FIRST TENNESSEE
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



60 YEARS
OF DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS
IN TENNESSEE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mayor of Greeneville

Vice Chair
The Honorable Larry Potter,
Mayor of Johnson County

Treasurer
The Honorable William Carter,
Mayor of Elizabethton

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Hon. Greg Cox, Mayor of Johnson City

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**Denotes a member of the Executive Committee & FTDD Foundation Board of Directors*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

60 YEARS
OF DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS IN TENNESSEE

As we celebrate 60 years of Development Districts in Tennessee, I am proud to reflect on the important role the First Tennessee Development District continues to play in strengthening communities across Northeast Tennessee. For six decades, Development Districts have demonstrated the power of regional cooperation, bringing communities together to address shared challenges, pursue opportunities, and build a stronger future.

Having lived in different cities and counties throughout Northeast Tennessee, I have developed a deep appreciation for the diversity of our region. Each community has its own character, strengths, and challenges. While the needs of a small rural town may differ greatly from those of a larger city, one thing remains consistent: FTDD is a trusted and reliable resource, providing expertise, guidance, and support regardless of a community's size.

Throughout the past year, FTDD has worked alongside local governments, businesses, and community organizations to turn regional needs into meaningful action. From securing critical grant funding and improving infrastructure to advancing workforce development, housing initiatives, and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, the District's impact can be seen across all eight counties.

The continued recovery from Hurricane Helene has further demonstrated the importance of strong regional partnerships. During challenging times, FTDD has remained a valuable resource, helping communities access assistance, navigate recovery efforts, and plan for the future.

As we recognize this 60-year milestone, we are reminded that the vision behind Tennessee's Development Districts remains just as relevant today as it was in the beginning. While our communities have grown and their needs have evolved, the value of working together has never changed.

I am grateful for the leadership of our Board, the dedication of FTDD's staff, and the commitment of our many community partners. The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect not only another successful year, but also a legacy of service and collaboration that continues to move Northeast Tennessee forward.







Hon. Cal Doty, Mayor of Greeneville

FIRST TENNESSEE
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The First Tennessee Development District (FTDD) is an association of local governments dedicated to improving quality of life and strengthening communities. across Northeast Tennessee. Through regional collaboration, FTDD addresses shared challenges, promotes economic growth, and creates opportunities for a stronger future.

The District supports its eight-county region through economic and community development, business financing, research and planning, environmental initiatives, housing assistance, workforce development, and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FTDD's Economic Development Department supports business growth and recruitment across the region through grant writing, project management, and administrative services. Working with local governments and community partners, the department manages projects from environmental reviews and procurement to compliance and closeout, ensuring grant requirements are met.

KINGSPORT WATER PROJECT


EXTERIOR


ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT


WATER PUMP EQUIPMENT

GRANTS FUNDED

2 GRANTS FUNDED

- Elizabethton $1,872,000
- Johnson City $2,000,000

GRANTS ADMINISTERED

4 GRANTS ADMINISTERED

- Kingsport Water Project $1,500,000
- Johnson City Pump Station $1,804,000
- First Utility District Water Line $1,244,874
- Greeneville Sewer $1,500,000

GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

5 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

WITH POTENTIAL AWARDS TOTALING

$112,375,000

- Jonesborough
- Erwin (2 applications)
- Mountain City
- Greeneville

RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

During FY2026, the First Tennessee Development District used a $208,732 TDOT Rural Planning Organization grant contract to provide planning and grant-development capacity across eight counties.

These activities converted local needs into plans, competitive applications, and implementation-ready projects that improve transportation, support community recovery, and build a stronger, more resilient region.

RPO IMPACT AT A GLANCE

$208,732
TDOT RPO grant contract to provide planning and grant-development capacity

8
Counties served

$175,000
Mountain City transportation safety project

$8.026M
DOE partnership supporting ADA planning, roadway safety, recovery coordination, and rural EV groundwork.

FTDD FLEET



Through grant funding, FTDD installed **two Level 2 EV charging stations with four charging ports**, paving the way for the purchase **of four Ford Mustang Mach-E electric vehicles.**

In FY2026, staff traveled **more than 30,000 miles** using the EV fleet, supporting more sustainable transportation across the region.

MAJOR GRANT ACHIEVEMENTS

MOUNTAIN CITY TN

$140,000
Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All award for Mountain City

+

$35,000
In-kind share

$175,000
Total project value

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

USDOT Technical Assistance

Complementary USDOT technical assistance advanced ADA planning, roadway safety, recovery coordination, and rural EV groundwork.

Hurricane Helene Recovery Support

Following Hurricane Helene, the RPO served as a transportation and grant-navigation bridge between local governments and funding agencies.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Faster Project Delivery
Faster conversion of recovery needs into eligible projects.

Stronger Coordination
Improved interagency coordination across local governments and funding agencies.

More Resilient Communities
Rebuilding decisions that consider future resilience.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

FTDD's housing work combines home rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, homelessness coordination, and community support to help Northeast Tennessee residents obtain and maintain safe, affordable housing.



