



Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development 2023-2024 – ThreeStar Resource Guide

If you find anything that needs correction or have ideas to add to this Guide, please let me know. ~ Jody Sliger, Community Development Director, TNECD

The Governor's ThreeStar Community Development Program has worked with cities and counties across the state since 1980 to assist in aligning community needs with resources, and improve accountability, performance, and efficiency.

Mission: ThreeStar serves to promote economic and community prosperity through collaboration to positively impact every Tennessean.

➤ [Community and Rural Development](#)

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Community and Rural Development

'Tennessee's vibrant communities are places that anyone would be proud to call home. TNECD's Community and Rural Development programs use established funding programs, and new initiatives to connect communities to funding and technical assistance, to identify and build off their assets, and to advance economic development across the state.'

- [ThreeStar](#)
- [Tennessee Main Street](#)
- [Downtown Improvements](#)
- [Historic Development](#)
- [TN Placemakers Entrepreneurship](#)
- [Site Development](#)
- [Broadband Accessibility](#)
- [Infrastructure Planning](#)
- Federal Programs: [Appalachian Regional Commission](#), [Delta Regional Authority](#), [Community Development Block Grants](#)
- [Community and Rural Development Calendar](#)

Check out [this page](#) for some best practice stories and grant searches.

1

If you find anything that needs correction or have ideas to add to this Guide, please let me know. ~ Jody Sliger, Community Development Director, ThreeStar, TNECD

Jody.Sliger@tn.gov

DRAFT DOCUMENT – always in progress ... (12/27/23 Jody)

➤ TNECD – Business Development

TNECD Business Development: The [knowledgeable and dedicated team](#) is one of the reasons that every day, more and more businesses select Tennessee to relocate or expand their facilities.

➤ Downtowns, Retail, Small Business, Entrepreneur

Downtown Vitality:

Tennessee Main Street suite of programs provide technical assistance and resources for downtown revitalization.

Main Street – TN Downtowns: Nancy Williams & Kim Parks - Nancy.Williams@tn.gov;
Kim.Parks@tn.gov

Downtown Improvement Grant Program: Nancy Williams & Kim Parks - Nancy.Williams@tn.gov;
Kim.Parks@tn.gov

Historic Development Grant Program: - Resource to assist redevelopment of shuttered historic buildings to create jobs and increase economic impact. – Nancy.Williams@tn.gov;
Kim.Parks@tn.gov

Opportunity Zones: a federal tool designed to drive long-term capital to low-income communities – Lamont Price Lamont.Price@tn.gov

TN Placemakers – Assisting communities across the state, from rural to urban, to develop and train small businesses and entrepreneurs. – Jody.Sliger@tn.gov

TN SmartStart™ Community Initiative: trains and equips community partners resources and tools to address the needs of new and existing small businesses and entrepreneurs.
Wisty.Pender@tn.gov **TN SmartStart™ Guide:** [interactive online](#) and [PDF](#)

Business Enterprise Resource Office (BERO) – resources to help your businesses and community with topics from advocacy to data collection, art to agriculture to tech focusing on DBEs, small business and entrepreneurship resources. **Small Business:** Resources to support the successful growth and expansion of DBEs, small businesses, entrepreneurs**, and microenterprises *** Wisty.Pender@tn.gov

Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (TSBDC): Workshops, business consulting

Launch TN: a public-private partnership that focuses on high growth, innovation startups and capital formation. Lamont Price Lamont.Price@tn.gov

Fund TN – InvestTN – LendTN – AssistTN – [Fund Tennessee](#) connects business owners and entrepreneurs with the right resources at the right time.

UT CIS - Solutions Consultants

<https://www.cis.tennessee.edu/manufacturing-excellence/contact-solutions-consultant>

Tennessee APEX Accelerator (formerly TN PTAC) assists businesses in competing successfully in federal, state and local government contracting.

TN Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Serves as the primary voice of diverse business and manufacturing trade interests on major employment and economic issues facing public policy decision-makers.

