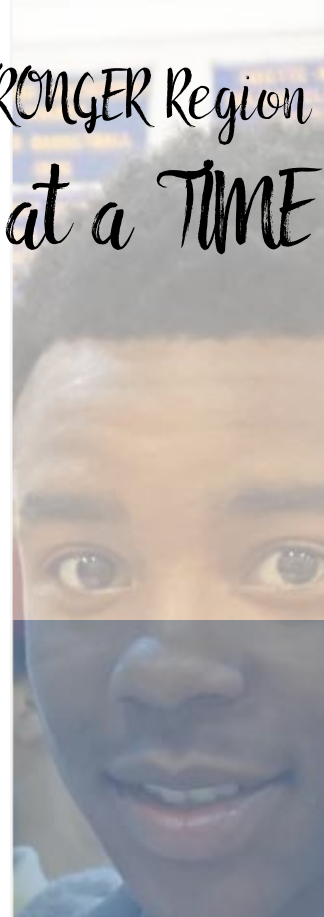
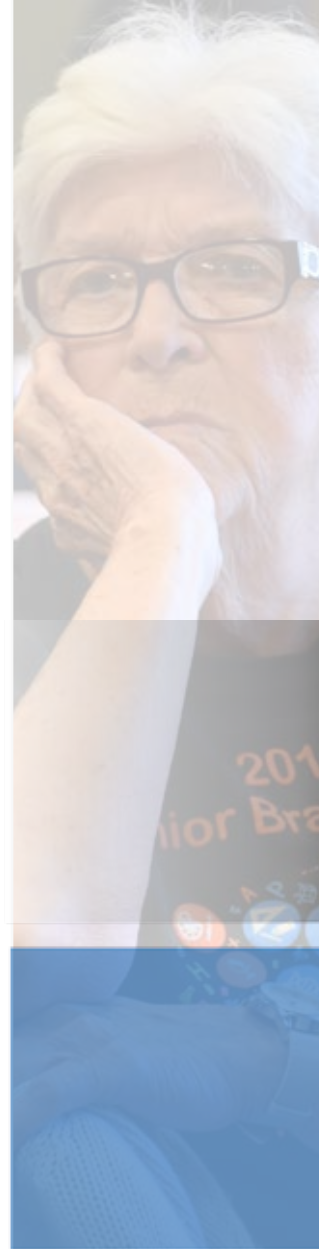


Building a STRONGER Region  
ONE Life at a TIME



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Jackson, TN 38301

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[www.swtd.org](http://www.swtd.org)  
[www.facebook.com/SWTDD](http://www.facebook.com/SWTDD)

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Southwest Tennessee  
Development District  
Annual Report 2016





# Building a Stronger Region 2015-2016 Annual Report

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Bobby King, Mayor of Henderson  
Chairman of the Board



Franklin Smith, Mayor Haywood Co.  
Vice Chairman



Jerry Gist, Mayor of Jackson  
Secretary/Treasurer



Joe W. Barker  
SWTDD Executive Director



## A Letter from Joe W. Barker, SWTDD's Executive Director...

It is our pleasure to provide you with this annual report which highlights activities in the SWTDD region during the 2015-2016 year. Each of us, at SWTDD, feels very fortunate to work with the hundreds of volunteers and partners that make our eight county region very special. We come to work every day knowing we have a tremendous responsibility but also knowing that we have limitless opportunities to serve and shape the future of our region.

SWTDD is an organization that has two distinct divisions. We are the regions Area Agency on Aging & Disability and the US Department of Commerce has designated SWTDD as the Economic Development Agency for the counties of Madison, Henderson, Decatur, Hardin, McNairy, Chester, Hardeman, and Haywood. We have a dedicated staff of professionals who work daily with the elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged to assist them in living a dignified and meaningful life. It is our goal that no person in our region feels alone or neglected but knows we are an agency that has a compassionate staff that is here to either meet their needs or direct them to partner agencies for assistance. Just as our AAAD staff meets the physical needs of the region, our ECD staff works with our eight counties and thirty-five cities to provide economic and infrastructure planning and technical assistance. We are fortunate to have the Memphis Regional Megasite located in our district and have implemented several education/workforce programs to prepare our citizens for the jobs of the 21st century.

