



**Southeast Tennessee Development
2023 Annual Report**



Chattanooga Regional Council of Governments

setcares

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CHUCK HAMMONDS

Executive Director

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



This year our 2023 Annual Report focuses on the improvements being made throughout the region post pandemic. Staff are hard at work helping our regional communities with the implementation process of building back and assisting with the startup of much-needed infrastructure improvements. Currently, staff has maintained local planning assistance to twenty-eight communities, as well as aiding our older adults through various programs such as home delivered meals, transportation, and technology classes allowing them to stay connected. Staff is directly administering 160 projects with \$75,619,475 in grant funding by way of expanding broadband services, water and sewer repairs, infrastructure projects and various community development programs relating to childcare and food insecurity. These grant funds and programs have benefitted over 143,500 residents throughout our region. Economic Development continues to experience existing industry expansions and opportunities for growth by new business and industries resulting in more than 2,600 jobs and more than \$1.2 billion dollars in new investment across the region. Workforce Development continues to investigate and develop the recovery to work ecosystems to promote a stable workforce for the future. Tourism continues to actively engage people in the great outdoors with the development of a new Outdoor Field Guide, new boat launch areas with partner paddle events, walking tours, and several new outdoor attractions, as well as a focus on increased social media and marketing efforts that are ongoing.



As we continue to provide these transformational services today, we are fulfilling and preparing for the needs of tomorrow while enhancing the quality of life for all residents for many years to come. Although the numbers are impressive, the stories about how we have worked together to impact people's lives throughout the region are priceless. As a board of elected officials, we appreciate the opportunity to serve the people we represent through the work of CARCOG/SETDD.

D. Gary Davis, Bradley County Mayor



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Full-Time Staff

68

FY 23 Operating Budget

\$7,540,553

Pass Through Budget

\$9,117,411

Total Asset & Liabilities

\$21,379,856





ABOUT CARCOG/SETD

The Chattanooga Area Regional Council of Governments, doing business as the Southeast Tennessee Development District, is owned and governed by local and municipal governments throughout Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia.

Our work is accomplished by utilizing local, state, federal, and private funds to deliver programs and services through 3 core business functions:

setcares: Area Agency on Aging & Disability

setworks: Workforce Development

setbuilds: Community & Economic Development



Our Mission and Vision is to elevate the region by caring for its people, building its workforce, and developing its economy.

We are people-centered progress in Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia.

We elevate how we care, how we build, how we work by partnering with people in need. We work to improve the lives of those who live in this region.

We cost-effectively provide staffing resources to local governments and deliver programs and services to the region. This forges a very unique partnership with local governments, creating a climate of success for individuals, families, and businesses.

Board of Directors

Legislative

Senator Bo Watson
Representative Dan Howell
Representative Ron Travis

Bledsoe County

Gregg Ridley: County Mayor
Phillip Cagle: Mayor of Pikeville

Bradley County

D. Gary Davis: County Mayor
Donna McDermott: Mayor, City of Charleston
Kevin Brooks: Mayor, City of Cleveland

Catoosa County

Steven Henry: County Chairman
Earl Gray: Mayor, City of Fort Oglethorpe
Nick Millwood: Mayor, City of Ringgold

Dade County

Ted Rumley: County Executive
Alex Case: City of Trenton

Grundy County

Michael Brady: County Mayor
Jana Barrett: Mayor, Town of Altamont
Natasha King: Mayor, Town of Beersheba Springs
Tom Meeks: Mayor, City of Coalmont
Donna Rollins: Mayor, City of Gruetli-Laager
Greg Maloof: Mayor, Town of Monteagle
Anthony Nunley: Mayor, Town of Palmer
Stacie Hutcheson: Mayor, Town of Tracy City

Hamilton County

Weston Wamp: County Mayor
Tim Kelly: Mayor, City of Chattanooga
Morty Lloyd: Mayor, City of Collegedale
Brian Williams: Mayor, City of East Ridge
David Howell: Mayor, City of Lakesite
Walker Jones: Mayor, Town of Lookout Mountain
Hollie Berry: Mayor, City of Red Bank
Kirk Walker: Mayor, City of Ridgeside
Charlie Poss: Mayor, Town of Signal Mtn.
Steve Everette: Mayor, City of Soddy-Daisy
Lee Davis: Mayor, Town of Walden

