

ETDD Newsletter

Contact Us:

East Tennessee
Development District
Areawide Development
Corporation
216 Corporate Place
P.O. Box 249
Alcoa, TN 37701-0249

ETDD (865) 273-6003
ADC (865) 273-6008
Fax (865) 273-6010

www.etdd.org

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The 2020 Census – A Critical Process for Local Governments

In the spring of 2020, the US Census Bureau will begin in earnest to count every person in the United States. The Census Bureau is part of the US Department of Commerce and its Director is appointed by the President of the United States. Each household in the United States will receive a form that can be completed online, by telephone or by mail. This is the first Census that allows people to complete their form online. Presumably, the new census form will not contain a question about whether or not the person completing the form is a US citizen. Therefore, all persons that live in America will be eligible to complete a census form. This is an important nuance because, while undocumented aliens do not typically pay payroll or social security taxes, this population group certainly impacts the educational systems, courts systems and health care systems in local communities. If undocumented aliens are not counted then local governments will not receive their fair share of federal and state dollars that can be used to address the impacts that these people have on local systems.

The 2020 Census is the formal population counting process that is mandated by the US Constitution to occur every ten years. Article 1 of the United States Constitution directs the population to be enumerated at least once every ten years and the resulting count is used to establish the number of members from each state that will serve in the US House of Representatives, and by extension, the Electoral College. By law, the Census Bureau must count everyone and submit state population totals to the U.S. President by December 31 of any year ending in a zero. States within the Union receive the results in the spring of the following year.

Within the State of Tennessee, the population numbers established by the US Census process are used to distribute state shared tax dollars to municipalities and counties. Once established, the population of a local government is not changed until the next census is taken, except in the case where a local government conducts (and funds) its own special census. A special census is in essence a small scale counting process where every household is contacted by the local government and the real time population is tabulated and certified. At the federal level, Census data directly affects how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and more. An undercount of a community's population can cost even a small community hundreds of thousands of dollars over the ten year period between counts.

Many of the activities necessary for the completion of the 2020 Census are already well underway. The Census Bureau has opened over 240 local offices across the country that will manage the census takers in every community. Verification of addresses has also occurred (ETDD assisted with this effort) and census tract and block group boundaries are verified (ETDD assisted with this effort as well). On April 1st (no fooling) Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, respondents can submit the information online, by phone, or by mail. Beginning in May of 2020, census takers start to visit homes that have not responded to the survey to make sure everyone is counted. In December as mandated by federal law, the Census Bureau delivers apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law. By March of 2021, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

Obviously, the 2020 US Census is an extremely important process that directly impacts every person that resides in the United States, regardless of their citizenship status. At the local level, certified populations are used to establish legislative districts and to formally establish the distribution percentages for federal and state shared taxes. Although the Census Bureau has the primary responsibility for ensuring that a comprehensive count is achieved, all local governments have a direct interest in making sure that everyone in their community is counted.

(Sources: Wikipedia, US Census Bureau, TN ECD, Federation of American Scientists)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

ETDD staff is currently assisting the City of Friendsville in 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.

ETDD staff assisted the following utilities with infrastructure planning grants that helps the utility to plan for immediate and future needs. The utilities assisted are Anderson County Utility, Arthur-Shawnee Utility and Rocky Top Utility.

Congratulations to the City of Rocky Top for receiving a USDA Search grant for \$30,000.00 to assist the utility in long range planning.

PINI (TACIR) SURVEY

The Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory (PINI) has begun for the inventory year FY 2019/2020. ETDD staff is currently working on local bridges for the East Tennessee area. We will be contacting the County Highway Superintendents and their staff to gather and confirm information from the verification reports. Surveying the schools will begin in early September and ETDD will set up meetings with appropriate department heads in a timely manner. Please 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 reports at www.tn.gov/tacir/rsection/tacir-infrastructure. Contact Mollie Childress at mechildress@etdd.org if you want to be surveyed.

GRANT INFORMATION

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Community Development Block Grant applications are still under review by the State of Tennessee. Awards are expected to be announced in October.

ETDD staff will be participating on a webinar to discuss the 2020 application process. The deadline for the applications is usually in February of each year. Previous CDBG projects must be closed out before a new application can be submitted. ETDD advises communities to begin thinking about potential projects that can be submitted as the basis for an application.

