

# *East Tennessee Development District*

December 2019

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*Happy Holidays  
May the Joys of the Season  
Lead the Way  
To a Bright and Prosperous  
New Year!*

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The past year saw ETDD assist communities, industries and commercial establishments that created over 778 jobs with a private investment of over \$482,655,000.

ETDD staff is assisting the following communities with economic projects that will provide economic opportunities in the future:

Campbell County Workforce Development; Grant amount = \$84,925.00. These funds to be used for the acquisition of welding equipment to be housed at the Campbell County High School welding laboratory.

Claiborne County Industrial Development Board; Grant amount = \$89,775.00. Funds to be used for a due diligence study that includes resistivity and rail feasibility study for the Russell Industrial property.

Eastbridge Business Park Knox County; Grant amount = \$500,000.00. Funds to be used for the construction of a centrally located pump station and the installation of approximately 4,500 lf of sewer line.

Eagle Bend Manufacturing Clinton; Grant amount = \$365,000.00; Funds to be used for wastewater collection improvements.

Jefferson City Industrial Development Board; Grant amount = \$500,000; Funds will be used to grade 25 acres at the Jefferson City Industrial Complex and improve road access to the property.

Niles Ferry Industrial Park Monroe County; Grant amount = \$500,000.00 for site grading.

ETDD staff is currently assisting the City of Friendsville with the administration of their EDA grant that will allow the City to place additional wastewater lines along the 321 corridor to assist in the recruitment of future industrial and commercial endeavors.

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

The 2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report is in the public review phase and we are soliciting input from ETDD's 16 counties and 56 municipalities. This report is a strategic three-year plan that assesses current status and identifies resources and services that support regional economic and community stability and prosperity. This draft document is located on

the ETDD webpage. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have comments on the CEDS.

## **PINI (TACIR)**

The Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory (PINI) is currently underway. ETDD is close to completing the infrastructure surveys pertaining to K-12 public schools. The general database surveys are also underway and staff will be emailing you soon. Contact ETDD if you're a local public official and you want to include information about a needed public infrastructure improvement in the PINI inventory. After all the surveys are collected, the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) publishes a lengthy summary that details infrastructure needs for all of Tennessee. Each county now has their own summary sheet that details their estimated costs by type of infrastructure. The report is then presented to the state legislature as a planning tool and a funding decision making tool. You can view the past report at: <https://www.tn.gov/tacir/infrastructure.html> or contact Mollie Childress at [mechildress@etdd.org](mailto:mechildress@etdd.org) if you want to be surveyed.

## **GRANT INFORMATION**

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

Congratulations to the following communities on being awarded new CDBG grants:

1. Campbell County – Ambulances
2. Jefferson County – Waterline Extension
3. Dandridge – Wastewater System Improvements
4. Monroe County – Ambulances
5. Rockwood – Wastewater System Improvements
6. Scott County – Ambulances
7. Winfield – Fire Engine

ETDD staff is currently assisting the following communities with the administration of their CDBG projects:

1. New Tazewell – Housing
2. Morgan County – Waterline Extension
3. Roane County – Fire Equipment
4. Campbell County – Drive for 55 Dual Enrollment Program
5. Mossy Creek Foundation – Façade Improvements
6. City of Sweetwater – Façade Improvements
7. Madisonville – Fire Hall
8. Harrogate – Wastewater Improvements

## Grants (Continued)

9. Cocke County – Waterline Improvements
10. Jefferson City – Sewer Rehab
11. Claiborne County – Waterline Improvements
12. Parrottsville – Fire Engine
13. Caryville – Fire Engine
14. New Market – Communication Equipment
15. Jefferson County – Waterline extension
16. Dandridge – Wastewater improvements
17. Rockwood – Wastewater improvements
18. Winfield – Fire Truck
19. Rocky Top – Fire Truck
20. Scott County – Ambulances
21. Monroe County – Ambulances
22. Campbell County – Ambulances
23. Sweetwater – Housing
24. City of Sevierville – Façade Improvements

### **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**

The State announced that new pre-applications are due December 6, 2019.

Eligible activities include:

#### **Business Development and Entrepreneurship**

ARC makes a wide range of grants to public and private nonprofit organizations to help firms create and retain jobs in the Region. Examples of grants include industrial site development; business incubators; special technical assistance and training; and expansion of domestic and foreign markets. ARC also capitalizes loan funds that improve access to capital for Appalachian businesses and can support other activities that foster entrepreneurship. Business development grants typically include participation of other federal agencies. In distressed areas, ARC assistance may provide up to 80 percent of the total cost of a project.