Marion County

David Jackson: County Mayor
Jason Turner: Mayor, Town of Jasper
Rex Pesnell: Mayor, Town of Kimball
Mark Myers: Mayor, City of New Hope
Jerry Godsby: Mayor, Town of Orme
Dwight Richards: Mayor, Town of Powell's Cross
Samantha Rector: Mayor, South Pittsburg
Sandra Crabtree: Mayor, City of Whitwell

Meigs County

Eddie Jewell: County Mayor
Wayne Irwin: Mayor, Town of Decatur

McMinn County

John Gentry: County Mayor
Steve Sherlin: Mayor, City of Athens
Evan Thomas: Mayor, Town of Calhoun
Tony Hawn: Mayor, Town of Englewood
Burke Garwood: Mayor, City of Etowah
Lois Preece: Mayor, City of Niota

Polk County

Robby Hatcher: County Executive
Joe Jenkins: Mayor, Town of Benton
Kathy Stewart: Mayor, City of Copperhill
Doug Collins: Mayor, City of Ducktown

Rhea County

Jim Vincent: County Executive
Hurley Marsh: Mayor, City of Dayton
Charles Kaylor: Mayor, Town of Graysville
Woody Evans: Mayor, Town of Spring City

Sequatchie County

D. Keith Cartwright: County Executive
Clint Huth: Mayor, City of Dunlap

Walker County

Shannon Whitfield: County Commission Chairman
Raymond Crowder: City of Chickamauga
Andy Arnold: Mayor, City of Lafayette
David Bennett: Mayor, City of Lookout Mountain
Teddy Harris: Mayor, City of Rossville





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423-424-4256 | 1-866-836-6678 | www.setaaad.org

The **Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability** (SETAAAD) provides aging and disability services for older adults and adults over 21 with a disability. We believe that caring for each other is about empowerment, and we are available to assist those in the following counties: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie.

The mission of SETAAAD is to help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and have choices in their homes and communities. Our services include the following programs:

- ⇒ **Aging & Disability Resource Center**
- ⇒ **Bridging the Digital Divide for Older Adults**
- ⇒ **CHOICES Single Point of Entry**
- ⇒ **National Family Caregiver Support Program**
- ⇒ **Nutrition Program (Meals on Wheels)**
- ⇒ **OPTIONS for Community Living**
- ⇒ **Public Guardianship for the Elderly**
- ⇒ **Relative Caregiver Program**
- ⇒ **Senior Centers**
- ⇒ **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**
- ⇒ **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
- ⇒ **Title III Homemaker Service**
- ⇒ **Transportation (MyRide)**
- ⇒ **Volunteer Opportunities**

VACCINE 5

SETAAAD contracted with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC)/Health Services to provide COVID-19 vaccine information, education, resources and in-home vaccines as needed.

Consumers called 423-424-4230 to be connected with a nurse who answered vaccine related questions, provided vaccination resources and when needed schedule an in-home COVID-19 vaccine or booster.

SETAAAD clients received a return reply postcard with a brief survey regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. Approximately 3,000 postcards were delivered. Nearly 150 individuals were directly assisted since April 2022.

UTC made arrangements to have a commercial produced to highlight services available through SETAAAD, including assistance with COVID-19 vaccinations.

WEST END HOME FOUNDATION GRANT

SETAAAD received \$400,000 in grant funds to achieve the following goals:

- Provide introductory digital literacy training classes adapted for seniors, age-appropriate devices and 1 year of tech support for 300 older adults. *10 classes have already been scheduled throughout the region.*
- Provide expanded digital literacy classes for 250 graduates of introductory training.
- Provide Connectivity Access and Support to at least 550 older adults.
- Support up to 10 Senior Centers to build their technology infrastructure and expand their role in the community as senior friendly technology hubs including access to telehealth. These technology hubs are intended to ensure continued digital equity and inclusion for older adults by offering skills training, device support and connectivity assistance.

These goals will be achieved through a contract with The Enterprise Center/Tech Goes Home.



REMEMBERING A PASSIONATE SERVANT TO OTHERS



Stephen (Steve) Lee Witt, 71, of Chattanooga, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at his home on November 4, 2022.

Steve was a talented organist, great communicator and public speaker. Those gifts combined with his passion for helping others, led him to a life in the ministry and non-profit work supporting our region's aging population as the director of the Southeast TN Alzheimer's Association and then as the director of the Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability until his retirement in late 2015.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11:00 am, Saturday, December 10, 2022, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, TN with Father Brad Whitaker officiating. A reception will follow the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Tennessee Donor Services at tennesseedonor.org.