Tennessee Development Districts

Tennessee [Development Districts](#) are regional planning and economic development organizations owned and operated by the cities and counties of Tennessee. The nine districts were established by the general assembly under the TN Development District Act of 1965.

Tennessee's Development Districts



➤ Tourism, Recreation, Parks, Historical/Cultural, Arts

Tourist Development

TN Dept. of Tourist Development

TNVacation.com

Tennessee Dept. of Tourist Development has Division Managers for the three Grand Divisions that serve the counties within the state. Each community can create pages within the TNVacation.com website to promote their attractions and events.

- (Interim) Zach Ledbetter, zach.ledbetter@tn.gov - East TN Division Manager
- Marty Marbry, West TN Division Manager – Marty.Marbry@tn.gov
- Ashley DeRossett, Middle TN Division Manager – Ashley.DeRossett@tn.gov

TDTD also has a team fully focused on distressed and at-risk communities.

- Zach Ledbetter – Director of Outreach and Engagement: zach.ledbetter@tn.gov
- Jenni Veal – Rural Destination Development Manager jenni.veal@tn.gov
- Silas Stoddart – Rural Tourism Program Manager silas.stoddart@tn.gov



TDTD has several grant opportunities for designated tourism/destination marketing organizations. There is also a tourism enhancement grant accessible to city/county governments. For grant questions, contact Andi Grindley, Outreach Projects Coordinator – andi.grindley@tn.gov

There are also nine Tourism Regional Directors that are recognized by the state as the official regional tourism organizations, however, they are not state departments.

East	Julie Graham	9lakes.easttn@gmail.com	865-585-0811
Greater Nashville	Amy Napoli	anapoli@gnrc.org	615-880-3542
Memphis Area	Grant Meyer	gmeyer@midsouthdd.org	901-729-2871
Northeast	Alicia Phelps	alicia@northeasttennessee.org	423-262-0238
Northwest	Kasey Muench	kasey@nwtntourism.com	731-697-5367
Southeast	Amy Anderson	aanderson@sedev.org	423-424-4222
South Central	Ryan French	ryan@experiencetn.com	931-273-6639
Upper Cumberland	Billie Davis	uctourism@gmail.com	931-261-6912
Southwest	Mary Beth Hopper	info@visitswtenn.com	731-616-7474

Hospitality TN ([HTN](#))

Not a state department, this association assists hospitality-related industries across Tennessee. The advocacy voice and source of information and education for Tennessee's lodging, dining, and tourism establishments.

TN Arts Commission – [Arts Commission Website](#)

Not a state department, The Tennessee Arts Commission is a state agency charged with cultivating the arts for the benefit of all Tennesseans and their communities.

The Tennessee Arts Commission was created in 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly with the special mandate to stimulate and encourage the presentation of the visual, literary, music and performing arts and to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Arts Commission offers grants for project and operating support, arts education, creative placemaking, and more. Popular grant categories include [Arts Project Support](#), [Rural Arts Project Support](#), [Arts Build Communities](#), [Arts Access](#) and the [Rural Arts Facilities Fund](#). More information on additional grant programs can be found [here](#).

TN Museum

Capital Maintenance and Improvement Grants - <https://tnmuseum.org/grants?locale=en>

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Resources for parks, planning, recreation, and infrastructure needs

- [State Parks](#)
- [Recreation Resources Division](#)
- [Water Resources](#)
- [Division of Stakeholder Engagement](#)
- [Grants Administration](#)
- [Small Business Environmental Assistance Program](#)

TWRA – Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency

[TWRA website](#)

- [Asian Carp](#)
- [Fishing and Boating access](#)

➤ Agriculture, Agribusiness

TN Department of Agriculture – [TN Dept of Agriculture Department Contacts](#)

TN Department of Agriculture – Regional Coordinators:

- West – Colleen Coury – colleen.coury@tn.gov
- Middle – Boyd Barker – boyd.barker@tn.gov
- East – Jessie McBride – jessie.mcbride@tn.gov
- Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program: [Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program \(TAEP\) \(tn.gov\)](#)
- Agricultural Enterprise Fund: [Agricultural Enterprise Fund - TN Department of Agriculture](#)
- Forestry, Agriculture and Rural Markets (FARM) program: [FARM Cost Share Program \(tn.gov\)](#)
- Tennessee Urban Farms & Forests (TUFF) program: [Tennessee Urban Farm and Forest \(TUFF\) \(tn.gov\)](#)

[Dept of Agriculture overview](#)

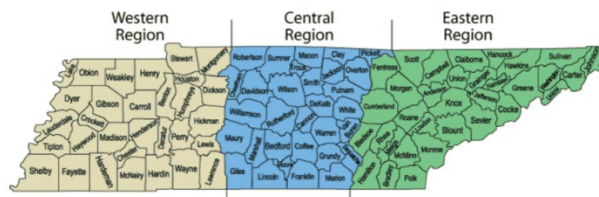
[Division of Forestry](#)

[Pick TN Products](#)

- Agribusiness – [Business Development](#) – Andy Holt Andy.H.Holt@tn.gov
- Farm to Table: <https://tennesseeagritourism.org/category/activity/farm-to-table>
- Find a Farm: <https://tennesseeagritourism.org/find-a-farm>

[UT Extension offices in every county – click on the link to go directly to the county](#)

UT Extension regions:



TN State University – SNAP-Ed - <https://www.tnstate.edu/snap-ed/index.aspx>

TSU Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education, SNAP-Ed

➤ Health, Housing, Aging, and Disabilities

TN Housing Development Agency

THDA's purpose is to [THDA](#)

- Promote the production of more affordable new housing units for very low-, low-, and moderate-income individuals and families in Tennessee.
- Promote the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing units for very low-, low-, and moderate-income individuals and families.
- Bring greater stability to the residential construction industry and related industries to assure a steady production of new housing units.

TN Commission on Aging and Disability –

Providing services for all Tennesseans aged 60+

- Program Information ([click link here](#))

- Regional offices ([click the link here](#))

TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- The goal is to provide opportunities for children and adults with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities to experience the physical, social, and emotional benefits of play alongside their peers without disabilities. Grant for inclusive parks, playgrounds, and other facilities. <https://www.tn.gov/didd/for-consumers/inclusive-playground-and-facility-grant.html>

TN Department of Human Services (DHS)

For a list of services and contact information: [click here](#)

- [Publications and Manuals](#) –
- [TANF Opportunity Act](#)
- [TDHS Self-Service Tools](#)
- [Contact TDHS](#)

DHS – Child Care and Adult Care resources

- Director of Licensing: Dana Glenn, Dana.N.Glenn@TN.gov; [Click here](#)

TDHS supports childcare creation across the state of Tennessee.

Resources include:

- [Pre-Licensure unit](#)
- [Expansion grant](#)
- [Establishment grant](#)
- [Enhancement grant](#)

Additional supports include quality coaches, access to bulk purchasing, professional development, and retention grants

TN Dept. of Health –

- TN Dept. of Health has [locations in each county](#).
- TN Dept. of Health – Office of Strategic Initiatives and County Health Councils – local collaborators working to advance health priorities in the community. please visit the website: [County Health Councils](#)
- Community Impact Coordinators – work to break down barriers to funding for community organizations by providing grant-related trainings, technical assistance, and connecting organizations with funding and resources.
 - West TN: [Dr. Margaret Taylor](#) / Middle TN: [Darla Sampson](#) / East TN: [Dr. Kia Ruffin](#)

[TN.gov website \(Health programs including Built Environment Grant info\)](#)

[Healthy Development Coordinators](#) provide support and promote the development of healthy built environments across the state. Check out their available Active Living Workshops.