Following significant fire damage, grant funds were used to demolish the existing home and a new home was constructed for a Kingsport homeowner

HOUSING INVESTMENT

PROGRAM	PROJECTS	FUNDS SPENT
THDA	22	$ 2,057,245.82
THDA – Emergency Repair Program	27	$ 285,685.00
NE TN / VA HOME Consortium	14	$ 772,129.00
JC CDBG	6	$ 299,490.00
OVERALL TOTALS		**$ 3,414,549.82**

REHABILITATING EXISTING HOMES

SUPPORTING HOMEOWNERSHIP

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION
STRONGER COMMUNITIES

137 SUBDIVISION PLATS
594.27 ACRES

80 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS ATTENDED

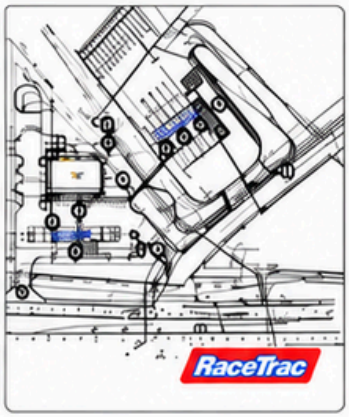
27 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETINGS ATTENDED

14 SITE PLANS ASSISTED WITH
56.28 ACRES

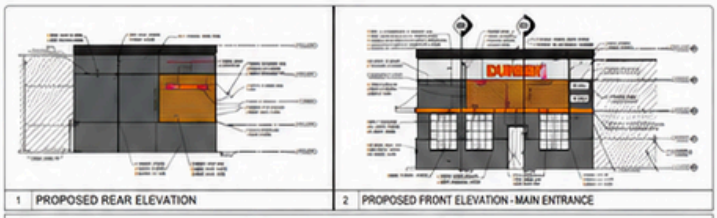
43 ORDINANCES ASSISTED WITH PASSING

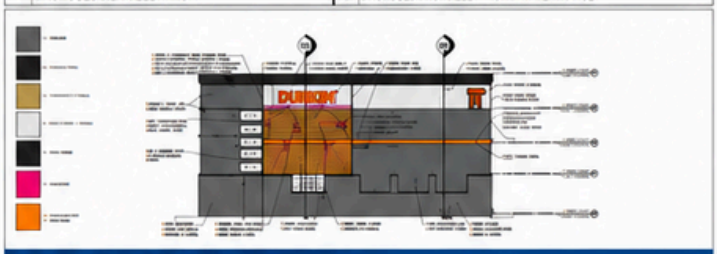
EXIT 23 HIGHLIGHT
MOSHEIM, TENNESSEE



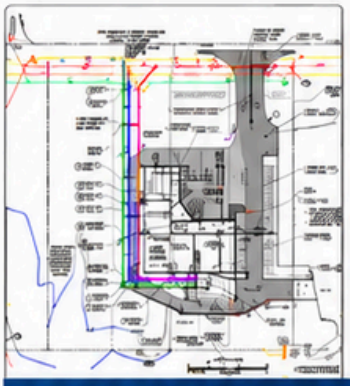


RaceTrac – Completed





Dunkin – In Development





Yoder's Five-Unit Commercial Development – In Development

Over the past year, First Tennessee Development District planning services helped move community development from concept to construction. One of the largest projects our Planners have assisted with is Exit 23 in Mosheim. A new RaceTrac store, a new Dunkin, and Yoder's five-unit commercial development progressed through planning and approval and are now part of the community's built environment with hopeful sewer line improvements for more in the future.

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
INVESTING IN REGIONAL GROWTH

The Northeast Tennessee Economic Development Corporation (NETEDC), the nonprofit lending corporation of the First Tennessee Development District, advances regional economic development by providing accessible financing opportunities to local businesses. Since 1991, through six established loan programs, NETEDC has issued 170 loans totaling $11.5 million, resulting in the creation of 895 jobs throughout the region.



NETEDC BOARD MEMBERS

- **Steve Mears** — NETEDC Chair
- **Mark Bays** — ETSU, Small Business Development Center
- **Bobby Brown** — Eastman Credit Union
- **Stephen Dixon** — Bank of Tennessee
- **Dick Grayson** — Community Representative
- **Mike Hill** — Citizens Bank, Tri-Cities
- **Don Kieffer** — Regions Bank
- **Darren Murray** — Eastman Credit Union
- **Ken Rea** — First TN Development District
- **Rick Storey** — Washington County
- **Robert Williams** — Commercial Bank

IMPACT SINCE 1991

170 LOANS ISSUED

$11.5 MILLION TOTAL LOANS

895 JOBS CREATED THROUGHOUT THE REGION

FY 2026

5 LOANS ISSUED

$475,000 TOTAL LOANS

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES | CREATING JOBS | STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES | INVESTING IN NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

DISASTER RECOVERY

After Hurricane Helene impacted our region in September 2024, FTDD expanded our staff to include a **Disaster Recovery Coordinator.**

We serve as the **Fiscal Agent for Long Term Recovery Groups** for Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington counties.