SANTAS FOR SENIORS FOUNDER RECOGNIZED

Seven years ago Laura Mulkey, SETAAAD Nutrition Volunteer Coordinator, started Santas for Seniors which provides a holiday gift to every client in the region who relies on Meals on Wheels.

This year, Bliss Zechman with NewsChannel 9's Pay it Forward surprised Laura by showing up with her camera crew and awarding her \$500.

McMahan Law Firm was so moved by the Santas for Seniors story they did something they had not done before - awarded an additional \$500 which was given to Laura during a special edition of Pay it Forward.



RELATIVE CAREGIVER PROGRAM

The Relative Caregiver Program is designed to support relatives raising nonbirth children (i.e. grandparents raising grandchildren). It is a comprehensive system of information, referral and support services that promotes resource awareness and stability for families. This program provides families support and assistance in order to prevent children from entering or re-entering state custody.

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Case management / Information and Referral / Enrichment activities / Limited respite for caregivers / Monthly Caregiver and Youth Support Groups / Educational workshops for caregivers / Limited assistance with financial and material needs

**NEW IN
2023**

The Tennessee General Assembly approved additional financial support for eligible relative caregivers effective January 1, 2023. A stipend payment of \$426 per month can be made for each eligible child.

Call **1-866-735-8752** to learn more about the program and eligibility.

THIRD QUARTER BOARD REPORT

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC



On May 11, 2023, SETAAAD hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic for the Nutrition, SHIP (Medicare Counseling) and MyRide (Volunteer Assisted Transportation Program) volunteers! Over 109 people attended. We also presented Cheryl Locke the *True Gem Award* in memory of John T. Matthew. Cheryl volunteers to deliver meals in addition to being a full-time caregiver for her

husband with dementia. We appreciate *ALL* of our volunteers!





2023 USAGING

AGING INNOVATIONS & ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Every year, USAging proudly recognizes the innovated, successful and replicable programs and initiatives of their members through the USAging Aging Innovations & Achievement (AIA) Awards program.

SETAAAD's *Bridging the Digital Divide for Older Adults* digital literacy program was recognized in the Technology category with a 2023 Aging ACHIEVEMENT Award!



ADDITIONAL SERVICES DATA

- Congregate meal sites: 15
- Home Delivered Meal Routes: 25
- HCBS: 25 providers
- Advisory Council: 18 members
- Bridging the Digital Divide: 424 completers
- Volunteers: 560
- Transportation: 8,711 rides
- Senior Centers: 12 funded centers
- Senior Center Participants: 1,638 clients





SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE AREA
AGENCY ON AGING AND DISABILITY

Edison ID 73832

At-A-Glance: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023

	Bledsoe	Bradley	Grundy	Hamilton	Marion	McMinn	Meigs	Polk	Rhea	Sequitah	Franklin	TOTAL
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Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Total Information & Assistance Calls	13,150											
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Nutrition Program Participants

Congregate	126	72	39	336	61	32	28	19	57	29	-	799
Home Delivered	30	155	23	394	37	83	11	24	63	30	-	850

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Pilot Services

Clients Served	-	10	-	35	2	6	-	-	3	5	-	61
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OPTIONS for Community Living

Clients Served	7	48	15	125	19	20	3	8	12	11	-	268
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OPTIONS 2.0

Clients Served	11	54	9	116	13	24	4	3	9	8	-	251
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National Family Caregiver Support Program

Caregivers Served	3	15	6	68	6	9	2	2	9	1	-	121
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Waiting for AAAD Services - (please note, there is no one waiting for home delivered meals)

Current Wait List	22	132	19	365	33	57	13	21	49	15	-	726
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CHOICES Single Point of Entry

Persons Screened for CHOICES Eligibility	996											
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State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Calls and one-on-one appointments	395	1,331	229	5,014	487	1,050	154	231	578	220	-	9,689
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Relative Caregiver Program

Adults	5	26	2	73	9	18	7	4	19	8	11	182
Children	9	20	1	85	19	35	11	8	28	11	9	236

SNAP Benefits Assistance

Contacts	1,430	MyRide					Public Guardian					
		Rides				4,051	Clients				90	



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423-894-5354 | www.sedev.org/works



The **Southeast Tennessee Local Workforce Development Board** (STLWDB), appointed by the county mayors and certified by the Governor, includes representatives of private business/industry, education, economic development, labor, and community based organizations. Business partners make up the majority of the board membership and contribute to the strategic development by maintaining a critical leadership role in the local Workforce System.

