use of KPDI grant funds and manage the commerce and technology site development.

How can I stay informed about the Franklin Anderson Industrial Authority's progress?

Public meetings will be held regularly, and updates will be posted on the County and KCDC websites.

Development Plans and Industry Attraction

Will the land be developed before an employer is recruited?

The goal is to have land pre-zoned and marketed to attract employers. However, beyond initial access infrastructure, significant development will not take place until an employer has been secured.

What types of industries is Franklin County aiming to attract?

Franklin County is targeting industries in advanced manufacturing, ag-tech, biopharma, and life sciences, complementing its existing strengths in government, auto manufacturing, bourbon, and tourism. These industries are targeted in the State Economic Development Plan, the Blueprint for Kentucky. [Blueprint for the Commonwealth | Cabinet for Economic Development](#)

Economic Development Strategic Plan

What is Franklin County's Economic Development Strategic Plan?

Franklin County is working with Garner Economics to develop a six-month strategic plan that aligns with the Bluegrass Region's Economic Blueprint and Team Kentucky's Economic Development Plan. This Action Plan will outline the steps the community should follow to stabilize and grow the economic base. [Garner Economics - Economic development consulting - economic strategy](#)

How can I participate in the planning process?

Stakeholder surveys will be distributed in mid-March, and a report will be presented in July. The community is encouraged to provide input. Garner Economics is providing data analysis, benchmarking, and best practices for the City and County.

Community Engagement and Transparency

How can I get involved in economic development discussions?

Residents can:

- Attend public meetings of the FAIDA.
- Follow updates on County and KCDC websites.
- Participate in the strategic planning survey.

Where can I direct further questions or provide input?

For additional inquiries, contact the KCDC or attend one of the scheduled community meetings. Future video podcasts will also address community questions and concerns.