FTDD received a **$500,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA)** to fund the Disaster Recovery Coordinator position for a 5 year period.

We administered a **$600K grant from the American Red Cross** that benefited Carter, Greene, Johnson, Unicoi, Washington counties in the FTDD district as well as Cocke County.

FTDD will also **administer grants from the Governor's Response and Recovery Fund (GRRF)** for Washington, Carter, and Johnson Counties.

Long-term recovery efforts across Northeast Tennessee continue to make significant progress through partnerships, volunteer coordination, and housing assistance.

American Red Cross

$600,000

American Red Cross

Benefited Carter, Greene, Johnson, Unicoi, Washington counties in the FTDD district as well as Cocke County.

TN

$2,272,650

Governor's Response and Recovery Fund (GRRF)

Washington, Carter, and Johnson Counties.

E·D·A
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

$500,000

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Funds the Disaster Recovery Coordinator position for a 5 year period.











COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

FTDD helps communities across its eight–county region secure funding and successfully move projects from grant application to project completion.



GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS
- BIDDING & PROCUREMENT
- PAYMENT REQUESTS
- PROPERTY ACQUISITION ASSISTANCE
- LABOR STANDARDS COMPLIANCE
- PROJECT CLOSEOUT

FY 2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

PROJECT TITLE	GRANTEE	GRANT TYPE	GRANT AMOUNT
North Greene AMP	North Greene Utilities	TDEC	$ 136,500.00
Mountain City Sewer Rehab	Mountain City	ARC	$ 1,000,000.00
Unicoi Co. Multimodal Connectivity Plan	JEDB of Unicoi County	ARC	$ 100,000.00
Erwin Sidewalks Phase II	Erwin	CDBG	$ 761,060.00
Elizabethton DIG	Main St. Elizabethton	DIG	$ 400,000.00
Rogersville DIG	Rogersville Chamber	DIG	$ 250,000.00
Erwin Downtown	JEDB of Unicoi County	DIG	$ 300,000.00
Elizabethton IPG	Elizabethton	Infrastructure Planning Grant	$ 500,000.00
Brownlow UD IPG	Brownlow Utility District	Infrastructure Planning Grant	$ 500,000.00
Erwin Utilities IPG	Erwin Utilities	Infrastructure Planning Grant	$ 500,000.00
Sneedville IPG	Sneedville	Infrastructure Planning Grant	$ 482,500.00
Bloomingdale IPG	Bloomingdale Utility District	Infrastructure Planning Grant	$ 370,500.00
Greene Co. Greene Valley Master Plan	Greene County	SDG	$ 306,400.00
Hancock County Farmers Market	Hancock County	Three Star	$ 1,000,000.00
JEDB of Unicoi County	JEDB of Unicoi County	Three Star	$ 250,000.00
Hawkins County Tourism Enhancement Grant	Hawkins County	Tourism	$ 100,000.00
TOTAL FUNDING			**$ 6,956,460.00**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

FTDD's Environmental Program supports communities across the region through environmental compliance, solid waste management, recycling, and water resource protection. Services include environmental reviews, grant assistance, waste reduction initiatives, and technical support to help local governments meet environmental regulations and promote sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS | GRANT ASSISTANCE | WASTE REDUCTION INITIATIVES | WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION | TECHNICAL SUPPORT

FY 2026 SOLID WASTE GRANT AWARDS

WASHINGTON COUNTY

$298,000 | **Waste Reduction Grant**

Washington County was awarded $298,000 in a Waste Reduction grant to purchase an Airburner Incinerator and a Backhoe.

- Airburner Incinerator
- Backhoe





JOHNSON COUNTY

$148,356 | **Recycling Equipment Grant**

Johnson County was awarded $148,356 in a Recycling Equipment grant to renovate the convenience center and purchase equipment.

- Convenience Center Renovation
- Equipment Purchase

CARING WORKPLACES

Caring Workplaces
connection - compassion - community

Established in 2021, Caring Workplaces connects individuals in recovery and/or reentry with meaningful employment while helping businesses become certified recovery-friendly workplaces.

Through partnerships with community organizations, the program provides job skills training, peer recovery support, transportation, housing assistance, and employer resources to remove barriers to employment and promote long-term success.

Together, these efforts strengthen the regional workforce while creating opportunities for individuals to build stable, successful futures.

JOB SKILLS TRAINING | PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT | TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE | HOUSING ASSISTANCE | EMPLOYER RESOURCES

BY THE END OF FY2026, CARING WORKPLACES HAD ACHIEVED:

97 PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

748 INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED

256 PARTICIPANTS EARNING JOB SKILLS CERTIFICATIONS

458 TOTAL CERTIFICATIONS EARNED THROUGH TCAT AND WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE PROGRAMS



Caring Workplaces Graduation – June 13, 2026

Caring Workplaces participants from partnering recovery housing organizations celebrated graduation from the Tennessee College of Applied Technology, having earned certifications in various traditional and special industry courses as well as Workplace Excellence training.