The STLWDB provides policy and oversight for workforce development activities in the 10-county region throughout Southeast Tennessee: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie. To ensure a comprehensive Workforce System, your local workforce Board plans and evaluates the system in order to:

- ⇒ **Designate, certify, and oversee Workforce Services and One-Stop Operations**
- ⇒ **Ensure training meets local business and labor market demands**
- ⇒ **Identify eligible training providers and require that they meet industry and quality standards**
- ⇒ **Provide linkages between workforce, education, and economic development related activities**
- ⇒ **Form strategic partnerships and leverage local resources**

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE TRAINING—\$1,527,728

On-The-Job Training
25 New Hires Trained
5 Employers
\$84,223 Invested

Incumbent Worker Training
258 Employees Upskilled
9 Employers
\$139,305 Invested

Apprenticeship
27 1st and 2nd Year Apprentices
5 Employers
\$47,360 Invested

Paid Youth Work Experience
49 Youth/Young Adults
\$102,184 Invested

Individual Training Accounts
331 Job Seekers Received Job Skills Training
\$1,172,617 Invested



AMERICAN JOB CENTER SERVICES

Individuals Served	13,881
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Traffic in the American Job Centers remains stable but has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, the above total people accessed services in our centers. Board Staff and One-Stop Operator work to implement community-based access points and virtual services to increase accessibility.

Services by AJC Location

	To Job Seekers	To Employers
Athens	37850	2660
Chattanooga	89511	13828
Cleveland	11569	378
Dayton	4704	292
Marion	2707	37
Tracy City	805	2
Mobil AJC	1607	51

Top Reasons People Visit our AJCs

Job Search/Computer Room	45%
Unemployment Insurance	21%
Job Search Assistance	13%
Career Coaching	8%
Workshop	8%
Job Fair	4%

Other Highlights:

727 credentials were earned at AJCs between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023: 461 individuals received their High School Diploma/Equivalency and 266 individuals received an occupational skills certificate/credential

AJC staff created 11,926 job orders and made 16,064 job referrals to 3,676 job seekers who created resumes in Jobs4TN

Bradley and Grundy County Community-Focused Re-Entry Grants

Through the TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development Office of Reentry, Southeast LWDA received \$140,000 in grant funds to offer skills training to Justice Involved Individuals in Grundy and Bradley County. This funding served a total of 71 individuals offering workforce preparation skills, career guidance, and hands-on skills training.

In partnership with Cleveland State Community College, Bradley County Sheriff's Office and City Fields, this funding provided the opportunity to develop and implement two new training programs in Bradley County; a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Construction Core and a Culinary Arts offered inside Bradley County Detention Center.

In Grundy County, Chattanooga State Community College facilitated career guidance while partnering with Peak Performance offered manufacturing workforce skills training to participants.





Successes

Mr. Davis was enrolled in the WIOA program in April 2023 and participated in the May HVAC Bootcamp Training Program. He was previously employed at Whirlpool but at the time of enrollment had been unemployed for four months. He was a part of the TN Child Support Employment Parenting Program (TCSEPP), through the University of TN, due to his inability to pay child support. He relied upon factory work until he went through the HVAC Bootcamp and is now able to pursue this trade because of the training he received. He has been exited from TCSEPP as well because he is now employed and able to follow his court orders for child support.



Mr. Calvin Zundel, stopped by the Jasper American Job Center on 03/06/2023 and told us to use his story to encourage others not to give up. Mr. Zundel was a homeless veteran when he enrolled in WIOA on 06/18/2021. He was living in his truck, and he wanted to gain a Commercial Driver's License. Mr. Zundel was co-enrolled with SNAP E&T and entered his CDL training on 07/26/2021 at Miller-Motte in Chattanooga. Mr. Zundel gained his CDL credential on 08/25/2021 and has been employed ever since. Mr. Zundel reported that he has been driving for TVA Logistics for over one year now and earned \$77,000 in 2022. Mr. Zundel expressed his gratitude to the American Job Center and wanted to share his story to bring hope to those in need.

Southeast Tennessee Performance Dashboard PY 22-23

ADULT



DISLOCATED WORKER



YOUTH





The Southeast Industrial Development Association (SEIDA), comprised of eleven local power distributors and the Tennessee Valley Authority, works with strategic economic development partners across a three-state region to attract and retain jobs that generate capital investment to create vibrant economies.



