



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES



*Temporary Assistance
For Needy Families*



September 21, 2021 | Families First Community Advisory Board Meeting







Agenda

- Commissioner's Update
- Research Partner Update
- Break
- Planning Grant Update
- Planning Grant Training
- Closing Remarks & Next Steps

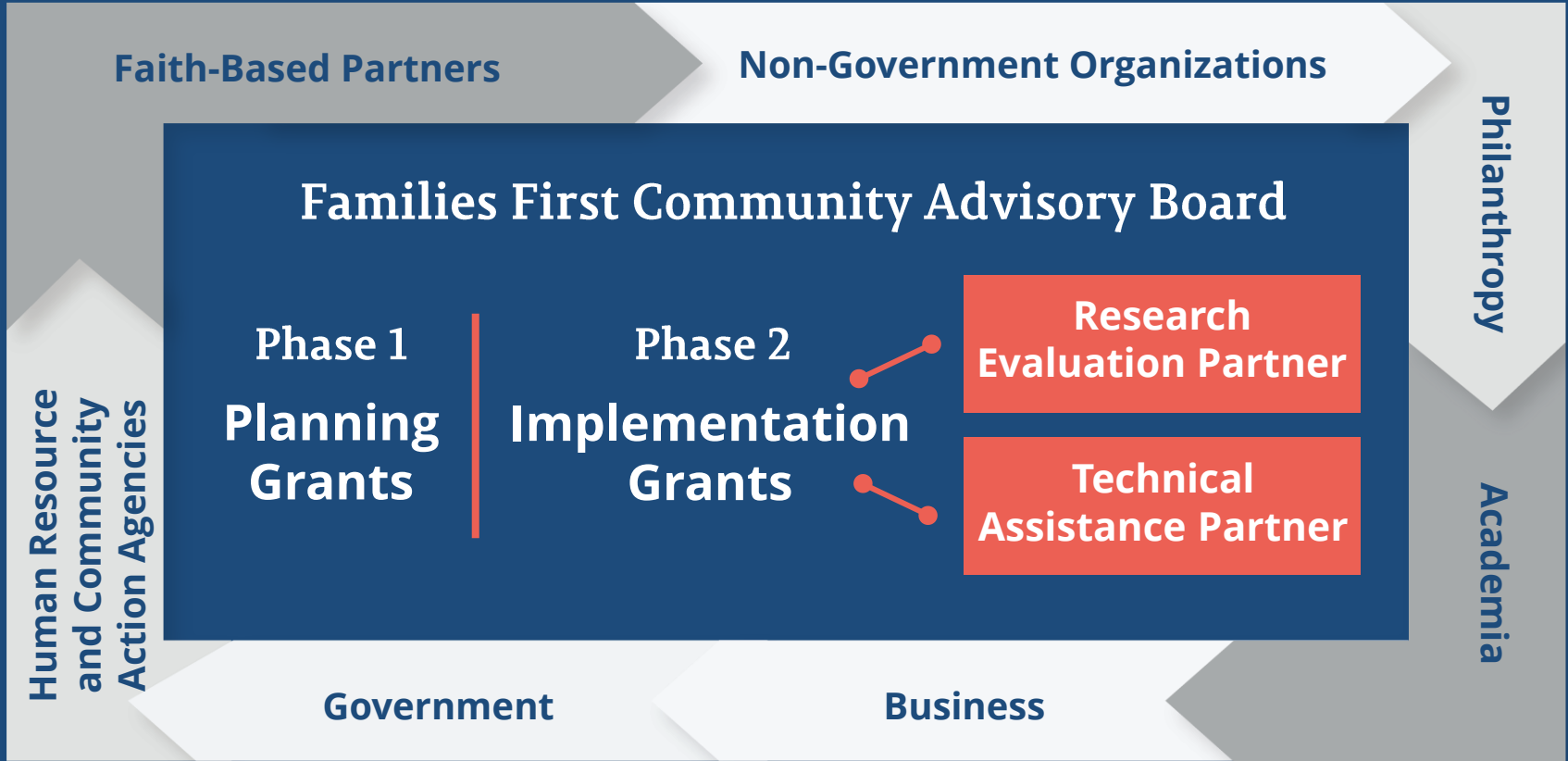


Commissioner's Update

TANF *Opportunity* Act

	Initiative Partners	The procurement of third-party vendors to provide technical assistance, research and initiative evaluation, and other needed supportive services for the TANF Opportunity Act (TOA).
	Advisory Board	The establishment and ongoing convening of the Families First Community Advisory Board.
	Planning Grants	The creation and administration of Planning Grants, which will assist collaborative groups plan for and prepare their Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Implementation Grant proposals.
	Pilots	The creation, administration, and monitoring of the Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative, which will include 6 pilots statewide to be selected by the Advisory Board and 1 pilot operated by TDHS. (3 Years)
	Sector-Based Conversations	The convening of various stakeholders through Sector-Based Conversations to engage a broad range of partners to communicate the vision for using TANF Opportunity Act (TOA) as a catalyst to redesign support services and encourage partnership opportunities aligned with the TANF Opportunity Act.
	Community Grants	The TANF Opportunity Act also established Families First Community Grants. This initiative will include smaller, one-time grants. More details and applications will be released in early 2022.