Yes, it is an exciting time in Southwest Tennessee. I want to thank the Mayors of each of our counties and cities for their leadership and dedication to this organization because SWTDD is only as strong as the support and guidance of our local elected officials. I hope you enjoy this annual report and if you have questions or comments please feel free to contact us. Thanks again for making our district a great place to live, work, and play and we look forward to a great new fiscal year!

# Southwest Tennessee Development District 2015/2016 Board of Directors

## CHESTER COUNTY

County Mayor Dwain Seaton\*  
Vacant, Industrial Representative  
John Welch, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Patrick Mooney, Enville  
Mayor Bobby King, Henderson\*

## DECATUR COUNTY

County Mayor Michael Smith\*  
Charles Taylor, Industrial Representative  
Joseph Fisher, Minority Representative  
Mayor Jerry Buchanan, Decaturville  
Mayor Tim David Boaz, Parsons\*

## HARDEMAN COUNTY

County Mayor Jimmy Sain\*  
Bob Williams, Industrial Representative  
Vacant, Minority Representative  
Mayor Barrett Stevens Sr., Bolivar  
Mayor Curtis Lane, Grand Junction  
Mayor Ricky Ayers, Hickory Valley  
Mayor Mack Carter Jr., Hornsby  
Mayor Jackie Cox, Middleton  
Mayor Jim Daniel, Saulsbury  
Mayor Bill Mayfield, Silerton  
Mayor Joseph Jones, Toone  
Mayor James Bellar, Whiteville\*

## HARDIN COUNTY

County Mayor Kevin Davis\*  
Steve Bunnell, Industrial Representative  
Allen Cherry, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Glen Spencer, Crump  
Mayor Dannie Kennedy, Milledgeville\*  
Mayor Larry Lowery, Sallitto  
Mayor Bob Shutt, Savannah

## LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

Senator Lowe Finney\*  
Representative Jimmy Eldridge\*

## HAYWOOD COUNTY

County Mayor Franklin Smith\*  
Steve Hilton, Industrial Representative  
Robert Green, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor William Rawls, III, Brownsville\*  
Mayor Allan Sterbinsky, Stanton

## HENDERSON COUNTY

County Mayor Dan Hughes\*  
Mark Bartel, Industrial Representative  
Barbara Parker, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor David Jowers, Lexington\*  
Mayor Kenneth Kizer, Parkers Crossroads  
Mayor James Freeland, Sardis  
Mayor Danny Rhodes, Scotts Hill

## MADISON COUNTY

County Mayor Jimmy Harris\*  
Tammy West, Industrial Representative  
Herbert Slack, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Jerry Gist, Jackson\*  
Mayor Connie Mullins, Medon  
Mayor Larry Sanders, Three Way

## McNAIRY COUNTY

County Mayor Ronnie Brooks\*  
Eddie Crittendon, Industrial Representative  
Harry Crayton, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor David Leckner, Adamsville  
Mayor Gary Bizzell, Bethel Springs  
Mayor Jessie Robbins, Eastview  
Mayor Robert Heathcock, Finger  
Mayor Keith Rinehart, Guys  
Mayor Anthony Smith, Michie  
Mayor George Armstrong, Ramer  
Mayor John Smith, Selmer\*  
Mayor Larry Raines, Stantonville

\*Denotes Executive Committee Member

*Success is the result of perfection, hard work,  
learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence. - Colin Powell*

# Administrative Accomplishments

SWTDD's Administrative team works closely with all staff members and governmental groups. Administration includes staff who work in the roles of human resources, office management, financial management, IT management and communications. Some administrative highlights during FY 2016 include:

**Computers & Technology:** In the past 12 months, SWTDD purchased new equipment to enhance meeting spaces used by the Development District, our partners, and the community. The equipment included an electric screen and ceiling mounted projector in the downstairs lobby to replace a smaller pulldown screen and a projector on a wheeled cart. The equipment purchased for the boardroom included a larger electric screen and a projector. This replaced a television that will be repurposed and moved to the upstairs conference room, where there is no A/V equipment and for which there was an ever-increasing need for usage in this room.

