

# TDH Opportunities: Supporting Older Adults

## STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

**Faith Gifts and Needs Assessment:** The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) invites faith leaders to participate in our Gifts and Needs Assessment survey. TDH is committed to eliminating health disparities, and we know that partnering with faith communities is key to achieving this goal. We want to learn about your available resources, your needs, and how we can best support your congregation. **Please take a few minutes to share your input here: [bit.ly/tdhfaithsurvey](https://bit.ly/tdhfaithsurvey)**

**EngAGING Communities TN:** Promoting age and dementia-friendly communities by providing education and resources for those who serve older adults and their caregivers in faith-based and religious communities. Programs include disaster planning, intergenerational activities, needs assessment, educational workshops, and much more. **Contact: Dr. Kristi Wick, UT-Chattanooga School of Nursing at [kristina-wick@utc.edu](mailto:kristina-wick@utc.edu) or TDH Office of Healthy Aging ([sally.pitt@tn.gov](mailto:sally.pitt@tn.gov) or [chelsea.ridley@tn.gov](mailto:chelsea.ridley@tn.gov))** Learn more at: [www.utc.edu/engaging](http://www.utc.edu/engaging)

**Tennessee Community Compass:** Join the Tennessee Community Compass resource directory today and become an integral part of a statewide initiative dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Tennesseans. Trainings on how to get your programs listed and use the system are held every 2nd Tuesday and 4th Tuesday here. **Contact Allie Haynes [allie@tnruralhealth.org](mailto:allie@tnruralhealth.org) for guidance on how to add your organizations free and reduced cost services to the resource directory.**

**Health Council Community Connections:** County Health Councils in Tennessee, which have been active in all 95 counties over the last 20 years, have the power to be vital grassroots partners in creating public health change at the local level. Made up of community members from a wide range of sectors, Health Councils know their communities intimately. This means they are positioned not only to readily identify the most pressing needs in their community, but also to identify and work toward solutions that make sense for their communities. Video and information can be found here [County Health Councils](http://CountyHealthCouncils.org). **For more information about County Health Councils, contact us at [health.councils@tn.gov](mailto:health.councils@tn.gov).**

**Fight Flu** this season by getting your flu vaccine and encouraging others to protect themselves and their loved ones by doing the same. Join the conversation on social media with the hashtag #FightFluTN **Contact: Jayne Harper, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, [Jayne.Harper@tn.gov](mailto:Jayne.Harper@tn.gov)**

**The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) Find App** enhances public awareness and provides tools to support missing persons cases, particularly for older adults. Developed in partnership with Alzheimer's TN and inspired by Silver Alert Kits, the app is designed to assist families and caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's or other cognitive impairments. Users can receive timely alerts, access educational resources, and securely store critical details about themselves or loved ones to assist law enforcement during emergencies. The app's TNCareKit feature helps families prepare essential information in advance, ensuring quicker responses and better outcomes in crisis situations.



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**Blue Zones:** Inspired by regions where people live exceptionally long and healthy lives, Blue Zones Projects are community-driven initiatives that transform environments to promote well-being. Based on research from Dan Buettner, these projects focus on key areas like healthy food access, strong social connections, and walkable communities. Through collaboration with local governments, businesses, and residents, Blue Zones Projects implement changes like policy adjustments, social events, and school curriculum updates to create a culture of healthy living. **Blue Zones:** <https://www.bluezones.com/>; **Blue Zones Projects:** <https://info.bluezonesproject.com/home>). **Contact: Emma Davis, PhD, MPH, CPH, TDH's Chronic Disease Program Director III, [Emma.Davis2@tn.gov](mailto:Emma.Davis2@tn.gov)**

**Tennessee Department of Health: Nutrition Security Initiatives:** The Tennessee Department of Health prioritizes Nutrition Security, ensuring everyone has access to healthy, affordable food. Get Involved:

- Start a Food Pantry or if you have an existing Food Pantry: Contact [paige.h.summers@tn.gov](mailto:paige.h.summers@tn.gov) for information and resources, and so your organization can be added to our statewide nutrition Food Pantry repository.
- Join the Food and Nutrition Security Coalition: Quarterly meetings focused on developing a statewide action plan. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of February, May, August, and November at 9am CST.
- Attend Collaborative Meetings: Share and learn best practices with other organizations. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 9am CST.

**Contact: [paige.h.summers@tn.gov](mailto:paige.h.summers@tn.gov) for more information or meeting invitations.**