The office of [Primary Prevention website provides Health and Built Environment Guides including:](#)

- [Healthy Built Environment Grants](#)
- [Healthy Community Design Training](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Approach to Workforce](#)
- [Project Diabetes Grants](#)
- [Livable Community Checklist](#)

➤ Education and Workforce Development



Governor's Early Literacy Foundation

- **Imagination Library**
- **K-3rd Grade Summer Reading**
- **Caregiver Engagement**
- **Book Bus**
- **Storybook Trail**

Governor's Early Literacy Foundation – formerly known as [Governor's Books from Birth Foundation](#). This link will take you directly to the county-specific affiliate contact search

TNECD Workforce Development:

Charita Allen, Director of Workforce Development, TNECD

charita.allen@tn.gov

Jennie McCabe, Workforce Development Consultant,

jennie.a.mccabe@tn.gov



In-Demand Jobs by Region: [In Demand Occupation Info](#)

Labor Force Participation Rates: [Labor Force Participation Rate details](#)

Jobs4TN Labor Market Information Home Page (including latest publications and data releases on in-demand occupations): <https://www.jobs4tn.gov/vosnet/default.aspx>

Annual Statewide Supply and Demand Report: *this report and accompanying materials identify in-demand occupations and aligned academic programs in Tennessee. The report's intent is to assist in the alignment of education, training, and employment in Tennessee:* <https://www.tn.gov/thec/research/supply-and-demand.html>

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

THEC – [County Profiles link](#)

THEC focuses on workforce efforts at the postsecondary level. It oversees and coordinates the state's public higher education institutions and systems, including the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), the University of Tennessee System, and locally governed institutions (LGIs). <https://www.tn.gov/thec.html>

Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE): The GIVE program facilitates the alignment of local workforce and education partners.

Adult Education: Adult Education, as part of the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA), provides services to adults to build the knowledge and skills necessary for high school equivalency (HiSET), employment, post-secondary opportunities, and economic self-sustainability. <https://www.tn.gov/workforce/jobs-and-education/ae.html>

TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development
[Dept. of Labor and Workforce - Workforce Development](#)

Office of Reentry: [Office of Reentry](#)

Office for Refugees: [Office for Refugees](#)

TN Department of Education

TN Department of Education – [Vision, and Priorities](#)

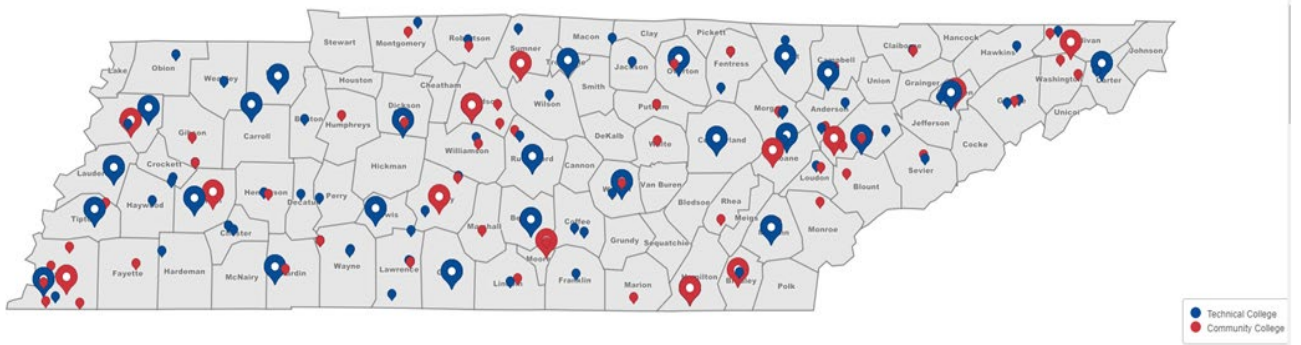
TN Department of Education (TDOE): TDOE serves approximately over 900,000 students in 147 districts with both significant urban and rural populations. It is dedicated to improving student academic achievement and committed to the belief that children from all backgrounds can succeed when given the opportunities they deserve.