**Health & Wellness:** SWTDD continues to encourage employees to accept personal responsibility for managing his or her health. SWTDD is an active part of Governor Haslam's "Working for a Healthier Tennessee" and its "Small Starts Workplace" initiatives. SWTDD has a staff member who oversees monthly challenges to encourage healthier behaviors and SWTDD has been twice named a "Healthier Tennessee Workplace."

**External Communications:** SWTDD worked closely with Younger Associates to create a newly updated, user-friendly website that better accommodates those viewing swtdd.org on a mobile or handheld device. Administration also assisted with the development of a website for the Southwest Tennessee Reconnect Community and publicity for its kick-off bus tour. Each month, SWTDD distributes newsletters through an internet-based software company and assists as needed with publicizing events and happenings through the SWTDD, REDI and SWReconnect Facebook pages, area newspapers/radio stations, and other media outlets.

**Management of Human Resources & Financial Matters:** During FY 2016, SWTDD launched the payroll module of Local Government Corporation's NEXGEN software. This has allowed more accurate reporting for payroll taxes and better tracking of salary expenses. Looking forward into FY 2017, SWTDD will review software options for tracking assets and inventory within the district.



SWTDD Financial Overview:	
FY 2016 - Operating Budget.....	\$4,225,330.65
Pass Through Budget.....	\$1,607,347.40
Total Assets & Liabilities (unaudited).....	\$ 569,343.48
Full-time Staff.....	30

# Services for the Aging & Disabled

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging & Disability works to fulfill its mission "to improve the quality of life" for those it serves. The following programs are provided either directly or through contracts with service providers:

**Options for Community Living:** In-home care: meals, homemaker and personal care services.

**Public Guardianship:** Court-appointed guardian for financial and medical decisions for persons 60 years of age and older who are unable to manage their own affairs and who have no family member, friend, bank or corporation willing and able to act on their behalf.

**Ombudsman:** Advocates for persons in nursing homes and other long-term care institutions.

**Nutrition Services:** Nutritious meals at community locations or home-delivered.

**Elder Abuse Prevention:** Outreach and education about fraud, scams and domestic violence affecting seniors.

**Caregiver Support:** Helping families provide better care to their loved ones.

**Senior Centers:** Community centers that provide resources, support groups and activities to seniors and their families.

**TennCare CHOICES:** Medicaid long-term services and supports.



# Area Agency on Aging & Disability

The Area Agency on Aging and Disability works to provide services and planning for persons who are elderly and/or disabled within the eight county service area. Services are targeted to persons who have the greatest economic need with particular attention to low-income older individuals (including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas.)

The AAAD performs duties under three separate contracts. The Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability (TCAD) provides \$2,123,700 to provide services outlined in the Older Americans Act and the state-funded Options and Public Guardianship programs. The Bureau of TennCare contracts with the AAAD for \$ 671,922 to provide services under the Long-Term Care CHOICES Act. Finally, the Upper Cumberland Development District contracts with the SWAAAD for \$ 16,000 to provide services under the Senior Medicare Patrol program. The Edison Number for SWTDD is 2544.

During FY 2016, the AAAD worked to complete goals as outlined in its Area Plan. Benchmarks were set by the AAAD Director based upon review of the data from the past three fiscal years. These benchmarks were used to determine progress. All proposed activities for FY 2016 were completed.

**Goal 1:** Ensure that current Options, Title III and Title VII funded programs and services for adults over the age of 60 and adults with disabilities are cost effective and meet best practices.

**Results for Title IIIB Supportive Services:** The AAAD was able to remove 67 persons from the waiting list for Homemaker IIIB services during FY 2016. With ten supported Senior Centers in the region, the AAAD utilizes these focal points to ensure that consumers can reach senior information and services within each community. During FY 2016, two new Senior Center Directors were hired and began the process of training and development. These Center Directors (in Chester and Hardin counties) have brought new programs and ideas to their organizations. Transportation services provided through Southwest Area Agency on Aging and Disability funding totaled 21,657 units for FY 2016.

