



**Andy Beshear**  
GOVERNOR

## CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

**Eric Friedlander**  
SECRETARY

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### Statewide Press Release

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## Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Eric Friedlander To Retire After 40 Years of Service

*Kentucky Department for Public Health Commissioner Dr. Steven Stack appointed as CHFS secretary effective Aug. 1, 2025*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 7, 2025)** – Gov. Andy Beshear has announced that Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) Secretary Eric Friedlander will be retiring on Aug. 1, and that Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, has been appointed as the next CHFS secretary.

The Governor made the announcement during his [Team Kentucky Update](#), where he was joined by Secretary Friedlander and Dr. Stack and acknowledged the significant contributions of both leaders. Secretary Friedlander is retiring after 40 years of service to the commonwealth, mostly with CHFS. He and Dr. Stack helped lead Team Kentucky through one of the most challenging times in history, the COVID-19 pandemic.

“During that time, I was glad to have these two with me,” said Gov. Beshear. “Their level of service goes beyond mere professionalism. They were both living out their faith and living out their values at the highest levels, selflessly serving all of our neighbors.”

The Governor added the COVID-19 response was one of many ways that Secretary Friedlander and Dr. Stack have served the Commonwealth.

“At the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, we all work to lift people up. We work to lift individuals and communities when they face challenges,” said Secretary Friedlander. “Our partners, our cabinet employees, we try to be the light when folks face challenges. Governor, thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been a tremendous honor.”

As secretary, Friedlander leads a \$22.7 billion cabinet that serves every Kentucky citizen in some capacity. Through the years, Secretary Friedlander has led or worked in all major departments in the cabinet.

Dr. Stack was appointed Commissioner for Public Health and Chief Medical Officer for the Commonwealth of Kentucky in February 2020. Dr. Stack is a board-certified emergency physician with over 20 years of emergency medicine experience and has served in numerous leadership roles, including President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials from 2023 to 2024.

“I’d like to say thank you to all those employees at the Department for Public Health at the state and to all the local health department employees,” said Dr. Stack. “Kentuckians, we have around 4,000 people dedicated to supporting you every day in all sorts of things that we don’t often talk about, but which make a tremendous impact in the quality and safety of your lives day in and day out. So, thank you to all those dedicated public servants. It’s been a privilege to serve alongside of you and to be your commissioner in these years.”

There are more 8,000 employees in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services across 93 agencies, branches and functions, including the departments for Public Health; Medicaid Services; Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities; Community Based Services; and Aging and Independent Living; Office of Medical Cannabis; Office of the Inspector General; and Serve Kentucky.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Stack echoed the cabinet’s vision of a commonwealth where every Kentuckian reaches their full human potential and all communities thrive, encouraging Kentuckians to lead with their values and work together.

“We get a lot better and a lot further individually and collectively when we treat each other with kindness, dignity and respect and I’m going to continue to beat that drum and remind us of how much more we can do together than we can if we divide ourselves and pit ourselves against each other,” said Dr. Stack.

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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](https://chfs.ky.gov). Follow the cabinet on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).