In 2026, Unicoi, Johnson, and Carter counties earned Work Ready Community status, making all eight Northeast Tennessee counties officially designated. This achievement. positioned the region as one of only 14 Work Ready Regions nationwide, recognizing its workforce readiness and helping attract potential employers.



Inmates from the Washington County jail earn WorkPlace Excellence training through Caring Workplaces.

152 Caring Workplaces participants have received this certification.

STRONG FAMILIES

STRONG Families continues to help Northeast Tennessee families overcome barriers to employment, achieve financial stability, and build brighter futures. During FY2026, the program shared its successes at national conferences, contributed to research highlighting reductions in family hardships, and secured continued funding through October 2027.

Through personalized support, community partnerships, and targeted financial assistance, STRONG Families continues to create pathways to employment, self-sufficiency, and long-term family stability.

STRONG Families
Northeast Tennessee!

PROGRAM IMPACT

908
FAMILIES ENROLLED

243
INDIVIDUALS ADVANCED THEIR EDUCATION

$5M+
INVESTED IN REMOVING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

Nearly $5M
APPROVED FOR FAMILY MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS



Leslie Thompson (center) participated as a panelist at the United Way's ALICE Summit in Miami in January 2026.

INCOME GROWTH & ECONOMIC IMPACT

Approximately
$5,646,281
in increased annual earnings achieved flowing into and strengthening our economy.

$16,563
Mean annual income gain among participants reporting increased earnings

$18,171
Average annual income increase among those who entered unemployed and secured employment

WORKFORCE SUCCESS & CAREER MOBILITY

379
Jobs Obtained

128
Professional Trainings Completed

223
Accepted into post-secondary education

HOUSING & FINANCIAL STABILITY

279
Participants secured stable housing through executing a lease or purchasing a home

249
Participants purchased or leased a vehicle

421
Number of Debts Paid off

169
Participants improved credit score by 50+ points

FAMILY STRENGTH & FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

468
Participants completed a parenting course

567
Participants met with financial coach 1:1 and developed a personalized plan

COMMUNITY IMPACT AND UNMET NEED

908
Families enrolled in STRONG Families since July 2023

762
Referrals are waiting in queue after program recruitment ended

CareerQuestUSA™ TENNESSEE

CareerQuest TN continues to expand career exploration opportunities for students across Northeast Tennessee through interactive, hands-on experiences and strong partnerships with businesses and educational institutions.

Together, these events help students explore career pathways, develop workforce skills, and connect with future opportunities.









CareerQuest TN

Introduces more than 4,000 students to careers in advanced manufacturing, construction, healthcare, and information technology.

CareerQuest TN - It's All About Busine$$

Explores careers in finance, marketing, human resources, and other business services through mock interviews and student competitions.

CareerQuest TN - Culinary Challenge

Showcases student culinary talent through hands-on competition and industry partnerships.

CareerQuest TN - Hospitality Works

Highlights careers in tourism and hospitality, connecting students with regional employers and industry professionals.

CHILDCARE NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

The Childcare Special Projects Coordinator supports regional employers, childcare providers, working families, and local governments to expand access to quality childcare and strengthen the early childhood workforce in the Northeast Tennessee region.

- Supporting Regional Employers at Large
- Supporting Childcare Industry
- Supporting Regional Working Families with Children
- Supporting City/County Government as a Community Stakeholder



REGIONAL CHILDCARE WORK

Direct employer support with Sullivan County Schools, Washington County Department of Education, Bristol TN City Schools, and Johnson City Public Schools.

Ongoing collaborative work with local governments, employers, non-profits, and post-secondary institutions around expanding access to quality childcare, removing barriers for the workforce and building early childcare educator workforce pipelines.

Co-Chair for the Early Care and Education Workgroup with STRONG ACC building employer and provider interface and strategies.

UETHDA Board and UWG Kingsport Child & Youth Vision Council.

Ongoing research and writing of grants for Strong Families and childcare initiatives.

"Day of Play" in Unicoi (4/26): event for families and children offering resources and connection with childcare professionals and support and emerging childcare educators.

HCExcell/Ready by 6: 15 Employer surveys, Kindergarten Readiness Pilot Report/Childcare Toolkit Impact.

CURRENT CHILDCARE INITIATIVES

Childcare Special Projects Coordinator

Facilitated partnerships, conducted childcare needs assessment surveys, childcare inventory surveys, school board advocacy, supplied grant writing and technical support, and stakeholder engagement and project advocacy and promotion.

Sullivan County Schools
$1.5 MILLION New Care Partner Grant

A $1.5 million New Care Partner grant from the Tennessee Department of Human Services will establish childcare centers for Sullivan County Schools employees, operated by the Greater Kingsport Family YMCA.

FTDD provided childcare needs surveys, research, strategic planning, grant-writing and partnership support. The grant will create hands-on early childhood education experience and work-based learning credit. A partnership with Northeast State Community College creates a dual enrollment pathway toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education.

Washington County Department of Education

Partnering with WCEDC/City of Johnson City, $250K TVA grant awarded, $250K TNECD grant awarded for childcare space within an existing public building serving employees of WCED & Washington County Industrial Park (projected open date Oct 2028).