**Results for Title VII Elder Rights:** During FY 2016, the AAAD received permission to provide the Ombudsman service directly. To date, the LTCO program has opened 45 cases, provided 91 consultations, and completed 11 outreach events and five recruitment events. The Ombudsman has provided 12 trainings for Long-Term Care Facilities and attended seven Resident Council meetings. For the first time in AAAD history, United Way funding was applied for and received for this program.

**Results for Title IIIC Nutrition Services:** Congregate participation has increased by 5,738 meals to date. The AAAD anticipates expending all congregate funding for the first time in many years. Approximately 289 people were removed from the waiting list during FY 2016 for Home Delivered Meals. The AAAD has worked closely with its Nutrition provider during the year to provide technical assistance on a new Central Kitchen. Specifically, the AAAD has reviewed program rules and bidding processes with the provider.



# Accomplishments: Fiscal Year 2015-16

**Results for Title IIID Disease Prevention & Health Promotion:** The AAAD is funding the following evidence-based programming this fiscal year: Walk With Ease, Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self-Management, Take Charge of Your Diabetes, Living Well With Chronic Conditions, and Pathways to Health. The Agency offers each Senior Center within the region the opportunity to apply for a Title IIID grant. During FY 2016, four Centers applied to provide a total of seven programs. New this fiscal year, the AAAD also contracted with LIFT Disease Management (part of West Tennessee Healthcare) to provide Chronic Disease Self-Management. The consumers served at LIFT are direct referrals from the Jackson Madison County General Hospital emergency room. All consumers are over 60 years of age and are low-income. The AAAD exceeded the contract amount to serve 150 consumers by serving 225 consumers during FY 2016.



**Results for Title IIIE National Family Caregiver Support Program:** The AAAD was able to completely clear its waiting list for this program during FY 2016. The AAAD also ensured that the majority of consumers being served in the program were receiving respite service. The AAAD maintains a NFCSP Coordinator to oversee the program, however all Options Counselors are utilized to conduct assessments and reassessments. The Agency has been able to double the number of caregivers served. The AAAD was able to serve 66 consumers and a total of 10,935 units during FY 2016.

**Results for OPTIONS Home and Community Based Services:** The Options program served 294 consumers during FY 2016. This is an increase of 10 consumers to date. The AAAD continues to maintain a waiting list for the program and ensures its accuracy and completeness monthly. Options Counseling training has been provided to five employees at the Agency.

**Results for Guardianship:** The AAAD's Guardianship Program underwent a process to rebuild its internal structure and to strengthen its policies. This re-structure was in response to concerns identified by TCAD's annual monitoring. It was determined through this process that a significant review was warranted on each case. The Agency retained the services of a local, Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA) to review each of its files and to offer suggestions on ways to make the program more efficient.

Though the programmatic concerns found by TCAD were a setback to the overall mission of the AAAD, the process of evaluating weaknesses allowed the program to identify measures needed to build program sustainability. The Guardianship Program was able to serve 21 consumers during FY 2016.

**Goal 2:** Diversify funding and partnerships to meet current needs and implement additional services and programs to meet the emerging needs of the baby boomer population.

**Results:** In order to meet the needs of baby boomers, it is essential that AAAD staff remain current on trends and resources. In order to obtain this education, the staff each attended at least two educational events during the year. Three staff members worked to complete Management Training through SE4A University at Boston University. All staff attended monthly training (according to the AAAD Training Plan) during staff meetings. These meetings also provided the opportunity to gain knowledge through case reviews.

# Area Agency on Aging & Disability

The AAAD partnered with three local low-income senior housing facilities to provide education to residents. Topics covered included: The Importance of Staying Hydrated, Money Smart for Senior Adults, and Caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease. One AAAD staff member also worked in conjunction with Jackson Madison County General Hospital to plan the Teepa Snow Conference (for caregivers/professionals caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease) and the Alzheimer's Mini Conference.



**Goal 3:** Build the capacity of programs and services to serve more adults 60 and over and adults with disabilities by identifying strategies that can be cost effective, implemented incrementally, and integrated into current programs.

**Results:** The National Family Caregiver Support Coordinator worked during FY 2016 to assess the interest in beginning a conference call support group for caregivers. Results are expected during FY 2017. The Coordinator also worked with all ten Senior Center Directors to develop a caregiver lending library for persons within the Senior Center service area. The AAAD further developed its own library by adding elder abuse information for caregivers.

