



New Kentucky Nonprofit Launches to Help Communities Navigate Data Center Development

Kentucky Digital Infrastructure Resource provides practical information, access to experts and best practices while keeping decisions where they belong: with Kentucky communities

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Oct. 22, 2026) – A new Kentucky-based nonprofit will help Kentucky communities get reliable information and best practices related to data centers and related digital infrastructure.

Community leaders across the state are looking for guidance as they evaluate potential data centers in their area; in many cases, these projects are the largest economic development proposals ever considered in their cities or counties. The newly launched Kentucky Digital Infrastructure Resource, Inc. (KyDIR) is designed to give those communities a credible place to start when questions arise about data center development. The group's first phase of resources are now available at KyDIR.org.

Rather than advocate for approval or rejection of particular projects, KyDIR will help local leaders and residents understand the issues, connect with knowledgeable experts and identify the questions that should be answered before local decisions are made.

The organization is founded by Kentuckians and funded by Kentucky-based or Kentucky-operating entities.

"Kentucky communities deserve both the opportunity to compete for major investment and the ability to evaluate that opportunity on their own terms," said Mark David Goss, chair of KyDIR. "KyDIR's primary mission is to strengthen that local process. We want communities to have access to reliable information, experienced voices and practical tools so they can make informed decisions that fit their specific needs."

"We support statewide education and local decision-making," said Kerri Richardson, managing director of KyDIR. "A proposal in one Kentucky community will not look exactly like a proposal in another. Our role is not to tell a community what decision to make. It is to make sure local leaders have access to credible information and people who can help them ask the right questions."

KyDIR's website offers a centralized library of the topics communities most often encounter when evaluating digital infrastructure and the organization will continue to add new content. Topics will include planning and zoning, electricity and utility infrastructure, water and cooling systems, economic and fiscal considerations, public safety, land use, community engagement, accountability and long-term site planning. Each topic is considered in context of current Kentucky laws and regulations.

Connecting communities with expertise and real-world experience



In addition to its growing online resource library, KyDIR is building a statewide speakers bureau that will help civic organizations, local governments, planning officials, economic development groups and other community audiences identify speakers and panelists on specific digital infrastructure topics.

“Impact to electric rates is one of the first questions communities raise, and Kentuckians deserve specific, fact-based information,” said Don Mosier, president and CEO of East Kentucky Power Cooperative. “Our role in supporting KyDIR is to help communities better understand how data centers can connect to the grid and bring opportunity to communities while helping stabilize electric rates for Kentuckians.”

“KyDIR was created to give communities information and expertise to better understand data center proposals and the benefits they could bring to the places we’re proud to serve,” said John Crockett, president of LG&E and KU. “We proactively created our extremely high load factor tariff for data centers with protections in place for everyday customers. Their large, steady electricity use means data centers pay a larger share of the electric system’s fixed costs, reducing the share other customers need to cover and helping keep service affordable.”

“Transparency and community engagement are fundamental to responsible development, especially when it comes to projects of this scale,” said Stephen Gray, CEO of Gray. “KyDIR will serve as a valuable resource for helping communities better understand how data centers are planned and constructed. As a developer, designer, and builder, Gray is proud to partner with KyDIR to help our communities make informed decisions about their future.”

Founders and supporters of KyDIR

The organization is led by three longtime Kentucky business and civic leaders:

Mark David Goss (chair), of Nicholasville, a retired attorney formerly specializing in energy-related issues and a former chair of the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

M. Lynn Parrish (secretary), of Pikeville, former chair and director of Community Trust Bancorp and retired executive in coal and mineral development.

William “Bill” Jones (vice chair and treasurer), of Paducah, retired regional executive for US Bank, former chair of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and independent audit expert for multiple boards.

Initial supporters, including East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Gray, LG&E and KU, Poe Companies, PowerHouse and NetChoice, have contributed to KyDIR to give communities access to comprehensive information and expertise to more fully evaluate data center proposals.

###