Bristol TN City Schools

Partnership with BTES, BTCS and Bristol YMCA to build a childcare site within existing school classrooms to serve children of employees of BTCS and serve as a hands-on learning lab for emerging educators in their high school CTE program (in process).

STATE & LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

TQEE EARLY EDUCATOR PATHWAYS

At the November 2025 Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE) Align Summit in Nashville, FTDD's Childcare Special Projects Coordinator joined Sullivan County Schools leadership on a statewide panel about building the early educator workforce. The discussion highlighted apprenticeships, work-based learning, high school CTE, and flexible college pathways.

- "No Small Matters" Childcare film screening for local providers, childcare agencies and post-secondary Early Childhood Education students.
- Kingsport Chamber of Commerce employers.
- TQEE Align Conference 2025.
- E2E Summit 2025.
- Tennessee Business & Family Forum, TQEE 2026.
- HR Round Table HCExcell/Ready by 6 and STRONG ACC childcare needs assessment survey.
- Multiple presentations to SCS School Board and WCDE School Board.

EDUCATION *to* EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT



The 8th Annual Education to Employment (E2E) Summit held in August 2025 brought together business, education, and government leaders to address regional workforce challenges, including childcare, eldercare, workforce development, and attracting young professionals to Northeast Tennessee.

BUSINESS LEADERS | EDUCATION PARTNERS | GOVERNMENT LEADERS | WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

RESEARCH & DATA ANALYSIS



The District gathers and maintains economic and demographic data on all communities within the region and makes that data available on the District's website. The District also handles specific requests from individuals, businesses, chambers of commerce, and government entities, often involving the organization of US Census data. Many businesses looking to locate or expand operations in the region use data provided by the District in their evaluations.

This information is available at **www.ftdd.org/regional-profile.**

WIOA PROGRAMS

Under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), funding is allocated through the state to local workforce development areas to support employment, education, and training services.

The Northeast TN Workforce Development Board (NETLWDB) serves as the designated grant recipient and FTDD serves as the administrative entity for these funds in the Northeast region. In this capacity, the Board provides strategic oversight, manages all local WIOA programs, manages special grant projects, and operates the comprehensive network of American Job Centers (AJCs) to ensure workforce solutions effectively meet the needs of both job seekers and local employers.

The NETLWDB and FTDD received funding for the grants listed to the right. FTDD employs staff to the board who oversee and administer all grants received.

WIOA GRANT FUNDING

Grant	Funding Amount
Adult	$815,505
Youth	$1,053,765
SSEP (Older Worker Program)	$111,036
Dislocated Worker	$595,580
National Dislocated Worker Grant	$2,295,811
ACT WorkKeys	$5,232
TN Youth Employment	$527,176
TN Youth w/Disabilities	$42,776
Business Capitalization	$240,000
Apprenticeship	$173,151
Incumbent Worker	$235,409
Justice-Involved WEX	$147,200
Youth Justice-Involved	$16,098
Total	**$6,622,167**

AMERICAN JOB CENTERS

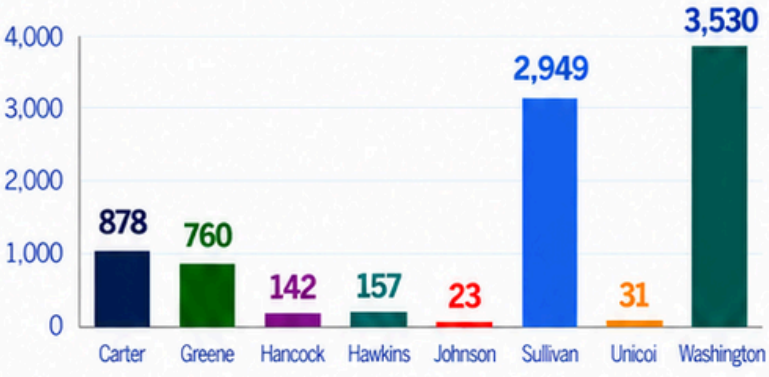
The Northeast area has eight (8) American Job Centers (AJCs). One AJC is located in each of the eight (8) most northeastern counties in Tennessee. The Northeast has two (2) comprehensive and six (6) affiliate centers. The comprehensive centers are located in Kingsport (Sullivan County) and Johnson City (Washington County).

8 AMERICAN JOB CENTERS

2 Comprehensive Centers

6 Affiliate Centers

CUSTOMERS SERVED BY COUNTY



WIOA ENROLLMENTS BY COUNTY

County	Carryover Participants	New Enrollments	Total Served
Carter	63	46	109
Greene	14	26	40
Hancock	36	42	78
Hawkins	31	30	61
Johnson	18	10	28
Sullivan	47	59	106
Unicoi	30	44	74
Washington	144	342	486
Total	**383**	**599**	**982**

The Northeast Tennessee Local **Workforce** Development Board and the First Tennessee Development District work with partners across the region to build and sustain a workforce development system that promotes economic development, meets employer needs, and is responsive to the changing demands of the labor market.

