

Addendum

School Facilities Construction Commission Awards

Gov. Beshear presented more than \$47 million in fiscal year 2024-2026 state budget funding for public school facility renovations in SOAR counties. The awards include:

- \$7 million total, \$3.5 million in each fiscal year, to the School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) budget unit to be distributed to the Lincoln County School District to support upgrades, renovations and enhancements to the district's facilities;
- \$7 million total, \$3.5 million in each fiscal year, to the SFCC budget unit to be distributed to the Garrard County School District to support upgrades, renovations and enhancements to the district's facilities;
- \$1 million in fiscal year 2024-2025 to the SFCC budget unit to be distributed to the McCreary County School District for middle school and high school campus road construction;
- \$7.1 million to Cumberland County Schools for Cumberland County Elementary School upgrades in fiscal year 2024-25;
- \$12 million to Martin County Schools for upgrades at Inez Elementary School; and
- \$13 million to Rockcastle County Schools for Rockcastle County Middle School.

“Lincoln County Schools will be able to make some great improvements with these funds,” said Judge/Executive **Woods Adams**. “Our public school system is a big part of our county in terms of educating students and providing employment to our citizens. We owe a great deal of thanks to our legislators, Rep. David Meade and Sen. Brandon Storm, along with everyone else who made this possible. I also want to thank Gov. Beshear for presenting us with this state budget award, and we are excited to see the impact it will have on Lincoln County.”

“We were very excited and appreciative for the collaborative efforts of the House and Senate when we learned about the provision of House Bill 1 that allocated \$3.5 million each year for two years to support school facility upgrades, renovations and enhancements in Lincoln County,” said Superintendent **Bruce Smith**. “We have started the planning process on addressing some of our facility needs because it is time that we start looking for ways to invest in our facilities that our students, staff and communities use each day! We cannot wait to see the many positive changes that this funding will bring to the Lincoln County Public School System!”

“I would like to sincerely thank Gov. Andy Beshear, Sen. Robert Stivers, Rep. Ken Upchurch and our legislative body for securing \$1 million to construct a secondary access route for McCreary County Middle and McCreary Central High Schools,” said Superintendent **Paul Brian Crawford**. “The safety of our students and staff is always our number one priority, and this new route will significantly enhance safety on campus while improving traffic flow, providing a safer and more efficient environment for everyone. This is a monumental step forward for our district, and we are incredibly fortunate to have leaders who prioritize the well-being of our community. This project is a testament to their commitment.”

“We are deeply appreciative of this assistance, which comes at a critical time as our district continues to meet the ever-changing needs of our students and community,” said Cumberland

County School District Superintendent **Kirk Biggerstaff**. “This new school will help provide a world-class education to our students, preparing them for success in the 21st century.”

“It is with profound gratitude that I would like to thank Gov. Beshear and the Kentucky State Legislature for this financial investment for the future of the Martin County School District,” said Superintendent **Larry James**.

“Today, we are not just investing in bricks and mortar; we are investing in the future of our children,” said Rockcastle County Judge/Executive **Howell Holbrook Jr.** “Together, we are building a brighter future for our students, our community and our state. The building we have has served us well, but is long overdue for renovations. Thanks to everyone who had a part in securing funding for this project.”

High-Speed Internet Awards

The Governor also presented high-speed internet awards benefitting seven counties in the SOAR region:

First, he presented Charter Communications with more than \$31 million dollars to connect 5,982 homes and businesses in:

- Bell County (27 locations)
- Casey County (2,142 locations)
- Garrard County (799 locations)
- Nicholas County (882 locations)
- Pulaski County (1,904 locations)
- And Robertson County (228 locations)

He also presented South Central Telecom with more than \$1.9 million dollars to connect 809 homes and businesses in Edmonson County.

Combined with matching funds, these awards represent \$68 million dollars in investment in this region, connecting a total of more than 6,790 homes and businesses to high-speed internet. These investments were [initially announced](#) last year.

“Charter is grateful to the Beshear administration for its steadfast effort to connect every Kentuckian to reliable, high-quality broadband,” said **Marva Brown Johnson**, group vice president, state government affairs. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with state legislative, county and local leaders through this multi-million-dollar investment in Eastern Kentucky, which exemplifies both Charter’s and the commonwealth’s commitment to helping expand access to high-speed internet for rural Kentucky homes and businesses.”

“I am proud to have worked alongside local leaders to secure these critical investments for Garrard County,” said **Sen. Donald Douglas**. “With \$7 million dedicated to upgrading our school facilities and nearly \$4 million for expanding high-speed internet access, we are paving the way for a stronger future for our students, families and businesses. These projects reflect our commitment to ensuring that our community has the resources it needs to thrive, from modern learning environments to reliable internet access.”

“This \$24.8 million investment to bring high-speed internet access to Casey County will bridge the digital divide and provide vital connectivity to underserved areas, enhancing both quality of life and economic opportunities for our community,” said **Rep. Daniel Elliott**. “I’m incredibly thankful for this significant investment and look forward to seeing the impact.”

“We want to thank the Governor and our state legislators for their generosity and support of our continued growth, infrastructure development and opportunities to better serve the people of Edmonson County,” said Judge/Executive **Scott Lindsey**. “This award of over a \$1.9 million investment in high-speed internet initiatives demonstrates a commitment to improving the infrastructure and the future of our community. Expanding high-speed internet access will make a significant difference in Edmonson County, enhancing opportunities for education, business, health care and more. We are truly grateful for the support, knowing that this investment will make a long-term, meaningful difference for our community!”

“This was one of the highest priorities on my list as judge, and it couldn’t have been accomplished without the work/investment of Gov. Beshear, House Rep. David Meade and Spectrum/Charter Communications,” said Garrard County Judge/Executive **Chris Elleman**. “I can’t thank everyone involved enough for their commitment and dedication to this important step forward for our community.”

“On behalf of the citizens and property owners of Nicholas County, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to Gov. Beshear and Team Kentucky for the generous high-speed internet award which will prove to be of great benefit to our growing rural community, resulting in a wide range of resources to facilitate economic development, government services, education, health care, public safety and much more,” said Judge/Executive **Steve Hamilton**.

“Pulaski County government would like to congratulate Spectrum on its awarding of funds from the Governor at this year’s SOAR Summit,” said Pulaski County Judge/Executive **Marshall Todd**. “Economic opportunities for Pulaski County are becoming more and more dependent on the world outside our region and we know that these funds will go a long way to connecting us to that world.”