#### **Education and Training**

ARC funds projects that develop, support, or expand education and training programs. Eligible activities include teacher and administrator training; material, equipment, and computer purchases; building renovations; and start-up operational costs for new programs. ARC-supported education projects range from early childhood and K-12 programs to post-secondary education programs that are oriented towards a specific degree or certificate. Students in these programs become ready for kindergarten, obtain their high school diplomas or GEDs, enroll in post-secondary education, or enter the workforce.

Training programs funded by ARC assist workers in upgrading job skills or learning new skills in order to

retain current jobs in the face of increasing global competition, become eligible for better-paying positions, or obtain new jobs.

#### **Health Care**

ARC health care grants can be made for equipment and demonstration projects, and in special cases for renovation and construction of facilities. The ARC health program focuses on the development of rural primary care networks in distressed counties and areas. Eligible activities include support of rural health clinics and small hospitals; of programs that eliminate gaps in the delivery of health services, especially to children and the elderly; of projects that address infant mortality reduction, oral and mental health, and health planning activities; of telemedicine networks as a means of universal access to comprehensive health care; and of projects that increase the availability of health care workers.

#### **Physical Infrastructure**

Basic Infrastructure. ARC provides funds for basic infrastructure services, including water and sewer facilities that enhance economic development opportunities or address serious health issues for residential customers.

#### **Housing**

ARC supports projects that stimulate the construction or rehabilitation of housing for low- and moderate-income residents. ARC housing grants fund planning, technical services, and other preliminary expenses of developing housing projects, as well as demolition and necessary site improvements, including excavation, landfills, land clearing and grading; and infrastructure improvements, such as water and sewer system construction.

#### **Telecommunications**

ARC funds a number of telecommunications activities, including strategic community planning, equipment acquisition, and hardware and software for network building. ARC funds can be used for strategic telecommunications planning activities, telecommunication service inventory and assessment activities, aggregation of demand projects, community awareness information technology (IT) outreach training programs, sector-specific training programs in IT/e-commerce for small and medium-sized businesses, activities related to assisting in the development of IT business development, the acquisition of telecommunications equipment and related software, general operational and administrative expenses associated with project implementation, the installation of telecommunication infrastructure necessary to implement projects or support the development of IT incubators or

## Grants (Cont.)

"Smart Parks," and limited telephone line charge expenses associated with the implementation of projects.

### Leadership Development and Civic Capacity

Eligible activities include the development and implementation of community-based strategic plans; training for citizen leaders (both adult and youth leaders), local officials, and management staff from nonprofit community organizations; organizational support for community organizations, and other activities that help build a community's capacity to mobilize resources, gain leadership experience, and strengthen community institutions and partnerships.

Congratulations to Huntsville/Oneida TCAT with an ARC Power application for approximately \$1.9 million that will help to start new training classes in the region and will also help to assist those residents that have been in the jail system to secure a trade certification and placement. The application is truly regional in that it will assist not only Scott, Fentress, Morgan and Campbell Counties in Tennessee, but also Wayne, Whitley, Clay and McCreary Counties in Kentucky. This award will benefit a new generation of families that will help the region to be competitive for years to come and provide an education that will allow families to provide for their children.

ETDD staff is currently working with the following communities on ARC pre-applications:

1. Claiborne County – boat dock and ramp
2. Newport Utilities – broadband
3. Cocke County – waterline extension
4. Clinton Utility – I-75 industrial park water improvements
5. City of Loudon – Tennessee River water line crossing
6. Monroe County – Airport Hanger
7. Plateau Utility – water reservoir study
8. Plateau Utility – water Plant improvements
9. Scott County IDB – dam improvements
10. Scott County IDB – airport road improvements
11. Clearfork Utility – water plant improvements

### FEMA Fire Fighters Grant Program

Congratulations to the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department for being approved for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER). The award was approved in the amount of \$679,616 to support training, recruitment, gear and leadership capacities. These services will aid in more rapid response

times and emergency services for the communities that the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department serves.

We are all anxiously awaiting the traditional FEMA application that allows fire departments to apply for equipment such as fire trucks, SCBA, protective gear, firefighting tools, training and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. Be thinking of your projects and if you need to acquire cost estimates on your proposed equipment requests. NO application can be submitted for any FEMA application unless you are registered with the SAM.GOV Federal program and FEMA.GOV.