SEIDA staff are assisting **Marion Natural Gas** with administering funds to install two LNG holding tanks and a mobile vaporizer system to provide peak shaving and additional natural gas capacity for Industries and residents in Marion County. Marion Natural Gas System and the City of South Pittsburg partnered together to apply for funding more than \$2 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to fund its LNG Regassification System.

ARC ARISE- SEIDA submitted an ARISE application for planning dollars to support a multi-state program that will update regional economic development strategies, target follow-up assistance initiatives, and shape future project implementation grant proposals as the global transportation industry shifts production away from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles.

Big Valley Brands, LLC will invest nearly \$1.5 million to expand its manufacturing operations in Sequatchie County, creating 30 jobs and constructing a 17,000-square-foot facility.



Primex Color Compounding & Additives Corporation announced that they will construct a new research and development center, expanding existing manufacturing space in Jasper, Tennessee, investing more than \$5 million and creating 30 jobs in Marion County.

Food City held a ground groundbreaking in Kimball, TN to celebrate the start of construction for a new grocery location that will result in \$15 Million investment and create 135 full and part-time jobs.

West Star Aviation completed construction on their new 57,000 sq ft hanger at the Chattanooga Regional Airport resulting in 100 new jobs.

Nokian Tyres announced a \$174 Million expansion in Dayton, TN resulting in 75 new jobs for Dayton, TN.

BRADLEY COUNTY WINS BIG IN 2023

Formulated Solutions opened operations in Cleveland, TN, resulting in a \$44 million investment and 524 new jobs. This facility will double the production of Formulated Solution's two other plants and corporate office as their largest manufacturing facility of 455,000 sq ft.

Duracell announced the company will invest \$25 million to expand its existing battery component manufacturing operations in Cleveland, Tennessee, creating 25 new jobs.

SK Food Group, Inc. began construction for their production facility in Cleveland, resulting in 840 new jobs by 2030. SK Food Group's new 525,000-square-foot manufacturing facility will support the company's growing consumer demand by utilizing state-of-the-art automated technology to assist with sandwich assembly and food handling.



The Kroger Company officials announced the company will construct a new Central Fill facility with Cleveland, Tennessee, as its fifth U.S. location. Kroger will create 140 new jobs in Bradley County as a result of the project.

The largest spirits distribution center in Southeast Tennessee is currently being constructed at Spring Branch Industrial Park in Bradley County.

Business Lending & Loan Administration

The lending staff received 7 inquiries from small business owners seeking funding opportunities. Out of those inquiries, 3 moved forward to the application phase and 2 were underwritten and presented to the loan committee for review and was approved.

Staff was tasked with administering the Growing Small Business Incentive grant (GSBI) which awards up to \$10,000 per applicant based on their job creation over the past 18 months. This grant is funded by the City of Chattanooga's Industrial Development Board.

LOAN PORTFOLIO

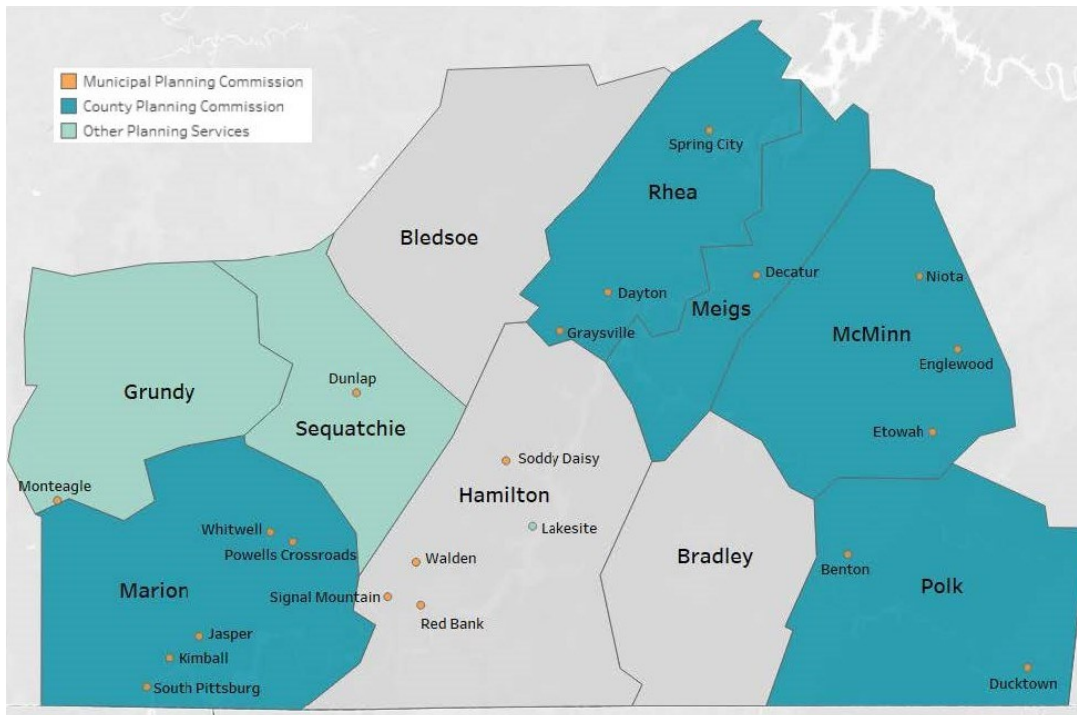
Total Loans	124
Jobs Created	229
Jobs Retained	192
Total Jobs	421
SETD Loans	\$7,625,048
Other Funds	\$11,638,722
Total Project	\$19,263,770



