

**FIRST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
FY 2018 2Q STATUS REPORT  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017**

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

FTDD assisted the following communities with Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) pre-applications:

**Elizabethton  
Hancock County  
Johnson City  
Johnson County**

New loans were made to businesses in the **Town of Unicoi** and downtown **Johnson City**.

Nine requests for Section 106 Review were submitted to the Tennessee Historical Commission during the quarter. Section 106 Reviews are required by the state and federal governments to ensure that ongoing federally funded projects do not impact significant historical sites in the region.

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

During the quarter, FTDD 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) for the following:

**City of Bristol**- Attended a meeting to discuss a potential FIDP application for infrastructure project.

**Washington County**- Worked on maps and continued discussing a potential business park in **Washington County, TN**.

**Sullivan County**- Meeting to discuss potential FIDP/EDA application to serve a prospective industrial park between three counties in the region.

**Hawkins County**- Meeting to discuss a potential FIDP application in Phipps Bend for the expansion of Techni-Glass.

FTDD assisted the following communities with U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds:

**City of Bristol, (Royal EDA)** - Construction has begun, and is moving smoothly at this time.

**Town of Greeneville, (C&C Millwright EDA)** - The project has been progressing nicely over the last few months. The project is roughly 60% complete.

**City of Johnson City, (Mullican Flooring)** - Submitted a proposal for approval to EDA. The project will increase efficiency at the WWTP to serve the facility.

**City of Kingsport, (Eastman EDA)** - The Raw Water Conveyance project construction is complete. A closeout package is in the process of being submitted to EDA.

**Town of Mountain City, (Parkdale EDA)** - The project has been bid and the preconstruction conference is over. Construction will begin early next quarter.

FTDD assisted the following communities with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):

**Hancock County,** Project 95- Phase I construction is complete. Phase II has been bid and construction should begin early first quarter.

**Johnson County-**All the equipment has been delivered and the project will be closed out in January 2018.

**Mt. Carmel-** Based on the issues at the plant, the Town plans to submit another application for work at the wastewater treatment plant. The survey is underway, with the application to be submitted in late February 2018.

FTDD assisted the following communities with Appalachian Regional Commission funds (ARC):

**Johnson County, (Parkdale ARC)** - The project as originally designed is 100% complete. ARC recently awarded an amendment to purchase a new transformer in order to serve Parkdale and lower end of the County.

## **HOUSING PROGRAMS**

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

### **Bristol**

Within the Northeast Tennessee/Virginia HOME Consortium, FTDD assisted the following communities with Homeownership Down Payment Assistance:

### **Bristol, VA**

**Johnson City**

**Washington County**

Homeowner Rehabilitation Projects Status:

One **Bluff City** Rehabilitation is complete

One **Johnson City** Reconstruction is underway

One **Kingsport** Rehabilitation and Four Reconstructions are underway

One **Sullivan County** Reconstruction is underway

Work under the **Johnson City** CDBG Program consisted of:

Completion of One Emergency Repair Project

Completed the Reconstruction of 1 Home

Inspections are currently underway for additional projects

Projects under the **Hancock County** HOME Program included:

Rehabilitation projects complete

Projects under the New Tazewell HOME Program included:

Final Rehabilitation project completed

Closeout Documents for this Grant were sent to THDA on September 19, 2017

Hamblen County HOME Grant

7- Rehabilitation Projects are underway

Tennessee Housing Development Agency HOME Rehabilitation Grants:

Tier I Environmental Review Records are in the Public Comment Phase for:

Town of **Mountain City**

Town of **Greeneville**

City of **Elizabethton**

Tier II Site Specific Reviews completed:

Additional Projects in **Hancock** County, Town of **Erwin**, Town of **Surgoinsville**

### **LOCAL PLANNING PROGRAM**

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 ways:

Staffed 19 Planning Commission meetings.

Staffed 7 Boards of Zoning Appeals meetings.

Staffed 1 meeting of a local legislative body.

Staffed 1 other local meeting concerning development and landuse controls.

Reviewed 7 requests for zoning variances.

Prepared 1 subdivision regulations amendment.

Reviewed 1 request for rezoning and prepared maps and ordinances.

Reviewed 28 subdivision plats including a total of 49 lots and 101.12 acres.

Reviewed 2 community development site plans for a total of 2 lots and 3.06 acres.

Provided continuing education opportunities for 6 Planning Commission or Boards of Zoning Appeals totaling 90.5 hours of CEU's for 33 individuals.

During the quarter the following topics were addressed:

International Building Code

Parks & Recreation

Planning Commissioner Handbook

Septic Permitting

Hawkins County Subdivision Regulations

Planning for Public Infrastructure

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

During the past quarter, the Environmental Management Program staff worked on several projects that involved many of our local governments:

Completed three (3) Environmental Review Records on THDA HOME Grants for the communities of **Elizabethton, Greeneville and Mountain City**.