WIOA PROGRAMS

OPERATIONAL IMPACT & KEY METRICS

98%
Customer Satisfaction
of customers surveyed rated their AJC experience as 5-stars.

397
Job Placements
individuals secured unsubsidized employment directly attributed to AJC services.

1,443
Multi-Year Trend
A dynamic dashboard captures the multi-year total of individuals placed in employment.

8,470
Foot Traffic
customers visited across all AJCs.

262
Workshop Attendance
individuals attended skills-building workshops at Johnson City and Kingsport AJCs.

171
Digital Inquiries
job seekers, training candidates, and employers sought assistance through the netajc.org online contact portal.

ONE-STOP OPERATOR

Since July 1, 2023, the First Tennessee Development District (FTDD) has served as the One-Stop Operator for the Northeast Tennessee Local Workforce Development Area (NETLWDA). Working in close coordination with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TNDLWD) and Northeast State Community College, FTDD remains dedicated to delivering seamless, customer-focused workforce solutions. The Operator's core mission is to align workforce development, economic development, education, and community partners to effectively meet the evolving needs of regional employers and job seekers, while being responsible for the daily operations of all area AJCs.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAM EXPANSION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integration
In partnership with Cloudwise Academy located in Erwin, all AJC staff and NETLWDB staff have received AI training and certification. Cloudwise Academy computer and Internet Basics workshops at the Johnson City AJC.

Family & Child Support Services
Partnered with the University of Tennessee's Child Support Employment, and Parenting Program (UT-CSEPP) to establish City and Kingsport AJCs at least three days per week.

Adult Education Expansion
Collaborated with Adult Education to expand services directly into the affiliate AJCs in Hawkins and Hancock. counties.

BUSINESS SERVICES

The local Business Services team contributed to regional economic growth by hosting targeted job fairs and hiring events, bridging the gap between local talent and expanding industries across Northeast Tennessee. Staff also attended multiple hiring events throughout the region to promote AJC services, assist underserved and special populations, and support employers in finding job applicants.

WIOA EMPLOYER PROGRAMS

Apprenticeship	Incumbent Worker	Business Capitalization
16 employers	16 employers	23 employers

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



The District partners with the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) to preserve Northeast Tennessee's historic and cultural resources. FTDD assists communities with grant writing, project development, and administration to support historic preservation, restoration, and heritage tourism initiatives. The District also conducts site reviews to help ensure new development and infrastructure projects protect historically significant properties and archaeological resources, balancing regional growth with preservation for future generations.

FY2026

47
Section 106 reviews submitted

3
Active ECD Historic Development Grant Program projects

2
Active THC Historical Property Land Acquisition Fund projects

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The District partners with the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) to preserve Northeast Tennessee's historic and cultural resources, assisting communities with grant writing, project development, and administration to support preservation, restoration, and heritage tourism initiatives. FTDD also conducts site reviews to help ensure new development and infrastructure projects protect historically significant properties and archaeological resources. Additionally, the department serves as a Designated Agency for the Tennessee Arts Commission, administering the Arts Build Communities (ABC) grant program to support local arts organizations, expand access to the arts, and strengthen cultural opportunities throughout the region.

FTDD REGIONAL PROGRESS COOPERATION Foundation

TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION
Cultivate.Create.Participate.

TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
TACIR
STATE
LOCAL
FEDERAL
Est. 1978

FIRST TENNESSEE AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND DISABILITY

The First Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability (FTAAAD) continued its mission of helping older adults and individuals with disabilities remain healthy, independent, and connected to their communities throughout FY 2025–2026. Demand for services remained strong, particularly for information and assistance. Through programs such as CHOICES, SHIP, caregiver support, nutrition services, and community outreach, FTAAAD provided essential resources while strengthening partnerships across the eight-county region.

NUTRITION & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

MEETING ESSENTIAL NEEDS. BUILDING INDEPENDENCE.

Nutrition and supportive services remained among the most requested services. Home-delivered and congregate meals, senior center programs, transportation, homemaker assistance, personal care, and home modifications helped older adults maintain independence, safety, and social connections.

- Home-Delivered & Congregate Meals
- Senior Center Programs
- Transportation Services
- Homemaker Assistance
- Personal Care
- Home Modifications

HEALTH PROMOTION, CAREGIVER SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

STRONGER PEOPLE. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

FTAAAD expanded its impact through health promotion, caregiver support, advocacy, and community partnerships. Wellness programs, caregiver resources, and long-term care advocacy improved quality of life, while outreach initiatives connected individuals with healthcare coverage, food assistance, and other critical benefits.

- Wellness Programs
- Caregiver Support
- Long-Term Care Advocacy
- Community Partnerships

GRANT IMPACT

INVESTING IN SAFETY, HEALTH, AND RESILIENCE.

Grant funding supported emergency food assistance, home safety improvements, technology, vaccination efforts, and disaster recovery.

- Emergency Food Assistance
- Home Safety Improvements
- Technology
- Vaccination Efforts
- Disaster Recovery

LOOKING AHEAD

CHALLENGES TODAY. OPPORTUNITIES TOMORROW.