LOCAL PLANNING

The Planning Department here at SETD plays a critical role in shaping Southeast Tennessee. Our team works directly with communities to help answer technical questions about State Law, local ordinances, and zoning issues, as well as helping resolve a multitude of other related issues as they arise

In 2023, SETD's Planning Department increased in size to six full-time planners to help provide technical assistance throughout the region. Our department staffed 25 municipal and regional Planning Commissions as well as working with Grundy County, Sequatchie County, and the City of Lakesite. Through these contracts, we have aided these communities in achieving their vision for creating more livable, accessible, and desirable downtowns and neighborhoods. Over the last year, the planning department has attended 216 Planning Commission meetings and reviewed 737 development plans. Below are the communities with planning contracts.



CEDS

Following the completion of the 2022-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the Local Planning staff continued the region's progress towards reaching the goals of the CEDS. The CEDS is now fully interactive and available online at <https://ceds2022-setdd.hub.arcgis.com/>. The Regional Profile tool allows individuals to view up-to-date statistics at both the regional and county level. The CEDS website also tracks key economic indicators to gauge our region's progress towards the eight goals of the CEDS, and towards reaching SETDD's vision of reducing the region's unemployment rate by 0.5%, raise per capita incomes to \$50,000, maintain an average ACT score of 24 in every county, and provide broadband access to every neighborhood. In fiscal year 2023, we saw the unemployment rate decrease from 3.3% to 2.8%, and per capita personal income increase from \$50,159 to \$50,605.

MAPPING & ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

SETD has acquired Northwest GA LIDAR from Georgia Mountain Regional Commission, allowing us to expand our mapping capacity for following counties: Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Murray, Walker, and Whitfield.

Over the course of the year, roughly 25 Environmental Reviews were conducted per the requirement of all Federal Funded grants. These reviews are essential to each project, ensuring all environmental processes are followed.

TACIR

In order to accurately portray the infrastructure needs across Tennessee to the General Assembly, the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) developed the Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory (PINI). TACIR partners with the development districts across the state to gather this information, which proves beneficial in providing an avenue for long-range planning across the region .

This past year, SETD's planning department surveyed local and state agencies to compile an inventory of governmental and school system infrastructure needs. The latest report from TACIR was published in January 2023 and stated that there were 1,275 public infrastructure projects across the Southeast Tennessee region. These projects totaled an astounding \$5,485,475,557, which equates to approximately 9% of Tennessee's total infrastructure needs. As in recent years, our region reported transportation projects as the highest need and therefore should be given topmost priority for funding. For more information, visit www.tn.gov/TACIR.

SOLID WASTE

The 2022 Solid Waste Annual Progress Report was passed with a 32% percent diversion rate (our highest number in many years), with many of our counties surpassing the 25% diversion rate required by TDEC. Both Marion County and Rhea County were awarded Convenience Center Grants in the 2023 Grant Cycle.