Application Requirements

Maximum grants are \$500,000 for lines, systems and housing rehabilitation. Maximum grants for community livability projects are \$300,000. The maximum grant in two consecutive fiscal years is \$750,000. Communities that participate in the Three-Star program are eligible for up to \$25,000 (\$15,000 for community livability projects) in additional funding.

Community development grant rates are based on the ability-to-pay of the applicant as calculated by the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee.

Overview of Evaluation Criteria

The "regular round" program operates on a point system that measures four factors.

Community need measures unemployment and income levels in the applicant city or county and in the service area of the project. Each project is eligible for up to 100 points in community need.

Project need is a relative measure of the community need for the project being requested compared to similar projects that may be submitted. Project need is calculated differently for different kinds of projects (for example, a water project may measure bacteria content in the water, while a housing rehabilitation project uses the extent of deteriorated housing as a measure of need). Line and system projects can receive up to 100 points in project need, while livability and housing projects can receive only 50 points.

Project feasibility measures the adequacy of the design and engineering of the project. For line and system projects, feasibility is a threshold for approval as determined by the Department of Environment and Conservation; no points are assigned, but the project must be determined to be feasible. Livability and housing projects may receive up to 50 points for feasibility.

Project impact is a benefit/cost measure and compares the number of people being served and the amount of money being requested. Line and system projects can earn up to 100 points in project impact, while livability and housing projects can earn only 50. For the 2012 application round, 10 additional points in the project impact category are available if the application shows that the proposed project affects the community's economic development.

Project essentialness is used only in community livability projects in order to ensure that those projects related to health and safety receive the greatest opportunity for funding. A maximum of 50 points is available in essentialness.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

ETDD staff will be attending this year's ARC workshop in Knoxville on October 30, 2019 to learn about this year's State priorities for ARC applications as well as the deadline for submitting pre-applications.

Eligible Activities:

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.

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.

Telecommunications.

ARC funds a number of telecommunications activities, including strategic community planning, equipment acquisition, and hardware and software for network building.

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.

ARC Power Grant

ETDD staff assisted the Huntsville/Oneida TCAT with an ARC Power application for approximately \$1.9 million that will help to start new classes in the region that will help to assist those residents that have been in the jail system to secure a trade certification that will help in job 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.

FEMA

Congratulations to the Seymour Fire Department on being awarded a SAFER grant that can be used for hiring firefighters and help in retaining volunteers. The total amount is \$573,496.00.

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 need be get cost estimates on your proposed equipment requests.

NO application can be submitted for any FEMA program unless you are registered with the SAM.GOV Federal program.

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

Police Grants

Congratulations to the following ETDD staff assisted communities with the announcement of their Bullet Proof Vest Grants awards:

Plainview, Anderson County, Oliver Springs, Rocky Top, Norris, Jacksboro, Grainger County, Bean Station, Dandridge, Sweetwater, Tellico Plains and Harriman were awarded a total of 177 vests to outfit our dedicated Police Officers.

If you are not registered with the Office of Justice and Grants.Gov, take the time to do this so that when grants become available we can assist you in making applications.

Transportation

ETDD staff will be assisting Oneida Special School District and Scott County School District on the VW settlement grant administration.

ETDD staff is assisting the following communities that have been asked for full applications under the Multi-modal grant from TDOT.

- Anderson County – construction of sidewalks along Hwy 62 that will connect Norwood Elementary and Norwood Middles schools.
- Campbell County – construction of sidewalks that will provide a connections starting at Jacksboro Middle school and ending at Cove Lake State Park along Hwy 63.
- Rocky Top – construction of sidewalks along Hwy 25W in the downtown district.
- Rutledge – construction of sidewalks, pedestrian lighting and benches along Hwy 1 in the downtown district.
- New Tazewell – construction of sidewalks along Hwy 33 in the downtown district.

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.

SOLID WASTE

Grainger County School Recycling

Grainger County received a Waste Reduction Grant from TDEC to assist with purchasing material collection trailers that will be used for recycling collection, allowing the county to begin collecting paper, plastic, and cardboard from every public school. Recycling collection trailers with three divided sections will be placed at each of the County's seven schools, and one trailer will be available for mobile recycling collection at public events such as the Grainger County Tomato Festival. Recycling collection will begin at each school during the current semester and at public events as they occur. Congratulations to Grainger County on their effort at increasing the volume of recycled material collected and decreasing materials sent to the landfill!

Do you have a new waste reduction or recycling program in your community that you would like to see featured in this newsletter? If so, please contact Tim Hendrick at 865-273-6003.