If you need any help, please contact Mitch Loomis or Tammye Pirie at 865-273-6003.

### Transportation

ETDD staff is assisting Oneida Special School District and Scott County School District on the VW settlement grant administration in support of acquiring new, energy efficient school buses.

ETDD staff assisted the following communities with submittal of Multi-modal grant applications from TDOT. Five grant applications were submitted for the following communities and a total of \$4,059,687.00 funds were requested from TDOT.

1. Anderson County – construction of sidewalks along Hwy 62 that will connect Norwood Elementary and Norwood Middle schools.
2. Campbell County – construction of sidewalks that will provide connections starting at Jacksboro Middle school and ending at Cove Lake State Park along Hwy 63.
3. Rocky Top – construction of sidewalks along Hwy 25W in the downtown district.
4. Rutledge – construction of sidewalks, pedestrian lighting and benches along Hwy 11 in the downtown district.
5. New Tazewell – construction of sidewalks along Hwy 33 in the downtown district.
6. Sweetwater – connector to Hwy 68.

ETDD Staff is assisting the City of Loudon with a Transportation Alternative application as part of Phase 2 of the Riverwalk along the Tennessee River. A total of \$1,857,820.00 was requested from TDOT.

ETDD Staff assisted the City of Harrogate, City of Rocky Top and the City of Jellico with the submittal of grant application that can help upgrade current traffic lights. Good Luck!!

## **SOLID WASTE**

### **Annual Progress Reports (APRs)**

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation staff sent out approval letters for FY18 APRs during the week of November 11. All solid waste regions across the state must achieve the 25% waste reduction and diversion goal established by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991. Using the real-time comparison methodology, eight of the District's solid waste regions achieved reductions of 50% or more. Especially worthy of mention is Sevier County with a 91% reduction for FY18. Congratulations to all the solid waste regions who achieved the 25% goal and to all the solid waste regions on their continued efforts at waste reduction and diversion!

The reporting system for the FY19 APRs will open up on January 1, 2020, and all data must be uploaded, approved, and signed by March 31, 2020. If your solid waste region needs assistance with preparation and submission of the FY19 APR, please contact Tim Hendrick at 865-273-6003.

### **Morgan County Convenience Center Improvements**

Morgan County received a Convenience Center Grant from TDEC to make improvements to some centers located throughout the county. Coalfield, Oakdale, Sunbright, and Flat Fork Convenience Centers received new fencing, and Flat Fork Convenience Center received a new attendant shelter. Congratulations to Morgan County on these important improvements made to their public solid waste facilities!

### **SWANA WASTECON 2019**

ETDD staff attended SWANA WASTECON 2019 held in Phoenix, AZ from October 21-24. This conference focused on recycling market factors, models for public/private partnerships, legislative and policy considerations, and methods for personal/professional development. Staying abreast of changes to the recycling markets is essential to properly manage a materials stream. If your solid waste region needs assistance resolving issues related to recycling or waste diversion, please contact Tim Hendrick at 865-273-6003.

## **HOUSING**

ETDD received another allocation from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) for the Emergency Repair Program in July 2019, and welcomes new projects from our service provider partners. This

allocation is used to address repairs for houses across the 16-county region. The program provides grants for home repairs in households where the applicant is at least 60 years of age or disabled, and who meets ownership and income requirements. ETDD works with local non-profits and organizations who coordinate construction activities and qualify the homeowners. These service providers are an integral part of the Emergency Repair Program's activities in our 16-county region, and ETDD is seeking more partners to complete projects in several counties, including Monroe and Union counties. THDA has recently removed the match requirement for repair projects. ETDD maintains a list of local housing partners and assistance programs that can be accessed through the Housing page of our website, or by contacting us directly with specific needs.

THDA Housing Conference is scheduled for March 11-12 in Nashville. Early registration for this event will last from November 1 to December 31.

ETDD housing staff is available to discuss housing needs and community housing grant applications. We can also provide information on local and regional housing service providers, agencies and alternate programs that can assist individuals in need of housing repair. For more information on these programs, contact Jonathan Moseley at (865) 273-6003.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is a program through the National Park Service (NPS) that recognizes historically significant places and resources. NRHP listing provides many benefits, including access to preservation grants and tax incentives, and limited protection from federally-funded or licensed endeavors. Grant applications from the state will open December 1 and be due to the Tennessee Historical Commission through the smart simple grant application system by January 31. These are 60/40 matching grants that can be used for building restoration, architectural surveys and historic preservation training opportunities. ETDD can assist in the identification of competitive preservation projects that may be eligible for these types of grants and can also provide grant writing services to communities in our region. Certified Local Government (CLG) entities receive 15 extra points on grant applications. Of the federal funds for these grants, 10% must go towards existing CLGs. Any current Historic Zoning Commissions (HZG) should consider applying to become a CLG for preservation partnership with the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC).