**Goal 4:** Ensure that the Area Agency on Aging and Disability (as the Aging and Disability Resource Center) provides easily accessible, user-friendly access to programs, services, and resources, regardless of payment type.

**Results:** The AAAD has been and continues to work to be fully compliant with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) guidelines. As part of this effort, five staff have completed Options Counselor training through Boston University. All staff received training on the foundations and processes of person-centered planning. The AAAD maintains the ability to "warm-transfer" consumers who have called the Agency and then need to be connected to other entities.

During FY 2016, the AAAD staff received training on the concept of "Benefits Enrollment Centers". Through this training, they learned the variety of public benefits available to seniors and how to assist consumers in applying for services.

The AAAD continues to provide emergency services to consumers through its Future Choices emergency fund. This fund was established by the Southwest Inter-Agency Council and is funded through an annual conference and golf tournament. To date, 16 consumers have been served. Top needs that are met through this fund include: medications for individuals in the "donut hole", food, utilities, and rent.

The annual Facing Future Choices Conference was held November 3, 2015. The Conference is a one-day event that targets family caregivers. Held at the West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, the Conference had its highest ever attendance. With more than 50 vendors in attendance, participants had the opportunity to see available services within the area and speak with professionals in the field of caregiving. Speakers included: Dr. Kelly Blair, Psy.D., Neuropsychologist, West Tennessee Rehabilitation Center on "What's Dementia and What's Not"; Bryson McQuiston, Owner of Home Instead, on "Navigating Senior Living Options"; Pat Taylor, LCSW, Pathways Behavioral Health, on "Depression in Later Years"; and Pam Wright, J.D., CELA, CAP, The Wright Law Firm PLLC, on "Look Before You Leap: Fraud and Financial Exploitation."

# Accomplishments: Fiscal Year 2015-16

The AAAD and SWTDD worked together during FY 2016 to develop a new website. Retaining the services of Younger Associates, the Agency has developed a "user-friendly" format that will hopefully expand utilization. The ability to apply for services on-line and regional resources are key features. The AAAD also utilized the "211/LA County" (official AIRS taxonomy) to revise its keywords for an easier search function. The new website will be online as of July 1, 2016.

The South West Elder Abuse Prevention (SWEAP) Coalition began meeting in November of 2015 to combat the issue of elder abuse within the region. Begun as a result of Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist's Taskforce on Domestic Violence and Abuse, the Coalition brings together professionals from law enforcement, Adult Protective Services, senior services, and the healthcare industry to focus on education, prevention, and referral. Specifically, the Coalition developed a "quick referral" process to be utilized between agencies and a "rapid response" team that can meet quickly in cases of extreme emergencies. The Coalition meets monthly at SWTDD and is headed by the AAAD Director.

During FY 2016, the AAAD was heavily involved in work to bring a Senior Center to the City of Jackson. The Agency was originally approached by a local group of seniors who had been working with Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist to open a Senior Center. As background, the City had a Senior Center until the tornadoes of 2003 caused damage that would eventually close the

Center. The AAAD has met monthly with this group since August of 2015. It was decided during the initial meeting that the best way to move forward with this project was



to complete a feasibility study of the need for a Senior Center within the City limits. To date, the study has encompassed local forums, a survey, visits to other Senior Centers within the state, short and long term cost analysis, and site reviews. The completed study was presented to the Jackson City Council in May 2016.



In an effort to enhance its disaster preparedness and training, the AAAD participated in "Active Shooter" training in March of 2016. Presented by the Department of Homeland Security, the training focuses on the three action steps necessary during an active shooter event.

Finally, the AAAD held its biannual Senior Expo, "Blaze a Trail to A Lifetime of Health", on May 26, 2016, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson. The event had approximately 300 participants and is the largest event conducted by the Agency. The Senior Expo event included local entertainment, health education, and vendor games.

# Economic & Community Development's

Our ECD team works with regional governments to improve the quality of life for citizens in the area. SWTDD's Economic & Community Development services are free-of-charge to area governments - except planning services which are provided on a contractual basis with participating communities. Examples of Economic & Community Development services include:

## Grant Writing & Grant Administration:

SWTDD has a both a community & economic development grant writer and a grant administrator on staff. All grant writing services are free to member governments. SWTDD receives an administration fee only when a grant is funded.

