

TN Opportunity Pilot Initiative

Transforming Tennessee Together

A Whole of Tennessee Approach to Growing Capability to Reduce Dependency

As part of its implementation of the TANF Opportunity Act, the Tennessee Department of Human Services is launching the Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative, which will infuse TANF funds in communities across the state with the vision of transforming the Tennessee safety net.

Community-driven strategies can effectively grow the capability of families and reduce their dependency on public supports.

-Commissioner Clarence H. Carter

The Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative

The Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative will provide \$5 million in Planning Grants and \$175 million in Implementation Grants (7 pilots) to demonstrate how collaborative, community-driven strategies can effectively grow the capability of families and reduce their dependency on public supports. Interested applicants must apply and be selected for a Planning Grant in order to be considered for an Implementation Grant. This is a unique opportunity for your community to develop new partnerships and strategies that work best for YOUR community when working to transform the way Tennessee helps families in need. Communities are encouraged to apply with a broad set of cross-sector partners.

Phase 1: Planning Grants



Organizations interested in participating in the pilot program must first apply for and be approved during the Planning Grant phase.

- The Planning Grant application process will open September 1, 2021 and close on October 15, 2021.
- Planning Grants of up to \$500,000 will be awarded to assist communities with technical assistance, visioning, initiative design, budgeting, and partnership development during a 90-day planning phase, in preparation for submitting a pilot proposal to be considered for an Implementation Grant.

Phase 2: Implementation Grants



The Families First Community Advisory Board will select 6 pilot grantees (2 in each grand division) from the organizations who are awarded planning grants and submit pilot proposals. TDHS will operate one pilot as well.

- After the 90-day Planning Grant period, applicants then will submit proposals.
- The Families First Community Advisory Board will select 6 pilots in Spring of 2022 to receive Implementation Grants.
- Pilots will begin implementation in Winter of 2022.

Next Steps and Key Dates

Qualified organizations can apply online beginning **Wednesday, September 1, 2021** at 9AM (CST) through **Friday, October 15, 2021** at 5PM, CST. More information about the application process can be found in the 2021 Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative Planning Grant Application Guide.

TDHS will continue to post updated information online about the TANF Opportunity Act here: <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.

Timeline

Planning Grants

Planning Grant Applications Open	Fall 2021
TDHS Mandatory Review Phase	Fall 2021
Advisory Board Review Phase	Fall 2021
Planning Grant Awards Announced	Winter 2021
Planning Grants Contract Term (90 days)	Winter 2022

Tennessee Opportunity Pilots

Advisory Board Review Phase	Spring 2022
Pilot Awards Announced	Spring 2022
Pilot Implementation	Winter 2022 – Winter 2025