



# Caldwell County Fiscal Court

Caldwell County Government Center  
100 E Market Street  
Princeton, Kentucky 42445  
270-365-6660 FAX 270-365-6637  
Email: judgeyoung@caldwellcourthouse.com

Judge Executive  
Kota Young

Administrative Assistant  
Lori Dunning

January 19, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to share my experience with ER Assist. In the aftermath of the deadly tornado of December 2021, Caldwell County knew it would need some outside assistance—the depth and breadth of the response work meant we just didn't have enough people working at the county to get all the administrative work done.

Our County Economic Development specialist, Amanda Davenport, pitched in after the storm by searching for firms that specialize in disaster response. She scheduled a zoom interview for several of the agencies in our community with ER Assist. Despite some initial concern raised by those in our community to have "outsiders take away work" from our staff, we decided to hire ER Assist.

The ER Assist team immediately went to work with our County Attorney in developing procurement documents for debris hauler. They arranged both the emergency procurement as well as the final competitive procurement—without their templates and knowledge of what requirements to have in the Request for Proposals or contracts with debris haulers. ER Assist took care of all of the registrations, documentation, the site inspections, and weekly follow up meetings for Public Infrastructure, which allowed the court staff to focus on items with Individual Assistance and the Long Term Recovery Group.

Even though ER Assist did the "back office" work, I'm still the applicant agent—they keep me aware of what is needed and any next steps.

Our debris process went surprisingly smooth. Once the county decided to borrow money to pay disaster expenses—something that we really didn't want to do since we had never borrowed money before—ER Assist helped us coordinate a short term loan offered by KACo—and arranged to have the interest for the loan covered by another grant. In this way, we were able to pay our disaster expenses while still having money to pay payroll.

## MAGISTRATES

**Elbert Bennett**  
District 1

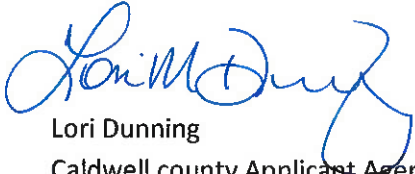
**Jeff Boone**  
District 2

**Brent Stallins**  
District 3

**Jeff Simms**  
District 4

Our FEMA funding was processed much faster than some of our neighboring communities—we attribute to the guidance at each step by ER Assist. They help us with all of the required reporting and closeout of the grant.

I am hopeful you never have a disaster in your community, but if you do, consider using the services of a firm like ER Assist.



Lori Dunning  
Caldwell county Applicant Agent

Caldwell County Fiscal Court Executive Assistant