

FIRST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
2nd QUARTER STATUS REPORT
April – June 2016

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The First Tennessee Development District assisted with a regional pre-application to address the impacts of the coal industry related to the CSX rail yard closure in **Erwin**. The Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) initiative grant is to assist coal impacted communities in implementing projects to transition the economy.
- The District assisted the City of **Sneedville** with an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) full application to address needs at its wastewater treatment plant.
- A business in **Johnson City** was assisted by the Downtown Johnson City Redevelopment Loan Program.
- On April 28, Main Street **Greeneville** and FTDD hosted an Information Session concerning historic preservation tax credits. Mr. Louis Jackson, Historic Preservation Specialist (Investment Tax Credits) with the Tennessee Historical Commission provided extensive information concerning income tax credits available to building owners undertaking substantial rehabilitation of historic buildings. Persons from throughout the district who are involved in historic preservation were invited to learn more about this federal program.

More than 750 buildings in Tennessee have been rehabilitated using the ITC program, generating investments of over \$500 million in Tennessee's historic buildings.

Two types of ITCs are available: 20% for a certified historic structure or 10% for a non-historic structure. Investment Tax Credits are available to the owners or certain long-term renters of income-producing properties. The 20% ITC reduces the cost of restoration and rehabilitation to the owner of an income producing historic property as an income tax credit. The credit is 20% of what an owner spends rehabilitating the building, not including acquisition costs. For more information please contact Gray Stothart at 423-722-5096.

- Economic and demographic data is available at the District's website www.ftdd.org under the Regional Statistics/FACTS heading.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMS

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with Fast Track Infrastructure Development Program (FIDP) funds and Economic Development Funds (ED) from the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development (TECD):
 - **Hawkins County**, (Homeland Vinyl FIDP) Design Phase
 - **Hancock County**, (Kiefer FIDP) Construction began on the gas line project and is about 45% complete.
- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds:
 - **City of Bristol**, (Royal EDA) Project Funded for \$1.5 million.

- **Greene County**, (C&C Millwright EDA) Construction is about 25% complete.
 - **Johnson County**, (Parkdale EDA) Submitted additional information for application approval.
 - **City of Kingsport**, (Eastman EDA) The Raw Water Conveyance project construction is about 40% complete.
 - **Town of Mosheim**, (US Nitrogen EDA) Construction is about 20% complete.
 - **Town of Unicoi**, (EDA) Phase I (Rural Development) has been completed. The plans and specs have been sent to EDA for approval and the project will be bid in the next quarter.
- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with Tennessee Department of Transportation (SIA):
 - **Unicoi County**, (SIA) Working on a new application to provide access to a green field site for a potential industrial expansion in the area.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with THDA Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly:

Signed Contracts

Carter County - 1
Hancock County- 1
Hawkins County –1
Johnson County – 3
Sullivan County - 2
Washington County --1

Completed Homes

Carter County - 1
Greene County -2
Hawkins County-2
Johnson County-2
Sullivan County-1
Washington County-1

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities within the Northeast Tennessee/Virginia HOME Consortium :
 - Signed Contracts on a Reconstruction Project in **Bristol, TN**
 - Preparing environmental review on 3 projects in **Bristol, VA**
 - Closing out the reconstruction of home in **Washington County, TN**
 - Signed Contracts on a **Johnson City, TN** Rehabilitation Project
 - Completed 3 Homeownership Projects:
 - 1- **Sullivan County**
 - 1- **Kingsport**
 - 1- **Johnson City**
- During the quarter, the District assisted the following with **Johnson City** CDBG Program funds:

- Emergency Repair – Completed 12 projects
 - Rehabilitation Projects- Completed 2 projects
 - Signed contract on an additional rehabilitation project
- During the quarter, the District was awarded six THDA HOME Grants for the following communities:
 1. **Greene County**
 2. **Johnson County**
 3. **Hawkins County**
 4. **Unicoi County**
 5. **Town of Erwin**
 6. **Town of Surgoinsville**
- During the quarter, the District completed the Tier II environmental reviews for proposed Projects in **Hancock County** and **Hamblen County** – THDA HOME Program funds
 - During the quarter, the District completed the Tier II environmental review for an additional project on the **Cumberland Gap** HOME Program
 - During the quarter, the District completed the Bidding Process for 1 Homeowner on the **Carter County** HOME Program - 5 Additional Projects are under Construction /Inspection Review
 - During the quarter, the District completed 1 Rehabilitation Project on the **Town of Greeneville** HOME Program

AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND DISABILITY

- The Public Guardian program served a total of 35 clients as follows:
 - Conservator of Person and Property = 32
 - Conservator of Person Only = 2
 - Power of Attorney = 1
 - Surrogate Power of Attorney = 1
 - The program admitted 10 new clients during this quarter.
 - A total of 6 volunteers were utilized with four providing direct and two providing indirect services.
 - The program recruited one new volunteer during this quarter.
- The 28th Annual Conference on Aging was held on Tuesday, May 3rd at the Millennium Centre in **Johnson City**. This year’s Older Americans Month theme was “Blaze A Trail”. There were over 250 registrants and 30 sponsors/exhibitors that participated in the conference. Storyteller, Humorist, Author, and Columnist for the **Knoxville** New Sentinel, Sam Venable, provided the keynote address called the “Joys of Aging”. The daylong conference included workshops on What is “Suspicious Activity?”; Diversity Training; Nutrition for Healthy Aging; Can Aberrant Behaviors in Patients with Dementia Be Predicted?; Brain Health and Wellness; Protecting Your Identity; Navigating VA Services; Rights of Long-Term Care Residents; Love Your Heart, Love Your Food; Medication and the Aging Body; Sudden Violence—Surviving An Active Shooter; Disability Sensitivity and Effective Communication; and Update on Alzheimer’s Disease Research.
- CHOICES provided the following services for this quarter:
 - 590 Information, assistance, and screening calls
 - 152 Home visits to facilitate enrollment into CHOICES
 - 124 Pre-Admission Evaluations and Medicaid applications submitted to TennCare and Department of Human Services

- 137 Referrals to Managed Care Organizations
 - 14 Money Follows the Person (MFP) survey;
 - 16 Nursing home visits to counsel individuals and families on Long Term Services and Supports
 - 6 Community Living Support Ombudsman visits
 - Comments received from consumers this quarter: “I appreciate your help. I am very grateful.”
Everyone has been great.”; “Very well satisfied with all of you. You do an excellent job”.
- The **Washington County** SALT (Senior and Law Enforcement Together) Council hosted a Senior Crime Prevention Academy on June 17th at the **Jonesborough** Senior Center. The academy is held in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) which is held annually on June 15th. Presentations for the half day academy were: Sudden Violence—Surviving an Active Shooter; The Role of Adult Protective Services in the Community; and Scams, Home/Personal Safety. There were over 90 attendees.
 - FTAAAD sponsored a Communities United in Faith and Committed to Neighbors breakfast on June 14, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in **Johnson City**. There were 36 attendees. Rose Corbett from Adult Protective Services led a discussion about Elder Abuse and ways to advocate. We watched the Elder Abuse video, 'An age for Justice', and all attendees were given a copy of the video. Bryan Smith, Pastor at Grace Baptist Church, spoke about how churches can reach out and join the Area Agency on Aging and Disability to both identify and minister to vulnerable adults in their own community. Kathy Whitaker also spoke on the Extend a Hand Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

During the past quarter, the Environmental Management Program staff worked on several projects that involved many of our local governments. Staff assisted or implemented the following projects during the past quarter:

- Prepared District Solid Waste Needs Assessments for **Sullivan, Carter** and **Greene** Counties.
- Completed the **Cash Hollow** Watershed Implementation project.
- Prepared environmental review for Façade Grant Project through Main Street **Greeneville, Inc.**
- Prepared District-Wide database and maps of solid waste management facilities for each county in the District.
- Provided assistance to **Carter County** Emergency Management Agency in developing a Disaster Debris Management Plan.
- Completed Recycling Feedstock Survey of industries throughout the District.
- Hosted quarterly solid waste directors meeting at FTDD.
- Conducted Regional Solid Waste Planning Board Member Workshop.
- Assisted **Washington** County with tire recycling RFP process and proposal evaluation.
- Worked with solid waste officials to explore options for a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility in the FTDD area.
- Began work on a TVA 26A Permit application for the City of **Kingsport**.

RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

During the past quarter the First Tennessee RPO staff assisted local transportation representatives and elected officials with numerous requests concerning rural transportation. The RPO was also involved in the following projects and initiatives:

- Developed TDOT Local Programs and Funding Options Guidebook for local officials.
- Attended Land of Sky RPO meeting in **Asheville, NC**.
- Prepared **Greene County** roadway functional classification and traffic maps.
- Prepared GIS database of major traffic generators, including manufactures, schools, etc. in the FTRPO area.
- Prepared and hosted TDOT Commissioner John Schroer at an RPO meeting in April.
- Attended Freight Advisory Committee meeting in **Knoxville**.
- Attended NADO National Regional Transportation Conference in **Chattanooga**.
- Attended **Johnson City, Bristol and Kingsport** MPO meetings.