Transforming Tennessee Together



Research Partner Update

Program Evaluation Partner



- No earlier than **October 1, 2021**, the Advisory Board must select a research partner or partners that will support the research and evaluation of the TN Opportunity Pilot Initiative
- Must regularly gather and present research and data to pilot leaders and Advisory Board to aid continuous improvement; must produce regular reports and final reports
- TDHS to outline proposed scope and process for selecting partner
 - RFP to be issued **Fall/Winter 2021**

Procurement Timeline & Final Report

- Anticipated Dates:
 - RFP Issued: Fall/Winter 2021
 - Selection: Spring 2022
 - *No earlier than October 1, 2021, the department shall select and fund a research partner or partners that will support the research and evaluation of the Tennessee Opportunity Pilot programs.*
 - Expected Contract Start Date: Summer 2022
 - Submit Final Report: December 31, 2025
 - Findings from the Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative and the impact and effectiveness of the increase in maximum standard grant and lifetime maximum benefits timeframe.

Break

Planning Grant Update

Planning Grants

- \$5M for **up to 50** planning grants
- Advisory Board can award **up to \$500,000 per grant** no earlier than **October 1, 2021**
- Grants will assist collaborative groups with technical assistance, visioning, program design, budgeting, and partnership development for the TN Opportunity Pilot Initiative proposals
- Grantees will have three (3) months to plan and complete their pilot proposals



Planning Grantees

- Grantees must be selected from each grand region and represent a mix of urban, rural, and suburban populations.
- The following four types of entities are eligible to apply for pilot planning grants:
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - Development Districts (city/county economic planning organizations)
 - Local government agencies (political subdivisions)
 - Human Resource agencies created pursuant to the Human Resource Agency Act of 1973

Process for Awarding Planning Grants

- TDHS has notified the community of the application period
- Interested collaborative groups will have forty-five (45) days to submit applications (through October 15, 2021)
- Applicants must meet the mandatory minimum requirements to be considered by the Advisory Board
- TDHS will provide evaluation criteria for the Advisory Board selection process
- Advisory Board will have three (3) weeks to review and select final grantees
- TDHS will announce grantees

Planning Grant Training

Four Federal Goals of TANF

- 1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;**
- 2. End the dependence of parents on government support by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;**
- 3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and**
- 4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.**

Activities that Support TANF Goal 1:

- 1. Provide assistance to needy families so children can be cared for in their own homes.**
 - Case management (service coordination) activities
 - Workforce development programs
 - Education/special education services or tutoring
 - Family counseling and counseling services directed at a specific behavioral health issues
 - Programs for low-income children who are at risk of abuse or neglect
 - Crisis care and outreach
 - Legal services, protection and advocacy

Activities that Support TANF Goal 2:

- 2. End the dependence of parents on government support by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage**
 - Case management activities/wraparound services
 - Transportation services
 - Train employed/former recipients in job-related vocational and literacy skills needed for regular, full-time employment
 - Educational or job training activities at post-secondary and/or technical schools that promote advancement to higher paying jobs or increased wages
 - After-school and summer programs that provide supervision and developmental services for low-income children while their parents' work

Activities that Support TANF Goal 3:

3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies

- Teen pregnancy prevention programs
- Pre-school, school readiness or early childhood education programs
- After-school and summer programs that provide supervision and developmental services for low-income children
- Parenting classes, premarital and marriage counseling, and mediation services
- Counseling services or classes that focus on teen pregnancy prevention
- Nurse visiting services

Activities that Support TANF Goal 4:

4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

- Healthy marriage initiatives such as parenting skills training, premarital and marriage counseling, and mediation services
- Fatherhood initiatives that will provide workforce development/job placement activities to improve the capability of low-income fathers to provide financial and emotional support for their children
- Media campaigns to encourage young people to delay parenting or to encourage fathers to play a responsible role in their children's lives

Universal Outcomes Framework



Increase Economic Status and Stability

- Improve stable, safe housing conditions or obtain home ownership
- Increase earned income/wage benefits
- Increase participation or enrollment in education and job training opportunities
- Increase financial empowerment (increased savings, decreased debt, improved credit scores, access to banking)
- Increase attainment of certifications or post-secondary degrees

Universal Outcomes Framework



Empower Parents as their Children's First/Primary Teachers

- Increase parental engagement in the academic planning and success of their child to improve classroom behavior, attendance, and grades;
- Increase parents' attendance and involvement in their child's learning activities through workshops, individualized consultations, or other impactful education activities; and
- Improve parenting skills.