## Types of Grants Written by SWTDD:

EDA, FastTrack Infrastructure, USDA-RD, CDBG, DRA, SAFETEA-LU, LPRF/LWCF/RTP, Assistance to Firefighters, Governor's Highway Safety Office, TDOT, THDA Solid Waste, Byrnes, Broadband, and Disaster grants.

## Small Business Loans:

SWTDD's small business loan program is alive and well. It provides EDA and IRP loans to small businesses that do not qualify for traditional bank financing. Many small businesses utilizing our loan program are thriving and/or have already paid off their loans -- which allows the district to re-loan funds to other prospective business owners - which further boosts economic development in our area. An eight-person, multi-county executive committee oversees the loan process.

## Housing & Historic Preservation:

SWTDD contracts with THDA to provide assistance in applying for, implementing, and developing affordable housing for low and very low income families in the eight-county area through multiple THDA programs. SWTDD's preservation services includes research, applications, and nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. SWTDD works with the Tennessee Downtowns & Main Street programs and serves as a resource for governments and individuals with housing and preservation issues.

## Regional Planning:

SWTDD contracts with local governments to help protect and develop communities. Our planners provide customized services to build development processes, develop design guidelines compatible with local values, and provide counsel that is enforceable within the scope of local authorities. In FY 2016, SWTDD had contracts with Brownsville, Bolivar, Henderson, Lexington, McKenzie, Parsons, Saltillo, Stanton, Hardeman Co. and Haywood Co.

## Solid Waste Expertise & Assistance:

SWTDD contracts with the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) to provide services like solid waste progress reports, needs assessments, and grant writing assistance.

## Rural Roads & Transportation Planning:

SWTDD is one of TDOT's 12 rural planning organizations for enhanced service and rural transportation development. Our RPO serves all SWTDD counties, except Madison. Leadership of the RPO is through a technical committee and an executive committee.

## TACIR (Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations):

SWTDD surveyed 78 School Infrastructure projects and 836 General Infrastructure projects (including the Tennessee Department of Transportation's bridge projects) throughout our eight county region for a total project count of 914 infrastructure projects. All projects were submitted to TACIR through the Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory database (PINI). For the second year in a row, the Quality Control department at TACIR returned projects to SWTDD with a 0% error rate. The inventory projects surveyed include active and conceptual projects for the next 20 years.

## U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA):

SWTDD, a designated Economic Development District, conducts the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy process for our region. Partially funded by EDA dollars, this consists of keeping regional goals, strategies, and city/county statistical data up-to-date.

# Services assisting local & state governments

## Environmental Reviews:

SWTDD prepares environmental reviews for state and federal grants and loans that have review requirements - including CDBG, THDA, HOME, LPRF/LWRF/RTP, Transportation Enhancement, Revolving Loan Fund, Intermediary Relending Program, FEMA, DRA and USDA Rural Development and other projects as deemed necessary.

## Strategic Opportunities to Advance our Region (SOAR):

This cooperative, collective program was developed and implemented to help each SWTDD County assess strengths and weaknesses as a launchpad for improved economic/community development success. The SOAR team includes regional experts who lead community leaders in fact-gathering sessions in multiple areas including: Agriculture, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Retail/Retail Development, Education/Workforce Development, Tourism, and Quality of Life. Ultimately, the SOAR program provides a free, customized strategic plan to help build consensus within a county and to help leaders work together to create a healthy economic climate.

## REDI & Improved Educational Attainment Levels:

REDI completed its sixth year of service to the region and its second year as one of three official "partnering organizations" for the State of Tennessee's Tennessee Promise program. In addition, REDI also was successful in its effort to receive one of three Tennessee Reconnect Grants and is now able to serve adult learners -- in addition to area high school students. Together, REDI, Tennessee Promise, and Southwest Tennessee Reconnect Community are creating collaborative efforts to change the educational culture of the region as part of Tennessee's Drive to 55 program.