PLANNING

During the past quarter, the First Tennessee Development District local planning staff assisted communities, Planning Commissions, Boards of Zoning Appeals, and developers in the following areas:

- Staffed 29 Planning Commission meetings.
- Staffed 7 Boards of Zoning Appeals meetings.
- Staffed 2 meetings of a local legislative body.
- Staffed 2 other local meetings concerning development and landuse controls.
- Reviewed 5 requests for zoning variances.
- Prepared 3 zoning ordinance amendments.
- Prepared 1 amendment to zoning maps.
- Reviewed 1 request for rezoning and prepared maps and ordinances.
- Reviewed 21 subdivision plats including a total of 46 lots and 117.8664 acres.
- Reviewed 11 community development site plans for a total of 14 lots and 34.79 acres.
- Provided continuing education opportunities for 7 Planning Commissions or Boards of Zoning Appeals totaling 148.5 hours of CEU's for 36 individuals. During the quarter the following topics were addressed:
 - Comprehensive Planning and Zoning
 - Major Thoroughfare Plans
 - Content-Neutral Sign Regulations
 - Zoning Law and Manufactured Housing

Workforce and Literacy Initiatives

- **Pathways:**
 - Held conference calls with two intermediaries across the state and will be visiting **Rutherford County** as part of another trip to learn about their program. The recommended Pathways advisory board members have been identified and are being contacted. Plans are to hold the first meeting in August. I have been meeting with superintendents and CTE directors in preparation for our Pathways work.

- **Informing:**
 - Listening Tour 1:1 Meetings were held with multiple stakeholders including 2 mayors, 5 CTE directors, 3 superintendents, and representatives from NES, Niswonger Foundation, Eastman, TCAT and **Bristol** Chamber.
 - Presentations have been made to all area superintendents, the WCEDC, and two **Johnson City** Rotary Clubs.
 - Interviews have been conducted with the **Johnson City** Press, News & Neighbor, WQUT, and Business Journal to promote workforce development and literacy initiatives.

- **Initiatives:**
 - Attended the Career Quest interactive career fair along with representatives from NN, Inc., MSHA, and WCEDC. We are in the planning stages for this interactive career fair to be brought to our region. We are partnering with ETSU on use of the Minidome.
 - Worked with Monster.com on a personality profile career assessment tool for the region. AB&T will fund this trial offering which can be used for students and adults and provides the user with career information based on the personality assessment.
 - In cooperation with **Johnson City** Schools and the WCEDC, and in response to industry feedback, Digital Citizenship Training, which is training on social media, appropriate use of technology and interviewing skills, is being developed to be rolled out in the fall. This training will be made available to all school systems in the region and is designed for middle and high school students. Businesses were surveyed for input into the training.
 - Coordinated summer reading initiatives alongside feeding programs for **Johnson City** and **Washington County** as a follow up to the Taskforce on workforce and literacy.
 - Working with MSHA, ETSU and various businesses and schools on a marketing campaign around literacy issues for 0 to age 5.
 - Partnering with Insight Alliance, State Department of Mental Health and Substance abuse to host a faith based educational opportunity to encourage churches and other faith based organizations to work with our community on the Opioid addiction crisis through better understanding of the issues, providing services, and/or facilities. This event will be in August.

- **Invest/Grants:**
 - Partnered on the Power Grant for **Unicoi, Washington** and **Carter Counties** including various workforce initiatives in the proposal.
 - Partnered on the Leap Grant for Northeast Tennessee in conjunction with AB&T and NES. Workforce initiatives and work ready community are part of this proposal which is to be submitted in July.
 - Partner and guiding committee member for the TN Reconnect Community as part of the Drive to 55 initiative.
 - Partner with the **Johnson City** Chamber on a US Chamber grant which provides a web based tool for job seekers and students.

- **Work Ready Community:**
 - Met with various representatives involved with the WRC designation including members of the **Sullivan County** initiative and ACT. A proposal for the other 7 counties will be presented to the mayors to begin the process around the region.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Continued maintenance and updates on the FTDD website.
- Attended meetings of the Food Connectivity Policy working group with Rural Resources, Appalachian Sustainable Development & Second Harvest Food Bank.
- Took part in a monthly meets to train and facilitate Drug Free work place programs in conjunction with **Washington County's** drug free workplace initiative.
- Began planning an Informational Luncheon on Team Awareness in partnership with ETSU College of Public Health, area Anti-Drug Coalitions, and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse.
- Attended monthly **Carter, Johnson, Sullivan & Washington County**, Anti-Drug Coalition meetings to support the region's efforts to address the Northeast Tennessee's prescription drug abuse epidemic.
- Began administration of the Tennessee Arts Commission *Arts Building Communities Grant*.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- August 19, 2016: Regional Senior Brain Games
- September 10-23, 2016: Annual Senior Olympics
- October 28-29, 2016: FTDD Annual Meeting

WEBSITE:

www.ftdd.org