



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

REGULAR CALENDER ITEM: IV.

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2022

SUBJECT: Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) and Supporting Access in Rural Counties (SPARC)

ITEM TYPE: Informational

ACTION RECOMMENDATION: NA

GOVERNOR'S INVESTMENT IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (GIVE)

The Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) community grant program is designed to foster long-term regional partnerships between Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs), community colleges, industry, economic development/workforce agencies, and K-12 to identify and address "skills gaps" in local workforce pools. The primary goal of GIVE is to ensure that Tennessee's education institutions are producing the credentials employers need while also driving new industry to the state through data-driven, collaborative work.

The GIVE program facilitates the alignment of local workforce and education partners through two \$25 million competitive grant processes. Grants of up to \$1 million have been made available to local collaboratives through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by THEC. Local collaboratives include the following mandatory partners:

- A TCAT or community college.
- A local workforce or economic development agency.
- Two or more area employers representing industry sectors with a demonstrated shortage of skilled workers.
- At least one K-12 local administrator, representing secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study and work-based learning interests.

Proposals were to identify and address local community/regional skills gaps through one (or a combination) of the following methods:

1. Enhance, expand, and/or acquire equipment to develop an academic program that creates a pathway from secondary to postsecondary, culminates in a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, and fills a critical and demonstrable local workforce need.
2. Develop and implement collaborative, meaningful, and structured work-based learning (WBL) experiences. WBL experiences may culminate in experiences such as internships, co-ops, pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, or clinicals.
3. Provide industry recognized certifications to meet an identified regional workforce need.

GIVE 1.0 began in December 2019 and will conclude in December 2022. GIVE 1.0 funded 28 different projects across 25 different institutions (See Table 1). A second round of GIVE was funded by Governor Lee and the General Assembly in 2021. GIVE 2.0 provides another \$25 million investment in career and technical

education. GIVE 2.0 funds 27 different projects across 21 institutions. GIVE 2.0 contracts began in December 2021 and will conclude in June 2024 (See Table 2).

The GIVE program prioritizes economically distressed and at-risk counties. All 15 distressed counties and 16 of 24 (67 percent) of the at-risk counties from FY2020 are impacted by GIVE 1.0 funds. All 9 distressed counties and 25 of 30 (83 percent) of the at-risk counties from FY2022 are directly impacted by GIVE 2.0. To date, there have been 7,481 work-based learning exposures, 2,564 industry certifications awarded, and 83 teacher externships provided through GIVE 1.0 grant funds.

SUPPORTING POSTSECONDARY ACCESS IN RURAL COUNTIES (SPARC)

The Supporting Postsecondary Access in Rural Counties (SPARC) initiative is a targeted initiative to engage local constituencies and education stakeholders in an effort to bridge, if not resolve, three identified obstacles: infrastructure need, geographic access to higher education, and unmet need for additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) dual enrollment opportunities. The SPARC counties are universally rural and have historically struggled to meet the expectations of the State's Higher Education Master Plan around postsecondary access and success.

Focusing on the existing CTE opportunities in the eligible county high schools, SPARC funding may be leveraged for the purchase of additional CTE equipment that will enable students to pursue industry credentialing or postsecondary credits. Grant funding may also be used to purchase, as a packaged program, an appropriate dual enrollment course in partnership with a Tennessee College of Applied Technology, including the cost of establishing a dual enrollment opportunity or adult learner opportunity within the high school facility. THEC partners with the Tennessee Board of Regents to facilitate the development of new dual enrollment and adult learner training models. SPARC funds can also be used for work-based learning experiences, industry certification exams, and teacher professional development.

To continue the momentum established from the first two rounds of SPARC, Governor Lee and the General Assembly funded another \$11.5 million for a third round of SPARC. THEC, utilizing the economic indicators of the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, identified a cohort of nine distressed counties that received individual grants of \$223,825 and 30 at-risk counties that received individual grants of \$124,703. The RFI was released on August 5, 2021, and grant activities began on November 15, 2021. These contracts will run until December 2023.

The nine distressed counties eligible for this round of SPARC funding are: Bledsoe, Clay, Cocke, Grundy, Hancock, Lake, Lauderdale, Perry, and Scott. The thirty at-risk counties eligible for this round of funding are: Benton, Campbell, Carroll, Carter, Claiborne, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hardin, Hardeman, Hawkins, Haywood, Henderson, Houston, Jackson, Johnson, Lewis, McNairy, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Obion, Pickett, Rhea, Sequatchie, Unicoi, Union, Van Buren, Warren, and Wayne.