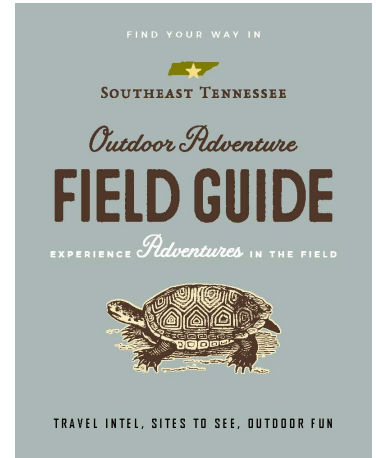
423-266-5781 | www.southeasttennessee.com

SOUTHEAST TN TOURISM ASSOCIATION (SETTA)

Based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Southeast Tennessee Tourism Association (SETTA) is a division of the Southeast Tennessee Development District, the designated regional planning agency and council of governments for the 10 counties of Southeast Tennessee.

Some of the highlights this year include new Outdoor Field and SETN Visitor Guides, attendance of the new boat launch opening in Sequatchie County, partnership with Hiwassee Blueway for their annual Partner Paddle, creation of promotional materials for the new Pikeville Historic Walking Tour, and development of a patch for conservation efforts with Hiwassee Ocoee State Parks—Protect Ruth's Golden Aster.

Over the spring, tourism staff coordinated two influencer travel trips that included Bigfoot Adventures, Coalmont OHV Park, The Caverns and rock climbing in Grundy County, as well as the Cornbread Festival and Lodge Manufacturing & Museum. The success of these visits have encouraged the TN Department of Tourist Development to invest additional funds into the campaigns.



Pikeville Walking Tour Grand Opening

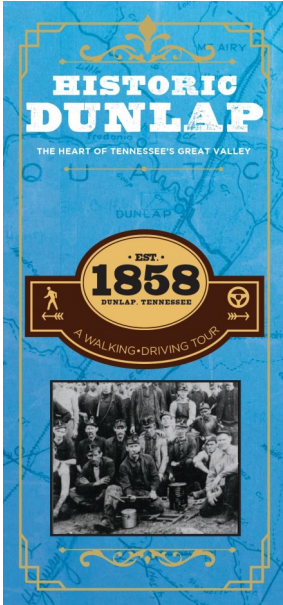
FIELD GUIDE TO SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE

You'll feel worlds away when you arrive at this mountainous landscape laced with rivers of all shapes and sizes. We've rounded up some of the region's most authentic experiences to "show off" a bit and lure you into the great outdoors. Visit our small towns where you can slow down and enjoy family and friends. Start planning your getaway at SoutheastTennessee.com



Protect Ruth's Golden Aster Patch

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Dunlap Walking Tour Cover

Over the last year, Historic Preservation staff worked across the SETD region on community projects through state and federal grant writing, by reviewing Section 106 requests, and by providing technical support on endangered historic properties.

Highlighted work includes the completion of a Historic Walking Tour in Dunlap (Sequatchie County), hosting three cemetery preservation workshops in Hamilton County (Beck Knob, Pleasant Gardens, and Red Bank Cemeteries), and providing administrative support for two Historic Development Grant Program projects (Etowah L&N Depot, McMinn County and Kinsey Junior College, Polk County). Additionally, SETD staff wrote a successful Historic Preservation Fund grant application for the Rhea County Courthouse, one of only three National Historic Landmarks in our region. Two other grant contracts for the Historic Preservation Fund were also awarded to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bradley County and Christ Church Episcopal, Hamilton County. Preservation staff further prepared draft

nominations to the National Register of Historic Places on behalf of the South Pittsburg Post Office (Marion County) and Walden's Ridge Civic Center (Hamilton County) - and are quickly finishing another nomination draft on behalf of the Dunlap Mercantile (Sequatchie County).

Separately, SETD serves as a Designated Agency for the Arts Build Communities (ABC) grant program, offered through the Tennessee Arts Commission. During FY23, Historic Preservation Staff administered and closed out seven successful arts projects in four counties (Bradley, Marion, McMinn, and Sequatchie Counties).