Workforce-Related Vision, and Priorities

- **Career and Technical Education (CTE):** Tennessee's career clusters are organized into 16 overarching categories that encompass virtually all occupations from entry through professional levels and are aligned with the U.S. Department of Education.
<https://www.tn.gov/education/educators/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters.html>
- **Innovative School Models:** Innovative School Models provide invaluable learning experiences that prepare students for success after graduation. Schools apply for state grants to fund partnerships between school districts, postsecondary education institutions, and local employers to boost high schoolers' postsecondary success.
<https://www.tn.gov/education/innovative-school-models.html>
- **Work-Based Learning (WBL):** Through experiences like internships, apprenticeships, and paid work experience, juniors and seniors (16 years or older) may earn high school credit for capstone WBL experiences.
<https://www.tn.gov/education/educators/career-and-technical-education/work-based-learning.html>
- **Apprenticeship TN** <https://www.tn.gov/apprenticeshiptn.html>

Tennessee Board of Regents

TBR.edu



** Blue: Technical College - Red: Community College

[Click here for more information on Community Colleges](#) –



[Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology](#)
[TN Promise](#)
[TN Reconnect](#)

➤ Industrial Development, Sites, Infrastructure, Broadband, Roadways

TNECD - Broadband: Taylre Beaty Taylre.Beaty@tn.gov

TNECD - Select TN / Site Development / Property Evaluation: [Site Development](#) – Kirby Lewis – kirby.lewis-Gill@tn.gov

TNECD - Infrastructure Planning Grant: Brooxie Carlton - brooxie.carlton@tn.gov

TNECD - Federal Programs: Community Development Block Grants, Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority –
Brooxie Carlton – brooxie.carlton@tn.gov
Kent Archer – kent.archer@tn.gov
Jill White – jill.white@tn.gov

Tennessee Department of Transportation

[TDOT assists in community planning](#), transportation plans, regional planning, guidance for signage, transportation-related ADA compliance, and more.

TDOT – [Transportation Funding Database](#)

Strategic Transportation Investments Division – Economic Development Office

State Industrial Access

The State Industrial Access (SIA) Program provides funding and technical assistance for highway access to new and expanding industries across the state. The Tennessee Department of Transportation contracts with local governments for projects that will be developed under the SIA Program.

Statewide Program Contacts: **Steve Allen** – Steve.Allen@tn.gov
Michael Gilbert – Michael.Gilbert@tn.gov

[Transportation Planning Grants \(tn.gov\)](#)

[Rural Planning Organization \(RPO\) Coordination \(tn.gov\)](#)

[Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\) Coordination \(tn.gov\)](#)

Office of Community Transportation [Office of Community Transportation \(OCT\) \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/office-of-community-transportation)

D. Stacy Morrison | OCT Planning Manager [c] (423) 413-1332 - stacy.morrison@tn.gov



The **Community Transportation Planning Supervisors** for each region can be found here: [Office of Community Transportation Staff \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/office-of-community-transportation-staff)

TDOT also has jurisdiction concerning:

- **Signage:** [Sign Policy, Design, and Programs Section](https://www.tn.gov/sign-policy-design-and-programs-section) (tn.gov) Joseph Sweat – Section Manager (615) 532-3431 joseph.sweat@tn.gov
- **ADA compliance** on roadway-related items: Shanna Chevalier, ADA/504 Coordinator shanna.chevalier@tn.gov -TDOT.ADA@tn.gov

Tennessee Code Annotated 7-31-114, "Every incorporated city and town shall install ramps at crosswalks, in both business and residential areas, when making new installations of sidewalks, curbs or gutters, or improving or replacing existing sidewalks, curbs or gutters, to make the transition from street to sidewalk easily negotiable for persons with disabilities in wheelchairs and for other persons who may have difficulty in making the required step up or down from curb level to street level."

Additional ADA resources: Brett Heising – [BrettApproved.com](https://www.brettapproved.com)

➤ Federal Programs and other identified Partners

- [USDA](https://www.usda.gov)
 - [TVA](https://www.tva.com)
- <https://www.tva.com/economic-development/our-team>