District-wide Needs Assessment

The Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 requires all Development Districts to coordinate, conduct, and maintain an assessment of the solid waste needs for each municipal solid waste planning region in the state. T.C.A. § 68-211-811 also requires that the assessment include demographic and economic information as well as a thorough evaluation of each region's solid waste system. ETDD staff is working diligently on the 2020 District-wide Needs Assessment, having already contacted many communities to discuss the waste/recycling services available to their residents. All 16 counties and 56 municipalities of ETDD should expect to be contacted by ETDD staff with questions regarding your solid waste systems. ***Your cooperation and timely response to any questionnaires is greatly appreciated.***

Private and Federal Grants

In an effort to revamp the grant program and implement process improvements to streamline the grant application and administration processes, TDEC grant solicitation is closed until approximately Spring 2020. There are, however, private grants available from organizations such as the Recycling Partnership and the Coca Cola Foundation, as well as occasional federal grants, that can support your waste reduction and recycling efforts. The period before TDEC grant solicitations reopen is a great time to evaluate your solid waste systems and needs. If you need assistance with evaluation or planning, or if you would like to explore what grants may be available to support your program needs, please call Tim Hendrick at 865-273-6003.

RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)

The ETDD administers two Rural Planning Organizations, RPOs in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The East Tennessee South RPO planning area includes the following counties: Sevier, Roane, Monroe, Loudon, Jefferson, Cocke and Blount. The East Tennessee North RPO planning area includes the following counties: Union, Scott, Morgan, Grainger, Claiborne, Campbell and Anderson.

The RPO is an organization which:

1. Makes recommendations to the Tennessee Department of Transportation regarding roadway projects to receive state and federal funding for planning, right-of-way acquisition and construction.
2. Assist TDOT in various transportation planning studies.
3. Assist local governments in communications and inquires with TDOT.

Local officials participating in the RPO process are kept informed of transportation issues and transportation grant opportunities and have input into determining priorities for planned roadway right-of-way and construction projects.

RPO members include county mayors, municipal mayors, county road superintendents, state elected officials, local officials, TDOT personnel, planners, agency representatives, business representatives and local citizens. The organization includes both voting and non-voting members.

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 Service will be offering two (2) separate planning commissioner training sessions this year. The first session will be October 29th at the Jefferson City Fire Hall and the second will be held on October 31st at the Farragut Town Hall. The topics will be the fundamentals of zoning and subdivision regulations and private property rights. The specific information for the training sessions is on the East Tennessee Development District website at <http://www.etdd.org> and also will be distributed to interested parties. If you have any requests for future

training session topics, please call the ETDD Planning Advisory Service at 865-273-6003.

AGRITOURISM

A growing number of working farms are seeking to increase their incomes by expanding economic activities. Therefore, the State of Tennessee has adopted legislation that allows farms to engage in agritourism. State law defines agritourism as “...*any activity carried out on a farm or ranch, eligible for greenbelt status that allows the general public, for recreational, entertainment or agricultural purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities, including farming, ranching, historic, cultural, harvest-your-own activities, or natural activities and attractions.*”

The intent of the state law pertaining to Agritourism, as implied in its definition, is to allow legitimate farms to increase their incomes through tourism activities directly related to their farms and agricultural activities. Corn mazes, fruit picking, hay rides, petting zoos, cut-your-own Christmas tree, and similar activities are generally accepted agritourism activities. Other commercial activities that are not directly related to farm or agricultural activities are not considered to be agritourism by definition or a recent Tennessee Supreme Court ruling. In *Shore v. Maple Lane Farms, LLC*, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that music concerts are not agritourism because they are not related to common agricultural activities. The Court also ruled that music concerts are not protected by the Tennessee Right to Farm Act because they do not meet the definition of agriculture.

Legitimate agritourism activities are protected from local zoning regulations that otherwise might not allow such activities. However, agritourism activities may be subject to zoning regulations pertaining to site development such as parking, access, signage, and perhaps other requirements. Jurisdictions without zoning generally do not have regulatory control over proposed activities, regardless of whether they are considered agritourism.

In jurisdictions with zoning regulations, it is in the best interest of all parties that any proposed activity be reviewed by local codes officials or the planning commission to determine whether an activity is permitted by the zoning regulations or as an agritourism activity.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

GIS staff created a new interactive map this quarter that is available on the ETDD webpage showing the opportunity zones in our region along with some pertinent attributes of

each zone/county (population, educational attainment, income, workforce estimates, major transportation routes, rail lines, and nearby colleges and universities). See the “What’s New” link on the ETDD webpage to explore opportunity zones in our region using the map.