## Southwest Tennessee Reconnect Community:

The Southwest Tennessee Reconnect Community, a program of the Southwest Tennessee Development District, was awarded a grant in October of 2015 to support adults returning to college and to encourage and support them through college successfully, with the goal of completing a credential. The newly created Tennessee Reconnect Communities are unique in that they represent a first-in-the-nation, state-wide network of regional, college degree completion initiatives.



# Economic & Community Development

## Community Development Block & Façade Grants:

Henderson County received \$300,000 in funds to purchase two new tanker trucks. Additionally, the City of Brownsville received \$85,000 in funds to improve downtown façades. SWTDD wrote both of these grants. CDBGs can be used for Economic Development (industrial infrastructure, industrial buildings and equipment) and Community Development (for water and wastewater treatment facilities, housing rehabilitation and projects that improve community livability.) CDBG funds are also distributed for disaster recovery. SWTDD writes and administers these grants.

## Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grants:

The City of Enville received \$25,506 for complete sets of Personal Protective Equipment and the City of Adamsville received \$160,000 in AFG funds for a Brush Truck. AFG grants are for fire departments, state fire training academies, and emergency medical service organizations. SWTDD writes and administers AFG grants.

## TN Department of Transportation Grants:

SWTDD-written TDDOT grants that were awarded in FY2016 totaled \$1,597,747.50 in new infrastructure investment for the region. The three grants include: Brownsville's Safe Routes to School for \$217,747.50 and two Transportation Alternative Grants: Parker's Crossroads for \$255,000 (Phase III Trail Project) and Parsons for \$1,125,000 (Phase V Downtown Enhancement Project).

## FY2016 Regional Workshops and Events:

SWTDD hosted many training and workshop events that pulled in attendees from across the state and region. A few of these include retail workshops, EDA, DRA, and USDA-RD training, a DRA Listening Tour, multiple WestStar meetings and a dinner, TN Reconnect trainings, a Tourism 101 session, TDEC training, UT MTAS training, Fair Housing trainings, TN Dept. of Labor Asset Mapping sessions, and more.

## SWTDD/REDI Annual Legislative Luncheon:

More than 100 governmental, community, and business leaders gathered at SWTDD to present SWTDD's sixth Legislative Agenda to our state and federal legislators: Senators Ed Jackson, Dolores Gresham and John Stevens; Representatives Craig Fitzhugh, Steve McDaniel, David Byrd, Debra Moody, and Jimmy Eldridge; and the field reps of Sen. Lamar Alexander, Sen. Bob Corker and Rep. Marsha Blackburn and Rep. Stephen Fincher.

## REDI College Summits and other College-related Events:

In FY2016, REDI hosted five multi-county college summits at five partner colleges: hosted scholarship boot camps, FAFSA workshops, College Knowledge, orientation and financial aid sessions; and numerous College Simulations that mimic required activities in the first week in college - like paying fees, getting housing assignments, and registering for classes. These exercises give students a taste of what to expect and remove fear of the unknown in a creative, fun way. The academic year ended with College Signing Ceremonies where students signed a map indicating where they would be attending school while their entire student body and parents watched and joined in the celebration.

## REDI & Tennessee Promise help 2.6K students in region:

REDI worked with 2,606 seniors in 16 high schools in the region during FY 2016. In all, 97% of REDI students were registered for Tennessee Promise and had an 80% FAFSA completion rate. REDI continues to match students with the best school choice based on their academic, social and financial readiness. Additionally, REDI is doing everything possible to keep students Tennessee Promise eligible so that if they choose to attend a TCAT or community college, they can take advantage of this last dollar scholarship.

## Southwest Tennessee Reconnect Community:

The Southwest Tennessee Reconnect Community launched in March 2016 with a goal of serving 45 adult "Reconnectors" by December. While enrollment numbers are difficult to predict for adults due to the number of issues that returning students face, our goal was to support 25 adults in enrolling in one of eleven partner postsecondary institutions by Sept. 1. To date, the Southwest TRC has engaged 162 adults of which 19 have successfully enrolled. The Southwest TRC has provided high-impact, high-touch services to these students with assistance in the college application and admissions process, financial aid application process, defaulted student loan and loan rehabilitation process; and, in some cases, has assisted students whose financial aid had been suspended due to a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) related issue.