Universal Outcomes Framework



Decrease Psychological Distress

- Improve health and well-being of families (physical, mental and emotional health);
- Improve families' awareness on healthy lifestyle behaviors, available health services and resources;
- Reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE); and
- Improve self-advocacy skills for families.

Universal Outcomes Framework



Increase Family Engagement

- Expand families' networks and connection to other families;
- Increase families' knowledge of, access to, and utilization of community resources;
- Increase civic engagement through community involvement and neighborhood outreach;
- Increase family support through youth mentoring programs; and
- Increase family cohesion and communication through workshops, family-centered events, and in-home support services.

Application Outline

- Agency Information
- Pilot Initiative Description and TANF Goals
- Region and Counties to be Served
- Attachments
 - Abstract (5-page limit)
 - Certificate of Acknowledgement
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Statement to certify all entity members of collaborative group meets eligibility requirements
 - Resumes of any consultants
 - Budget form

Abstract Outline

A. Overview of the program

Describe in 3-5 sentences the shared vision of the collaborative group applying.

B. Collaborative Group's Background and Partnerships

Discuss the organizations/entities/agencies involved in this application. Describe the work that is currently underway, and the population, number of people, and relationships with those currently being served. Describe any existing key partnerships with other community-based organizations, service providers, and sectors. Describe how your collaboration will maintain existing partnerships and secure new partnerships to promote collective impact practices and ensure a whole of Tennessee approach to serving families.

Abstract Outline

C. TANF and Initiative Purpose

- Provide information on how the collaboration's mission and vision align with at least one of the four purposes of TANF.
- Provide a brief but clear overview of the collaboration's envisioned Opportunity Pilot initiative and how the Pilot will support the identified TANF purpose(s).
- Identify the community problem to be addressed and explain how this connects to the identified TANF purpose.
- Indicate how community involvement was obtained in identifying problems/needs and goals to be addressed.
- Describe how the Pilot is different from other coordinated services already in place in the community, or if the Pilot's services will be unique to the community to address a specific need.

D. Target Population

Describe the community (target population) to be served by race, culture, ethnicity, age, geography, or other defining characteristics. Define the criteria for identifying low-income families to be served by the Pilot.

Abstract Outline

E. Scope of Work (SOW)

Describe the specific tasks that will be performed during the Planning Grant period. Describe how the collaborative group will utilize Planning Grant funds for technical assistance in order to develop an Opportunity Pilot proposal. Planning Grant funds may be used for technical assistance activities including but not limited to:

- Stakeholder convening: Convening key community stakeholders (including the population to be served), service providers, and other partners across a wide range of sectors.
- Needs and gaps analysis: Identifying community needs, gaps in services, available resources, and partnerships to inform plan development.
- Common agenda: Developing a common agenda, including a common understanding of the problem and a shared vision for a theory of change.
- Governance: Establishing a governance structure with community buy-in, including well-resourced backbone support.
- Action plan: Developing an action plan and budget that will guide Pilot implementation, including proposed activities, implementation timelines, and responsible partners.
- Communication: Identifying methods for continuous communication.
- Measurement: Identifying existing data sources and systems, outputs and outcomes, and performance management processes to support shared accountability.

Abstract Outline

F. Performance Measures/Outcomes

- Determining whether the applying collaborative can demonstrate capacity for success involves examining both the quality of evidence and the demonstrated impact on outcomes (i.e., positive, negative, no impact). The selected Opportunity Pilots will be required to undergo rigorous evaluation of their performance measures and outcomes. This may involve randomized control trials and systematic reviews.
- Consider the Department's outcomes listed above (see page 5), list and please describe how your collaborative utilizes evidence-based practices to prove the effectiveness of your program. This description should include information on any frameworks, models, rigorous evaluation, or criteria that is used to demonstrate successful performance measures and outcomes.
- Evidence clearinghouses collect research on various topics and programs, assigning evidentiary ratings. The Results First Clearinghouse Database identifies thousands of programs that have been rigorously evaluated by one or more of the nine national clearinghouses. If your program has been rigorously evaluated, please provide a link or an attachment of the evaluation. Applicants may also submit studies which have not been vetted by clearinghouses for review and consideration.

