

Tennessee Livability Collaborative



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Tennessee
State Government



Tennessee Livability Collaborative

The Tennessee Livability Collaborative is a working group of 17 Tennessee state agencies, departments and commissions with a mission of improving the prosperity, quality of life and health of Tennesseans through collaboration in the areas of policy, funding, and programming.

The collaborative was launched in 2015 as a voluntary effort. Member agencies learn about one another's work, identify opportunities for collaboration and develop new policies and initiatives to support the development of livable communities across the state. It is jointly owned by all participating state agencies with an open invitation to other agencies to participate. The collaborative meets bi-monthly with priorities and meeting agendas co-developed by members.

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Accomplishments

An evaluation of the Tennessee Livability Collaborative's first 3 years found increased interagency collaboration, changes to organizational policies and procedures and greater commitment to improving livability in Tennessee.



Collaboration

Agencies collaborate more often since joining the Collaborative, and the overall strength of interagency working relationships has increased. Most agencies are reaching out to others to participate in events, trainings, or conferences and for input on plans, reports or other products.



Perspective

All members have a better understanding of the work and goals of other agencies since joining the Collaborative. Members feel a greater sense of personal commitment to improving livability in Tennessee and a stronger feeling of shared purpose with other member agencies.



Policy

Agencies have aligned their funding opportunities with one another and changed policies and plans to reflect other agencies' priorities. Agencies have created new staff positions and changed existing positions to encourage more cross-sector work.



Data

Agencies have created new assessments and analyses related to livability. Agencies have engaged one another in developing agency data profiles and created shared datasets with one another.

"The fact that the Livability Collaborative is looking beyond just a health component or just beyond an economic component, it's one of the first and only organizational structures that I know of that really looks at how do we make Tennessee livable and a sustainable place for families to be nurtured."

- Livability Collaborative Member

Tennessee Ambassador League

The Tennessee Ambassador League Institute is a learning institute and training opportunity for state government staff to learn about programs and resources available across the Tennessee Government enterprise around jobs, transportation, housing, food, education, and health. TALI was developed by members of the Tennessee Livability Collaborative and is facilitated by staff members from the Tennessee Department of Human Resources. Members of the Collaborative present and facilitate interactive sessions on their respective topic areas.

Participants in TALI are front-line staff or their supervisors who interact directly with the public. TALI graduates become members of the Tennessee Ambassador League and continue to promote collaboration between state government agencies in the communities they serve.

A pilot TALI cohort was launched in 2018 with 21 participants representing nine state agencies. An evaluation of the pilot found TALI was successful at empowering participants as local leaders and champions for interagency collaboration. Participants built new interagency relationships, are more knowledgeable about state resources available to their customers and have a better understanding of the connections between the work of their agency and others.

21
participants
in the pilot
cohort

6
leadership
competency
trainings

100%
of TALI participants
felt they made
lasting connections
with staff at other
agencies

94%
of TALI participants
have contacted
or plan to contact
other staff they met
to collaborate

9
agencies
in the pilot
cohort

100%
of TALI participants
are more
knowledgeable
about resources
from other
agencies

78%
felt TALI provided
them with the skills
and confidence to
collaborate with
staff from other
agencies

100%
of TALI participants
felt what they
learned will
improve their
customer
service



Education



Food



Health



Jobs



Transportation



Housing

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