Completed an Environmental Review Assessment for the **Hancock County** CDBG/ARC Call Center Project

Completed two (2) Environmental Reviews for **Erwin's** CDBG Ambulance Grant and CDBG Façade Grant

Completed an Environmental Review for **Sneedville's** ARC Auto Read Meters project

Completed two (2) Tier II Reviews for Appalachian Service Project's housing reconstruction projects in **Johnson City**

Completed two (2) Tier II Reviews for the **Johnson City** under the CDBG Home Rehabilitation program

Completed two (2) Tier II Environmental Reviews for **Johnson City** under the NE TN/VA HOME Consortium program

Completed one (1) Tier II Environmental Review for **Bristol** under the NE TN/VA HOME Consortium program.

Completed two (2) Tier II Environmental Reviews for the **Hancock County** THDA HOME Grant.

Attended the TDEC/TDOT Litter and Tire Grant Workshop

Coordinated an Informational Webinar regarding Recycling Equipment for interested Solid Waste Directors, Highway Superintendents and a Private Sector Company.

Facilitated Quarterly Conference call with TDEC Division of Solid Waste Management and Development Districts' staff.

Worked on the Environmental Review for the **Greeneville** CDBG Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

Worked on Solid Waste Management District Needs Assessments for **Hancock** and **Washington Counties**.

### **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:

Coordinated meetings of the RPO Executive Board and Technical Committee to prioritize IMPROVE Act Projects for the TDOT 3-year work program

Communicated with communities about the Community Transportation Planning Grant and Special Litter Grant

Attended meetings of the **Bristol** MPO, **Kingsport** MPO, **Johnson City** MPO, Southeast RPO, East TN South RPO, and East TN North RPO

Attended a regional workshop hosted by TVA and the Northeast Tennessee Valley Regional Industrial Development Authority

Participated in Local Roads Safety Initiative Program meetings in **Washington and Greene Counties**

Updated the RPO's online mapping tools

Created maps demonstrating drive time distances from **Johnson County** to nearby higher education institutions to support the FTDD Director of Workforce Development

Attended a Traffic Incident Management System workshop hosted by Federal Highway Administration

Prepared a Road Safety Audit Request for **Hancock County**

### **AREA AGENCY ON AGING & DISABILITY**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) provided:

SNAP Screenings – 1,026

SNAP Application Assistance – 60

29 SNAP events at various senior centers, housing facilities, expos, health fairs, and SHIP Open Enrollment Events.

CHOICES provided the following services for the quarter:

592 Information, assistance and screening calls

105 Home visits to facilitate enrollment into CHOICES

90 Pre-Admission Evaluations and Medicaid applications submitted to TennCare and Department of Human Services

114 Referrals to Managed Care Organizations

12 Nursing home visits to counsel individuals and families on Long Term Services and Supports

33 Community Living Support Ombudsman visits

The Long Term Services and Supports Division (LTSS) of the Bureau of TennCare performed an audit of First Tennessee's compliance with guidelines and timeframes associated with the AAAD referral process. We had an overall compliance score of 100%. There were no findings for the Information and Referral or Minimum Data Set (MDS) processes. TennCare did not have any guidance for the future at this time.

Statewide CHOICES enrollment is 29,120 in all groups. 57.3% are in nursing homes and 42.7% in home based services.

The Public Guardian program served a total of 36 clients as follows:

Conservator of Person and Property – 33

Conservator of Person only – 3

2 new clients were admitted during this period

A total of 5 volunteers were utilized

Evidence-Based Programs and Caregiver Support Programs:

Participated in the Jonesborough 50+ Senior Expo providing information to 75 attendees.

Completed a 2-day leader training for Cancer: Thriving and Surviving workshops to provide in our area.

Facilitated a Living Well with Chronic Conditions workshop at the Elizabethton Senior Citizens Center with 10 participants and 9 completing 4 or more workshops.

The Caregiver Appreciation Luncheon was held December 1 at Munsey Memorial Presbyterian Church with guest speaker, Angie Gibson, presenting “Laugh Out Loud.”. Thirteen caregivers and members of the TRC Coalition were in attendance for the luncheon.

143 individuals were referred to outside agencies for regular food boxes, utility bill assistance, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Salvation Army, Kingsport Meals on Wheels, Sheppard’s Corner, Department of Human Services and USFA home repair, Keystone Dental Clinic, and various churches.

402 individuals were contacted and served with holiday Christmas boxes.

Approved 8 individuals with the Emergency Assistance Program to help with utility bills, water bills, medications or rent.

Information & Referral received 2,258 calls and completed 269 long term care screenings.

The State Health Insurance Program had 4,102 client contacts, had 50 public and media events, 12 Medicare part D enrollment events reaching 202 Medicare beneficiaries, held 14 presentations and attended 24 health fairs/expos.

## **WORKFORCE & LITERACY INITIATIVES:**

### Work Ethic Diploma:

The director continues to promote the Work Ethic Diploma to area businesses with new additions of businesses as sponsors during this last quarter. The tracking system funded by the Niswonger Foundation is being utilized by the majority of high schools in the region.