Despite ongoing challenges related to Hurricane Helene, workforce shortages, transportation barriers, and funding needs, FTAAAD remains committed to innovative solutions and strong partnerships that help older adults and individuals with disabilities age with dignity and independence.

Through resilience, collaboration, and a shared commitment to our communities, FTAAAD will continue to make a lasting difference across Northeast Tennessee.

FIRST TENNESSEE
AREA AGENCY ON AGING
AND DISABILITY

SENIOR CENTER DATA
FOR FY2026

During the 2025–2026 program year, senior centers across the region continued to serve as welcoming community anchors for older adults seeking connection, support, and meaningful engagement. Together, the centers reached an unduplicated total of **15,911** consumers, reflecting the continued importance of local access points where individuals can participate in programs, receive information, and remain connected to their communities.

Senior Centers	Consumers Served
Bristol-Slater	1,334
Church Hill	442
Clinchfield	314
Elizabethton	377
Hancock	48
Johnson City	3,726
Johnson County	1,948
Jonesborough	1,896
Kingsport	5,614
Roby Fitzgerald	493
Rogersville	302
Total	***15,911**

**This is an unduplicated number of consumers across all centers.*



LEARNING. CONNECTING. BELONGING.



STAYING ACTIVE. HAVING FUN.



BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS. BRIGHTER DAYS.

FIRST TENNESSEE
AREA AGENCY ON AGING
AND DISABILITY

PROGRAM DIRECT SERVICES DATA
FOR FY2026

Services	Consumers Served	Units of Service
Congregate Meals	1,393	62,076
Evidence Based Activities	51	327
Home-Delivered Meals	1,542	241,396
Homemaker	620	56,240
Personal Care	157	5,117
Home Modifications and Chore Services	21	251
Service Coordination	1,975	6,116
In-Home Respite	25	1,842
Personal Emergency Response	49	459
Caregiver Medical Equipment & Supplies	2	6
Assistive Technology	2	2
Transportation	1,411	23,112