ETDD staff can also assist in the preparation of nominations to the NRHP, which are highly technical and often take around a year to prepare and process. Beyond access to grants, NRHP listing allows for widespread recognition of the site's historic significance and increased heritage tourism opportunities. ETDD also works with a variety of local and regional preservation groups and advocates that can assist with NRHP nominations, preservation grant applications, and tax incentives. Please contact Jonathan Moseley with ETDD for preservation-related assistance and technical guidance.

### **RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)**

A joint meeting of the ETSRPO Technical Committee and Executive Board is scheduled for December 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. A joint meeting of the ETNRPO Technical Committee and Executive Board is scheduled for December 16, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the TDOT Region 1 Headquarters Auditorium. The primary agenda item is prioritizing major proposed TDOT roadway projects in each RPO. Other agenda items include discussions of the TDOT project selection process, the Rural Regional Plans and the I-75 / I-40 Corridor Studies.

TDOT has introduced a new grant opportunity associated with the Traffic Signal Modernization Program (TSMP). This is a pilot program designed to help communities modernize existing traffic signal equipment and operations. The program is being implemented through this grant application process, currently 100% state funded and state contracted, with the goal to begin traffic signal upgrades within 12 months of project selection. Grant funds are capped at \$250,000.00. Several communities in the ETDD submitted applications for this program.

TDOT has released the application for the 2019 – 2020 Community Transportation Planning Grant. Completed applications must be received by RPO Coordinators no later than 12:00 noon on January 24, 2020. The following type of planning studies are eligible for funding: Community Mobility Plan, Corridor Study, Complete Streets Plan, Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan, Road Diet Analysis and Transportation Systems Management & Operations (Signal Retiming Plan, etc.). The maximum grant is \$125,000 with 90% funded by TDOT.

The East Tennessee Development District website contains the most up-to-date information on the two RPO's. The web site includes the most up to date TDOT Project Status Reports that provide a description and

status of all TDOT projects in each county within the RPO. The link to this website is <http://www.etdd.org/services/community-development/transportation/>.

### **PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE**

The Planning Advisory Services (PAS) continues to offer a wide array of planning services to local cities and counties in the region on a contractual basis. One noteworthy service that may benefit local communities is the strategic planning services component. This type of planning service involves the development of individualized plans or studies that address specific needs and various short to mid-term objectives. The strategic planning component reinforces the overall planning program of local communities by addressing specific planning issues that the local leadership of cities and counties have identified. This may be a particular concern that has arisen that needs to be addressed or the study may support the implementation methods of a comprehensive plan, offering consistency with the goals, objectives and policies of that plan. Largely, a strategic plan bridges the gap between the policy driven long range comprehensive plan and implementation of a planning strategy to address specific concerns of a community. Although strategic planning targets an identified need in the community, the types of strategic plans and studies vary and cover a broad range of issues relating to growth and development. For this reason, the local leadership can craft a plan or study that is uniquely suited to their community. For example, strategic planning studies generally include, but are not limited to: waterline extension improvements, corporate limit fringe area analysis, downtown parking needs, neighborhood studies, fire protection concerns, road improvement/road inventory data collection and recommendations, demographic analysis, recreational needs, housing inventories and many other studies that may not fit into a general planning category. These strategic plans and studies may also support the well-established grant writing services that has been offered by the East Tennessee Development District for many years.

### **Training Sessions**

The Planning Advisory Service also continues to offer free regional training programs for planning commissioners. There are some two-hour training sessions that are being arranged for the spring and fall of 2020 to be held at two separate venues in the evening. The topics of these training sessions is being finalized, but the anticipated topics may cover building codes, floodplain management, special zoning topics, and land use planning. The required one (1) hour of private property

rights will also be offered in conjunction with the other planning topics. The locations have not been determined, but prior notification will be provided to interested parties in advance of the training sessions. As a reminder, any training during the 2019 Calendar Year needs to be certified for each member by December 31, 2019.