For RPO programs, GIS staff created State Aid Road work maps for several district counties this quarter using data from TDOT. Staff also created a draft Wartburg work map showing a potential shared use path and connectors. The ArcMap Spatial Analyst extension was used to generate contours for the map. For Solid Waste, several maps were created for multiple reports. For example, the maps included countywide map illustrations showing convenience centers, recyclable sources, and other features. A Scott County proposed curbside recycling map was also created.

For the planning program, proposed rezoning illustrations were created for six district communities. Also, a new Fire District map was created for downtown Clinton as well as several historic district work maps. Update of the Harrogate zoning map is in progress.

New HP/Housing Staff Member

ETDD is pleased to announce that Jonathan Mosely has joined our staff as the Historic Preservation/Housing Planner. Jonathan’s primary responsibilities will be writing national register nominations, assisting communities with the preservation of their cultural assets and managing the Elderly Repair Program.

Jonathan received a BA in History from Freed-Hardeman University in Hendersonville, TN and a MA in Public History (historic preservation emphasis) from Texas State University in San Marcos, TX. Welcome Jonathan and we wish you the best!



Areawide Development Corporation SBA 504 News

Areawide Development Corporation held its annual membership and board of directors meeting on Monday, September 16, 2019. In the report to the membership, Debbie Sudhoff, ADC Director, noted ADC has had four SBA 504 loans approved this fiscal year totaling \$5,978,000 which represents a 39% increase as compared to the same time period last year. Nationally, loan dollar volume has increased 4% in the 504 program as compared to the same period last year. Overall, ADC's portfolio performance is strong with no delinquencies. Our loan portfolio is \$22.4 million and consists of 41 loans. On September 9, 2019, the effective rates were published for the September 2019 funded debentures. The 25 year full term funding rate was 3.901%, the 20 year debenture full term funding rate was 3.820%, and the 10 year full term funding rate was 3.603%. SBA announced for 504 loans approved beginning October 1, 2018, the upfront guaranty fee will remain at 0.50% and the annual service fee will be reduced from 0.368% to 0.3205% of the outstanding balance of the loan.

During the Annual Meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for the upcoming year beginning October, 1:

President	David Verble
Vice President	Teri Brahams
Treasurer	Jim McBrearty
Secretary	Tish Campbell

Areawide Development Corporation Commits to Increase SBA 504 Lending in Rural Areas by 5% over the next year



Pictured: East Tennessee lenders that have committed to increase rural lending

The U.S. Small Business Administration Tennessee District Office, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) cohosted event across the State of Tennessee focused on the development of rural small businesses and farms highlighting the ECD Drive Innovation Bus. The East Tennessee event was held September 23, 2019 at the Athens Market Pavilion in Athens, Tennessee. Counties being target in East Tennessee for 2020 are Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, and Polk. The event was designed to educate entrepreneurs, small business owners and community organizations about the federal lending programs and resources available through SBA, USDA, and ECD. Areawide Development Corporation has committed to increase its lending in rural counties by 5% next fiscal year. If you would like more information about the SBA 504 loan program please contact Debbie Sudhoff at 865-238-2752.

East Tennessee Development District
P.O. Box 249
Alcoa, TN 37701-0249

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October 2019

- 6-7 TDDA Retreat, Murfreesboro, TN
- 8 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 14 Columbus Day Holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 15 ET Fire Chiefs Meeting, City of Loudon Fire Headquarters, Loudon, TN
- 19-23 NADO Annual Training Conference, Reno, NV
- 24-25 ECD Annual Conference, Nashville Renaissance Hotel
- 27-28 ATVG Fall Meeting, Gatlinburg, TN
- 29-31 TCSA Annual Conference, Convention Center, Knoxville

November 2019

- 5 Election Day
- 12 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 14 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN
- 28-29 Thanksgiving holiday, ETDD offices closed

December 2019

- 10 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 19 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN
- 24-25 Christmas holiday, ETDD offices closed

January 2020

- 1 New Year's Day holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 14 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 16 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN
- 20 MLK Day, ETDD offices closed
- 21 ET Fire Chiefs Meeting, Roane State CC, Knoxville campus