Table 1: GIVE 1.0 Recipients

Fiscal Agent	Project Title	Funding Amount
Chattanooga State CC	Developing the Healthcare Workforce for Today	\$976,254.00
Cleveland State CC	Advanced Technologies Apprenticeship Institute	\$999,955.83
Columbia State CC	Cyber Defense Mobile	\$841,320.00
Dyersburg State CC	CNA to BSN (C2B) A Prescription for Nursing Shortages for Rural West Tennessee	\$1,000,000.00
Motlow State CC	Teaching Innovative Learning Technologies (TILT)	\$949,410.00
Northeast State CC	Northeast Tennessee IT Career Accelerator Pathway	\$998,823.00
Pellissippi State CC	GIVE Blount County Careers Collaborative (BC ³)	\$998,416.00
Pellissippi State CC	GIVE Knox County Careers Collaborative (KC ³)	\$999,874.00
Roane State CC	Fast Forward for Success (F ³ S)	\$999,950.00
TCAT Athens	Career-Aligned Learning Pathways Project: Implementing NCCER National Industry Certification as an Early-Post Secondary & Work-Based Learning Opportunity	\$111,002.00
TCAT Covington	Digital Agronomy Program	\$978,813.00
TCAT Crump	Regional Transportation Education Center (R-TEC)	\$997,688.00
TCAT Crump	Partnership in Agricultural Education (PAE)	\$999,978.00
TCAT Dickson	BRIDGE to Work (Building Rural Initiatives to Develop Growth and Experience) to Work	\$987,699.00
TCAT Elizabethton	East Tennessee STEM to Work Program	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Hartsville	Tennessee Central Cooperative Manufacturing WBL Program	\$994,995.00
TCAT Hohenwald	GIVE Technical Skills to Rise Above Distressed to the Best	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Jacksboro	Innovative New Vocational Education in the State of Tennessee (INVEST)	\$750,000.00
TCAT Jackson	Jackson-Madison County Manufacturing Alliance: An Educational Pathway to Student Success	\$927,580.00
TCAT Knoxville	Trane Training Lab: New HVAC Training Program with Alcoa City Schools	\$892,745.40
TCAT Livingston	Diesel Technology—Training a New Workforce for Overton County	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Livingston	Fabricating a New Workforce in Clay County through Welding Technology	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT McMinnville	Machining in Warren County - Shaping Your Career	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Morristown	FRP ² - Five Rivers Partnership for Future Ready Pathways	\$1,000,000.00

TCAT Oneida/Huntsville	Investing in Vocational Education in Three Distressed Counties	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Pulaski	Welding Program Expansion in Giles County	\$310,146.00
TCAT Whiteville	STAAMP - Southwest Tennessee Alliance for Advanced Manufacturing Programs	\$1,000,000.00
Vol State CC	GO Tech: Growing Opportunities in Technology	\$1,000,000.00

Table 2: GIVE 2.0 Recipients

Fiscal Agent	Project Title	Funding Amount
Chattanooga State CC	Advancing Cybersecurity, Automotive, and Welding Instruction in Southeast Tennessee	\$1,000,000.00
Cleveland State CC	Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing (MEP) with Major Concentration in HVAC and Refrigeration	\$941,091.70
Cleveland State CC	Meeting the Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) Demand in Southeast TN - A Rural Partnership between Business and Education	\$877,800.00
Columbia State CC	Emergency Medical Technician Training Program in Hickman County Schools	\$999,400.00
Columbia State CC	Engineering Systems Technology Mobile Classroom and Robotics Expansion	\$1,000,000.00
Nashville State CC	West-Nashville Healthcare Talent Pipeline	\$710,023.06
Northeast State CC	Automotive & Aviation Certificates for Employability (AAE)	\$999,419.00
Pellissippi State CC	Advanced Manufacturing College to Career Collaborative (AMC ³)	\$786,284.00
Pellissippi State CC	Information Technology College to Career Collaborative (ITC ³)	\$994,164.00
TCAT Crump	Decatur County Technical Center	\$719,295.00
TCAT Crump	Partnership in Advancing Construction Technology	\$991,919.00
TCAT Dickson	Aligning Students with Advanced Professions (ASAP)	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Elizabethton	Northeast Tennessee STEM to Work	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Hartsville	Tennessee Central Cooperative Manufacturing WBL Program	\$975,000.00
TCAT Hohenwald	Partnering to GIVE Careers in a Year	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Jackson	SW TN - Partnership for Allied Health Alliance (PACE)	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Knoxville	TCAT Knoxville's Industrial Development Lab for Anderson County	\$998,737.47
TCAT Knoxville	Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Knoxville's Union County Distress Relief Plan	\$999,857.66
TCAT Livingston	Robotics and Automation in the Upper Cumberland	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT McMinnville	Building Sustainable Early Post-Secondary Opportunities: A Regional Approach	\$739,840.25
TCAT Morristown	Five Rivers Partnership for Future Ready Pathways 2.0	\$1,000,000.00

TCAT Nashville	Advanced Manufacturing/Robotics/IT Programs for Springfield/Robertson County	\$979,898.20
TCAT Newbern	Building Construction and Maintenance Vocational Consortium Project	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Oneida/Huntsville	Expanding Vocational Education Opportunities in Scott, Morgan, and Fentress Counties	\$1,000,000.00
TCAT Shelbyville	Community Health Care Alliance	\$260,641.00
Walters State CC	SHAPE: Student Hospitality Internship Experience	\$985,266.00
Walters State CC	TIME: Training Industrial Manufacturing Excellence	\$981,217.00