



Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

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### Statewide News Release

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### Gov. Beshear Honors Kentuckians at Annual Service Awards Ceremony

*List of honorees comprises 16 volunteers, organizations*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 28, 2026)** – Last week, state leaders gathered in Frankfort to honor 16 winners of the 30th Governor’s Service Awards who were recognized for exceptional service and dedication to their communities. The ceremony, which took place at the Foundry, included Rocky Adkins, senior advisor to Gov. Andy Beshear, and Dr. Steven Stack, secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS).

The award ceremony is a longstanding tradition in the commonwealth that honors community volunteerism and service to others. The annual event is hosted by Serve Kentucky, which administers the state’s AmeriCorps programs, and coincides with National Volunteer Week.

“Every year, I am amazed and humbled by the willingness of Kentuckians to support each other, show up for their communities, and give so much of themselves in service to others,” said Gov. Beshear. “These awards are a token of our appreciation for their selfless acts, which have such a tremendous impact on the lives of others.”

Giving a nod to his collegiate basketball days, Adkins’ remarks honored the importance of service and selflessness of the award recipients.

“The definition of public service is not political division; it’s about the point guard mentality. A point guard’s responsibility is to make everybody else better, and when you make everybody else better, you make yourself better,” said Adkins. “My definition of public service is this: I get up every day and try to find a way to help somebody.”

The ceremony included eight individual and eight group awards. Recipients

represented an array of services and fields from across the commonwealth, such as food banks, individuals who supported disaster relief, and a debate club. Dr. Stack acknowledged the diverse representation of volunteers and the important role they play in shaping the future of the commonwealth.

“You are the best of Team Kentucky. You embody the spirit of it being better to give than receive,” said Stack. “In my life, I have learned to appreciate the power of gratitude, the power of surrounding yourself with kind and generous people. I thoroughly believe that we get much more in return by giving to others.”

A list of honorees and their hometowns can be viewed and downloaded on [Serve Kentucky's website](#).

“For 30 years, we have been sponsoring the Governor’s Service Awards,” said Joe Bringardner, Serve Kentucky’s executive director. “It has been such a blessing. As an entity – Serve Kentucky – we have a thousand AmeriCorps members who are dedicating a year or more to serving their communities in every county in Kentucky.”

For more information about the Governor’s Service Awards, Kentucky’s AmeriCorps programs and volunteerism, visit: [serve.ky.gov](http://serve.ky.gov).

In addition to coordinating the Governor’s Service Awards, Serve Kentucky currently administers 19 [AmeriCorps](#) program grants with more than \$8.8 million in federal grant funds along with supporting other community service programs across the commonwealth. AmeriCorps is an independent national agency focused on service through a variety of volunteer work programs in many sectors.

State Service Commissions oversee the annual grant competition that awards funding to AmeriCorps State programs, determine social needs in their states, set policy and program priorities, provide training and assistance, support national days of service, and promote service and volunteering.

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Information on how the state is working to improve the lives and health of our people is available at [CHFS.ky.gov](http://CHFS.ky.gov). The cabinet can also be followed on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).