### Work Ready Community:

County level meetings, focus and promotions continue throughout the region as we focus on ways to ensure each county is making progress toward the goals to attain certification from ACT.

The director was asked to join the State Council for ACT where the NCRC is one of the main focus areas along with the ACT college ready test. The council is made up of members from education, business and government along with ACT staff.

The director is working with partners across the state to strategize ways to secure ongoing funding for the payment of the \$36 for the NCRC. Both the emerging and transitioning workforce categories are in jeopardy from a funding perspective.

The director attended the national workforce summit in November and spent time networking with communities engaged in various stages of work ready around the country. Key speakers included communities who have leveraged their work ready status in recruitment.

### EDI, Early Development Index

We continue to seek funding and support for the EDI work in partnership with Quillen College of Pediatrics and ETSU College of Education. The data collected with this work would be used to frame policy and funding toward solution building for identified areas in education, health care, birth to five and other areas.

### CareerQuest TN

Planning is underway for the 2018 CareerQuest event scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. More businesses are expected to participate in 2018. The goal is to open enrollment to allow more students to attend in 2018 from a cap of 5,000 to 6,500. Registration will open January 8<sup>th</sup>.



## CareerQuest TN...It's All About Business

In response to the need for a real world event for high school students focusing on business careers, a core team of regional experts is working on an event to be held March 2<sup>nd</sup> on the campus of Northeast State. This event is designed for 500 high school juniors and seniors and will focus on the following sectors: accounting/auditing, banking/financial planning, human resources and marketing. A shark tank entrepreneurial experience is being offered for up to 40 students. That number will be reduced to 20 (individual or teams) with the final 20 making a pitch to an expert panel with the opportunity to win \$1,000. All students attending the event will also have a formal interview with HR professionals from around the region. The feedback (good and bad) from the professionals will be provided to area schools so that they can improve the student's interview skills before they leave high school, and modify their teaching of future students.

## Holy Friendship Summit

The director continues to serve on the regional steering committee for this event in partnership with Duke Divinity. The event is to broaden the work of the faith community and partnership with the medical community in dealing with the opioid crisis in the region. The director coordinated a kick off press conference and is leading the marketing effort for this event scheduled in May 2018.

## Pathways Northeast TN

Two regional strategic planning meetings have been held to establish mission, vision and goals for the Pathways initiative. Participants include mayors, business leaders, department of labor, superintendents and CTE directors and post secondary partners. The goal is to have the strategic plan completed by spring, 2018.

## TCAT Johnson County

The director presented a proposal to Senator Lundberg and Representative Hill regarding establishing a TCAT co-located using Johnson County High School facilities. Area legislators were very favorable about the recommendation and organized a meeting in Nashville with ECD and THEC representatives. The director made the presentation which was well received. WE have ECD's support for the effort. FTDD has submitted an ARC grant request for funding for the automotive program that would be launched in this facility. Plans are to submit a budget amendment for the nursing, HVAC and electrical programs.

## Construction Sector

In response to industry request, the director hosted a meeting with construction leaders, high school and post secondary partners and the department of labor about needs in the construction industry. A subgroup has been formed to evaluate work based learning and apprenticeship opportunities.

## Work Based Learning, Health Care

The director coordinated meetings between Johnson County High School and MSHA and wrote a grant for work based learning for Johnson County students. We have received word the \$25,000 grant was one of 29 awarded.

## Literacy Summer Reading

The director partnered with Books From Birth Foundation, Carter County Schools, Unicoi County Schools and Elizabethton City Schools on summer reading grants to bring mobile libraries to the communities for the summer. All three grants were awarded and work is now beginning on the next steps and execution of the program.

## Miscellaneous

The director was asked to serve as a literacy panelist during a regional event in partnership with the area chambers of commerce and First Lady Haslam.

The director was asked to join the board of Second Harvest Food Bank. This work fits with the various summer literacy programs.

The director was asked to join the Tennesseans for Quality Education regional advisory board.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Continued maintenance and updates on the FTDD website

Continued work with the Food Access Policy Working Group as part of a regional collaboration between the FTDD, Second Harvest, Feeding America Southwest Virginia

Continued planning a Regional Food Policy 101 presentation in partnership with Second Harvest, Appalachian Sustainable Development and elected officials in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia

Coordinated continued outreach and promotion of Retail Academy follow-up webinars and online trainings for Mountain City, Erwin, Town of Unicoi and Elizabethton

Planned and carried out the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual FTDD Board Meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Continued outreach with regional Anti-Drug Coalitions to provide support for regional efforts for a healthy workforce

Assisted various regional tourism organizations with planning and implementation of projects to promote local tourism events, including Tanasi Arts & Heritage Center, Main Street Greeneville, Appalachian High Country Wine American Viticulture Area, and Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association

Coordinated and assisted with the facilitation of three Asset Based Planning Forums for Carter, Greene and Unicoi Counties

Planned and coordinated the annual FTDD Christmas Open House

Began the preliminary work necessary to create a 501c3 non-profit foundation to assist the Development District with work related to aging programs, housing, literacy and workforce