## Pathways Southwest Tennessee:

As the regional intermediary for Pathways Tennessee, SWTDD led the way to ensure more youth complete high school, attain a postsecondary credential, and enter the

# Accomplishments: Fiscal Year 2015-16

workplace with value to the labor market. Partnerships in Decatur and McNairy counties were added to existing schools in Jackson/Madison, Chester and Haywood counties. Across the five counties, nearly 1,300 high school students are enrolled in Manufacturing and IT courses such as Mechatronics, Welding, Machining Technology, and Coding. Continued Perkins IV Reserve Grant funding enables SWTDD to fulfill its mission to create a skilled workforce.

## TN Housing Development Technical Assistance Grant:

SWTDD/SWAAAD created a Fair Housing Technical Assistance program with TennCare Housing and West Tennessee Legal Services. The pilot project consisted of creating a Fair Housing program for those who will be assisted: holding two Fair Housing programs in conjunction with TennCare employees and those that serve in Aging & Disability Housing; and educating TennCare transitional specialists on Affordable Housing and Fair Housing issues.

## TN Historic Commission Technical Assistance Grant:

SWTDD received a grant from the Tennessee Historic Commission to handle elements of Historic Preservation such as putting National Register nominations together, meeting with communities on becoming a Certified Local Government, and putting grant applications together. This employee is involved in the Section 106 process, as part of the National Historic Preservation Act and reviews any building 50 years of age or older as part of the resurvey of all eight counties. During FY2016, Chevy Chase, which

is located in Jackson, was put on the National Register of Historic Places.

## TDEC - Solid Waste Technical Assistance Grant:

SWTDD contracts with TDEC's Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste Management to provide solid waste services in designing, implementing, upgrading and maintaining solid waste plans, programs and facilities; providing assistance in the formation or dissolution of planning regions; assisting in workshops, seminars, and meetings; reviewing, revising and maintaining the District Needs Assessment for McNairy and Haywood County; providing technical assistance to solid waste boards to achieve Solid Waste Management Act goals; and provide assistance to the region to prepare and submit the APR and any supplemental documentation each year by March 31st.

## Regional Planning:

The Regional Planning Program had the following major accomplishments during FY 2016: Prepared the Vision Lexington 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan for the City of Lexington; Prepared a Zoning Ordinance and Map and Prepared an Operational Improvement Study for the State Route 69 for the Town of Saultillo; Prepared Design Review Guidelines for the Henderson, Tennessee, Central Business District; Prepared Design Review Guidelines for the City of McKenzie; and Prepared an Operational Improvement Study for the U.S. Highway 70 and State Route 369 Intersection for the City of Brownsville.







## Who We Are & What We Do

Southwest Tennessee Development District is an organization created by the Tennessee General Assembly under the Tennessee Development District Act of 1965. Like all districts, SWTDD provides comprehensive planning and promotes economic, community and human resource development in a defined geographic area.

As a public non-profit association of local governments, SWTDD serves Chester, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, McNairy and Madison Counties. An Executive Director & Board of Directors (including member government officials, state representatives and minority representatives) manage SWTDD. Its 24-member Executive Committee meets six times per year to set policy and conduct business.

Organized in 1971, SWTDD is staffed by 30 full-time people with expertise in district management, economic development, community development, housing, environmental planning, regional planning, aging assistance, social work, nursing, grant writing, educational assistance, and public guardianship for the elderly. Financial support is provided from EDA; THDA; Tennessee Departments of ECD, Transportation and Environment & Conservation; TACIR; TN Commission on Aging & Disability; TennCare; Delta Regional Authority; USDA Rural Development and others. SWTDD's REDI Program is funded by grants from local, state and federal agencies.

Funds received from the Commission on Aging & Disability are distributed through contracts to senior centers and regional service provider agencies. SWTDD also receives fees for grant administration/management services rendered for member governments and income from its small business loan program. SWTDD is designated as a regional clearinghouse for projects under Executive Order 12372 and acts as the Regional Affiliate Data Center for the Bureau of the Census.

Cover photos from SWTDD Brain Games, TDOT Centennial Park Announcement, and REDI College Simulation

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# Fiscal Year 2015-2016: At a Glance

