

EDUCATION AND SECOND CHANCES

Everyone deserves the opportunity to seek higher education. Currently, anyone with a felony conviction – whether they are incarcerated or have served their sentence – is banned from utilizing Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) money.

WHAT IS KEES?

KEES is a scholarship available to Kentucky high school students, home school students, and GED graduates.

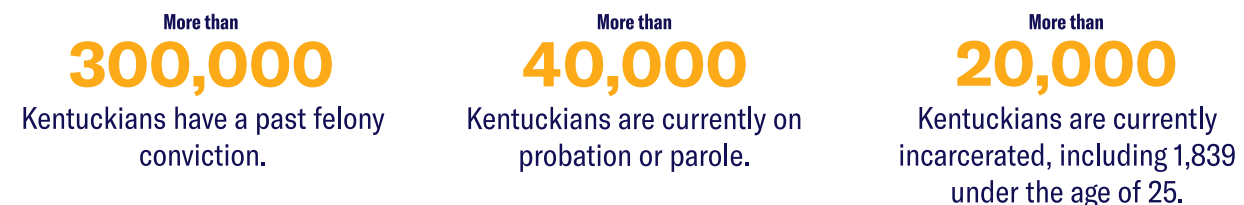
KEES is funded by proceeds from the Kentucky Lottery and administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

Scholarships are awarded to people who have earned a GPA of 2.5 or higher, score reasonably well on standardized tests, attend a certified Kentucky high school or other qualifying school, and/or earn a GED within five years of turning 18. People can apply to use funds for apprenticeships and qualified workforce training.

EFFECTS OF THE FELONY PROHIBITION:

This prohibition affects hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians and is holding our commonwealth back.

Excluding people with felony convictions makes it harder for them to gain employment, fully invest in their communities, and become productive members of our economy.



RACIAL DISPARITIES:

9% of Kentucky's population is Black, yet 22% of those incarcerated are Black. **This prohibition disproportionately sets Black Kentuckians back.**

GENDER DISPARITIES:

Women's incarceration continues to rise. This prohibition is compounding with other factors (i.e. childcare) and making it harder for women to seek education.

Ending this prohibition will open doors for thousands of Kentuckians. Education leads to meaningful employment, self-worth, and will allow formerly incarcerated people to fully reintegrate into their communities, support our economy, and provide for their families.