

The ThreeStar program has been a key part of economic development since 1980. Economic development for Tennessee communities is about more than recruitment and incentives. Our communities must be making constant strides in improving their quality of life to be globally competitive for jobs. The ThreeStar program can guide Tennessee communities on that journey. Annual participation in the ECD ThreeStar program helps communities develop strategies and plan activities to address goals in five key focus areas of community development: 1] Jobs & Economic Development, 2] Fiscal Strength & Efficient Government, 3] Public Safety, 4] Health & Welfare, and 5] Education & Workforce Development. The program encourages local community leaders, representing these five areas, through the Joint Economic and Community Development Boards (JECDB) to implement activities that will impact these issues.

Additional Incentives to attain/maintain annual ThreeStar Certification:

- Participation in ThreeStar is required for a county (or cities within the county) to participate in state programs including:
 - Tennessee Downtowns
 - TNECD Tourism Enhancement Grant Program
 - Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program
 - Site Development Grant Program.
- CDBG & FastTrack Program Incentive: Participating counties (and cities in these counties) will be eligible for a 4% discount (for eligible projects) on the business development ability-to-pay calculation each year the county fulfills the requirements of the ThreeStar program.
- ThreeStar grants: ****NEW CHANGE FOR FY18** All Tier levels are eligible to apply for a ThreeStar competitive grant.**
 - All ThreeStar grants will be subject to a competitive scoring process.*
 - **Tier 1** - Twenty-one (21) Tier 1 counties will compete for 10 - \$5,000 ThreeStar grants with no match required
 - **Tier 2** - Twenty-two (22) Tier 2 counties will compete for 15 - \$5,000 ThreeStar grants with no match required
 - **Tier 3** - Twenty-one (21) Tier 3 counties will compete for 15 - \$15,000 ThreeStar grants with no match required
 - **Tier 4** - Thirty-one (31) Tier 4 counties will compete for 25 - \$25,000 ThreeStar grants with no match required
- Grant funds are to serve as seed money for activities (not to offset general operating expenses) focused on improving one or more of the ThreeStar program areas. Grant funded projects should focus on activities with the greatest opportunity to impact the community. **See the full grant program details for more information.**
- Additional Grant Programs through other state departments may require ThreeStar participation.