** consumers not totaled due to duplication*



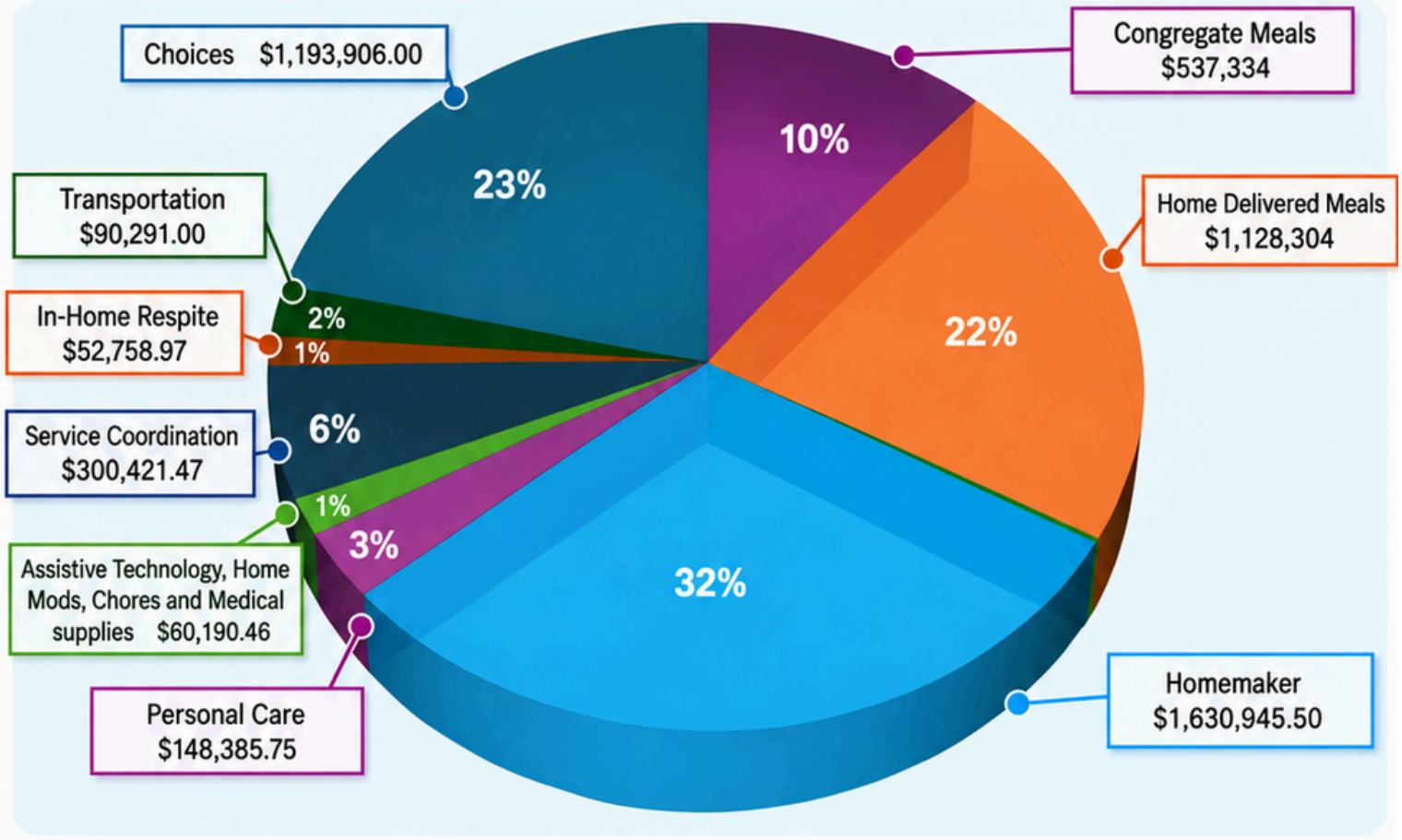


The direct services data further demonstrates the depth and reach of support provided throughout the year. Nutrition services remained a major area of impact, with Home-Delivered Meals providing 241,396 units of service and Congregate Meals providing 62,076 units, helping older adults maintain health, stability, and daily connection. In-home supports also played a vital role, including Homemaker services with 56,240 units, Transportation with 23,112 units, and Service Coordination reaching 1,975 consumers. Together, these services reflect a comprehensive approach to helping older adults remain safe, independent, and supported in the setting that best meets their needs.



FIRST TENNESSEE AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND DISABILITY

FUNDING



LOOKING AHEAD

Grant funding supported emergency food assistance, home safety improvements, technology, vaccination efforts and disaster recovery. Despite Hurricane Helene recovery, workforce shortages, transportation barriers and funding challenges, FTAAAD remains committed to innovative solutions and strong partnerships that help older adults and individuals with disabilities age with dignity and independence.

FIRST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

FY2027 BUDGET

EXPENSES

Salaries	$4,642,506
Fringe Benefits	$1,536,404
Total Personnel	**$6,178,910**
Contractual	$10,450,271
Travel	$291,876
Supplies	$89,108
Printing, Subsc.	$25,507
Memberships	$6,139
Computer Costs	$77,400
Communications	$6,620
Other	$2,029,014
Admin. Cost	$1,725,525

TOTAL EXPENSES $20,880,370



Personnel	29.6%
Contractual	50.0%
Admin. Cost	8.3%
Other	9.7%
Travel	1.4%
Supplies	0.4%
Memberships	0.0%
Communications	0.0%
Printing/Subsc.	0.1%

REVENUE

Federal Rev.	$9,752,704
State Rev.	$6,579,154
State Matching	$366,425
Local Funds	$160,253
Other Revenue	$4,021,833

TOTAL REVENUE $20,880,370



Federal Rev.	46.7%
State Rev.	31.5%
Other Revenue	19.3%
State Matching	1.8%
Local Funds	0.8%

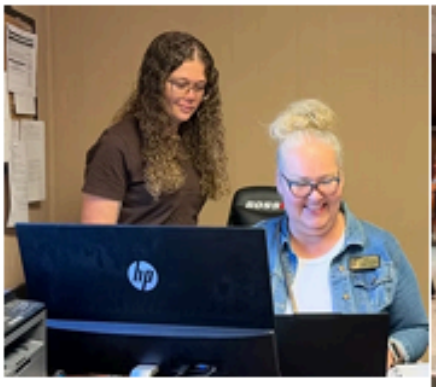
STAFF

The District's staff is one of its greatest assets. We are proud to have grown significantly over the past few years and now employ a team of 80 dedicated professionals working together to strengthen and serve communities across Northeast Tennessee.



For staff contact information visit
www.ftdd.org/staff















A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we reflect on another meaningful year for the First Tennessee Development District, we have an especially important milestone to celebrate: 60 years of Development Districts in Tennessee.

When the Development District concept was established in 1966, the idea of communities working together across county and municipal boundaries was still relatively new. Six decades later, we can look back with pride at what regional cooperation has made possible and look ahead with excitement for what is still to come.

For 60 years, FTDD has worked alongside communities across Northeast Tennessee to help them grow, recover, strengthen, and thrive. From infrastructure and economic development to workforce preparation, historic preservation, and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, our work is always focused on one goal: making our region a better place to live, work, and grow.

The past year brought its share of challenges and opportunities, but it also reminded us of the strength and resilience that define our region. I am incredibly proud of the dedication demonstrated by our staff, board members, local leaders, and community partners.

Our greatest accomplishments are more than numbers, projects, or grants. They are the result of people working together to solve problems, create opportunities, and improve the quality of life in our communities. We are grateful to the local, state, and federal partners, businesses, organizations, and residents who have trusted FTDD to stand beside them throughout the past 60 years.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are not simply looking back, we are looking ahead. We may not know what challenges or opportunities the next 60 years will bring, but we know FTDD will continue to bring people together, find solutions, and help Northeast Tennessee move forward.

After 60 years, one thing remains certain, is that there is still so much more we can accomplish together.

We are honored to continue the mission that began six decades ago and proud to carry forward the principle that has guided us throughout the years: ***Regional Progress through Regional Cooperation.***

Mike Harrison
Executive Director

FTDD

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