Abstract Outline

G. Detailed Proposed Budget

Provide a brief narrative of the budgeted costs for the Planning Grant period. Attach the budget breakdown for the areas within the scope of work on the provided budget form. (Note: The total planning grant award shall not exceed \$500,000.)

H. Collaborative Group's Structure

Provide an organizational chart for each member of your collaborative group that outlines key staff for the oversight, support, and delivery of the collaboration. Describe the current staffing structure/model and positions needed, if any. The description should include job titles and descriptions of roles and responsibilities of all key positions. Indicate any services that will be contracted out such as fiscal, audit, etc.

Reviewing and Scoring Application Process

Review Process

Application packets will be reviewed in three phases:

- **Phase I** - Required Mandatory Standards Review by TDHS
- **Phase II** - Families First Community Advisory Board Review of Applicant Packets
- **Phase III** – Final Recommendation

TDHS Mandatory Review

Mandatory Review	Complete (Y/N)	Comments
Application submitted by deadline: (10/15/2021 by 5pm, CST)		
Followed submission guidelines set forth by the Department: 15-page limit, 11 font, double-space, and headers.		
Identified and program's purpose met at least one of the four goals of TANF.		
Submitted a Conflict of Interest (COI) Statement form from all members of collaborative group.		
Submitted a Certification of Acknowledgement (COA) form.		
Provided nonprofit or 501c3 determination letter. (Nonprofit), Or Provided Citation to Statue. (Political Subdivision of the State...), Or Provided evidence that the entity/entities was/were created pursuant to the Development District Act of 1965, compiled in T.C.A. title 13, ch.14. (Development District), Or Provided evidence that the entity/entities was/were created pursuant to the Human Resource Agency Act of 1973, compiled in T.C.A. title 13, ch.26. (Human Resource Agency).		
Provided and used the State's budget template and narrative.		
Good standing with the State (verified with TDHS Audit Services).		

Review Teams

Team #1	Team #2	Team #3
Commissioner Carter	Vice-chair Askew	Dr. House
Commissioner Rolfe (or designee)	Commissioner McCord (or designee)	Commissioner Schwinn (or designee)
Senator Akbari	Representative Terry	Commissioner Piercey (or designee)
Representative Hawk	Executive Mangubat	Senator Watson
Bishop Stephens	LaTerre Pleasant	Brittany Cleveland
Rachael Corry	Jack Bailey	Annie Cacheiro
<i>Future Appointee</i>	<i>Future Appointee</i>	<i>Future Appointee</i>

Review Timeline

Task	Responsible Party	Start Date	End Date
TDHS to complete mandatory review	TDHS	10/18/2021	10/25/2021
Families First Community Advisory Board (FFCAB) Evaluation/Review	FFCAB	10/26/2021	12/7/2021
TDHS to compile all applications into Dropbox for board members	TDHS	10/26/2021	10/26/2021
TDHS to send Dropbox link and FFCAB scorecard to board members	TDHS Commissioner's Office	10/27/2021	10/27/2021
FFCAB submits scorecard to TDHS	FFCAB	10/27/2021	11/17/2021
TDHS compiles scorecards for FFCAB's final review	TDHS	11/18/2021	11/22/2021
FFCAB votes on approval of planning grant approvals	FFCAB	12/7/2021	12/7/2021

Next Steps and Key Dates

- **Planning Grant Application Period:** September 1 – October 15, 2021
- **Planning Grant Mandatory Review:** October 2021
- **Planning Grant Advisory Board Review:** October/November 2021
- **Planning Grant Contract Term (90 days):** Winter 2022
- **TN Opportunity Pilot Proposal Review:** Spring 2022
- **TN Opportunity Pilots Implementation:** Winter 2022 – Winter 2025
- **Research Partner Selected:** Spring 2022

Reminders and Important Info

- Next Advisory Board Meeting: **October 19th, 2021**
- TDHS will continue to post updated information online about the TANF Opportunity Act:
 - <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/tanf-opportunity-act.html>
- You can sign up online to join the TANF Opportunity Act contact list and receive the latest updates.
- Board members who are not state employees should complete travel reimbursement forms.
- Board members should complete the Conflict-of-Interest form.

Advisory Board



- Must meet monthly until pilots are awarded
- Advisory Board meetings to take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in 2021 (except December)
 - September 21, 2021
 - October 19, 2021
 - November 16, 2021
 - December 7, 2021
 - January 18, 2022
 - February 15, 2022
 - March 15, 2022
 - April 7, 2022
 - May 17, 2022

Thank You!