## Ethics Forms

The ethics forms that planning commissioners are required by the state to complete will be due after December 31, 2019 and before January 31, 2020. The form must be filed with the Tennessee Ethics Commission. To file electronically for the first time, go to <https://apps.tn.gov/conflict/> and click on "Sign Up." If you have an account, go to <https://apps.tn.gov/conflict> and log in to file your report. Completed forms may also be mailed to the Tennessee Ethics Commission, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 104, Nashville, TN 37243. Forms may be obtained from the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance website. Most city and county governments have the forms as well as the Planning Advisory Service. Failure to file may result in a substantial monetary penalty by the state.

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

GIS staff brought zoning maps up to date this quarter for Harrogate and New Tazewell, making substantial changes based on rezoning adoptions that took place over the last few years. Similar updates are in the queue for other communities. Staff makes updates as they occur if ETDD GIS receives copies of adopted, signed, ordinances. When planning contract communities adopt rezonings or annexations, be sure a copy of the signed ordinance is sent to ETDD GIS staff so that we can keep your maps current.

This has been another active quarter for grants needing mapping. Eight maps were created for several solid waste studies. Sixteen maps were created as work on CDBG environmental reviews began. Staff also created maps for TDOT Traffic Light Modernization grants for four communities, and new maps showing current State Aid Roads for Union and Monroe counties (as well as new city base maps for each town within those counties) were prepared. Six maps showing project location, topography, and flood areas were developed for an EDA site development grant in Scott County. Those are just a few of the grant projects using GIS maps and data during the quarter.

## AREAWIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### SBA 504 News

ADC has a lot to be thankful for in 2019 including developing new relationships with several third party lenders, long term relationships with existing third party lenders, and continuing to assist small business owners meet their financial needs. Together with our third party lenders, we assisted small business owners with the acquisition of real estate and improvements, construction of new owner occupied facilities as well as the acquisition of equipment. We assisted two companies this year that were operating in leased space purchase buildings for their businesses. As a result, these businesses became stakeholders in their communities.

SBA 504 Debenture rates are at a new historic low! On November 8, 2019, the effective rates were published for the November 2019 funded debentures. The 25 year full term funding rate was 4.241%, the 20 year debenture full term funding rate was 4.202%, and the 10 year full term funding rate was 4.485%. The November 2018 funding rates were 6.077%, 6.046%, and 6.137% respectively. All of the SBA 504 debenture rates are fully amortizing and the SBA is in a Second lien position on the loan collateral. Also, effective October 1, 2019 for loans approved on or after October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 the annual service fee has been reduced from 0.368% to 0.3205% of the outstanding loan balance.

On an operational note, SBA announced at the NADCO Annual Meeting in October that the Standard Operating Procedures Manual known as SOP 5 10 5 which covers both the SBA 7a and 504 loan programs is being revised and will be replaced by SOP 50 10 6 to be released in January 2020. Dianna Seaborn, Director of the Office of Financial Assistance at the U.S. Small Business Administration and Linda Reilly SBA 504 Program Chief, addressed the NADCO membership and shared that the new SOP will be more user friendly but did not provide a lot of insight as to program changes within the new SOP.

In closing, we would like to say thank you to our third party lenders for the opportunity to assist small businesses in our great state of Tennessee! We wish each of you a Merry Christmas and we look forward to working with each of you in 2020.

This newsletter was funded in part through grants from the State of Tennessee, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, and other federal, state, and local sources. Materials from the ETDD Newsletter may be freely reprinted with proper crediting of the source.

# Calendar of Events

## December 2019

- 6 ARC Grant Pre-Application Deadline
- 10 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 19 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN
- 24-25 Christmas holidays, ETDD offices closed

## January 2020

- 1 New Year's Day holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 14 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 14 TN General Assembly reconvenes for 2020
- 16 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN
- 20 MLK Day holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 21 ET Fire Chiefs Meeting, Roane State CC, Knoxville campus
- 29 ATVG Winter Meeting, Murfreesboro Embassy Suites

## February 2020

- 11 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 17 President's Day Holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 20 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN
- 28 2020 CDBG Grant Application Deadline

## March 2020

- 2-3 TCSA County Government Day, Nashville Doubletree Hotel
- 3-4 TDDA Annual Conference, Nashville Renaissance Hotel
- 10 ETDD & ETHRA Annual Business Meetings, Rothchild's Conference Center, Knoxville
- 15-18 NADO Washington Policy Conference, Arlington, VA