Etowah Depot Portico Rm Interior



Rhea Co Courthouse



South Pittsburg Post Office



St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Kinsey Jr College Facade

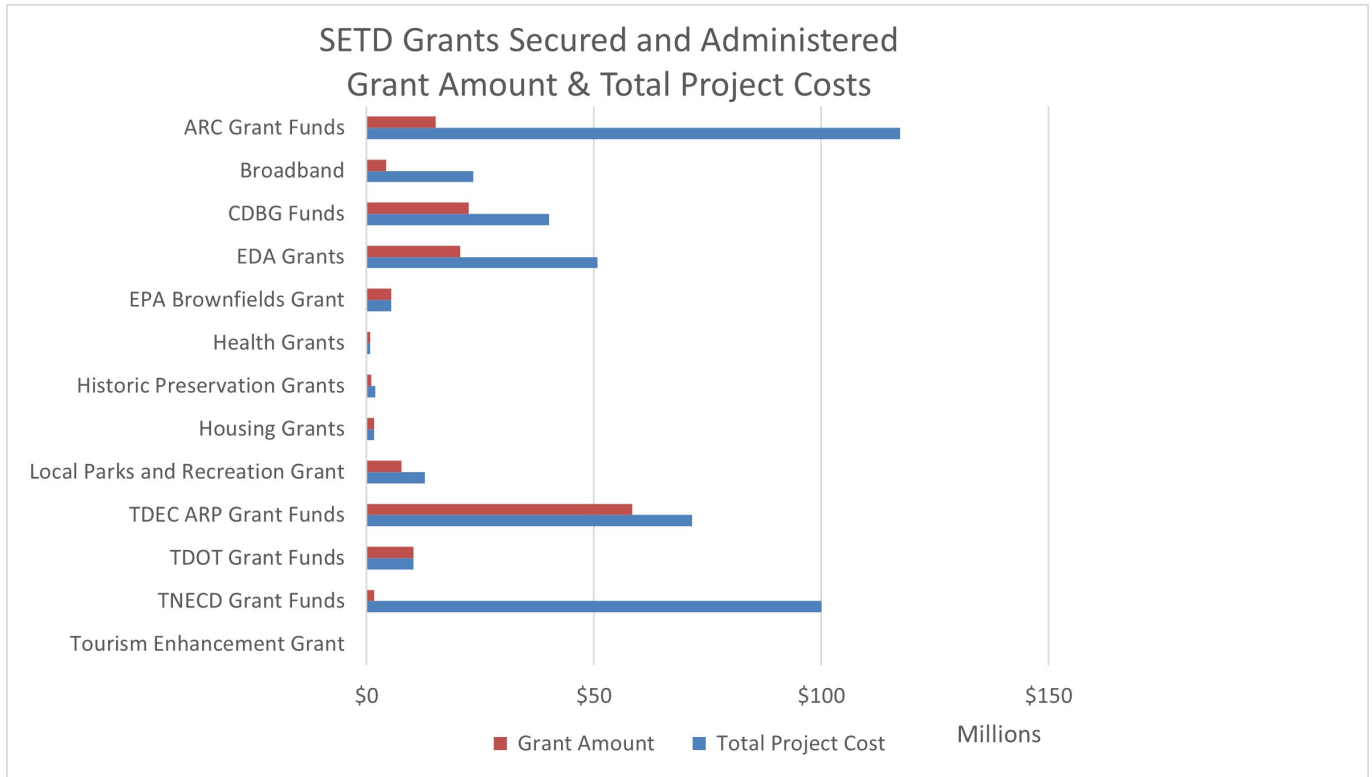


GRANT WRITING AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

This year has been exceptionally busy with grant application submissions and grant administration. Staff is currently administering \$75,619,475 in grant funds and performs Davis Bacon Payroll Compliance activities for an additional \$100,207,050 in State Revolving Loan Fund projects.

27 TDEC American Rescue Plan	12 2023 CDBG Regular Round	6 ARC
4 Local Parks & Recreation	9 Food Insecurity CDBG	5 USDA Rural Development

Staff also applied for funding and were awarded, totaling \$1,805,898 in CDBG Child Care Grants, which added an additional 125 Child Care Spots in the region!



Funding Partners

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FUNDING



FEDERAL

Appalachian Regional Commission
Department of Interior (National Park Service)
US Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration
US Department of Health and Human Services (TN Commission on Aging and Disability and TN Department of Human Services)
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
US Department of Labor - Employment and Training Administration
US Rural Development
US Department of Agriculture
Federal Highway Administration

STATE

Bureau of TennCare

TN Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations TN Arts Commission
TN Commission on Aging & Disability
TN Department of Children's Services
TN Department of Economic and Community Development
TN Department of Environment and Conservation

- Recreation Education Service
- Solid Waste
- TN Historical Commission

TN Department of Health
TN Department of Human Services
TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development

- LWD- Region 5- Career Center Partners

TN Department of Transportation
TN Department of Treasury
TN Department of Tourist Development
TN Housing Development Agency

LOCAL & REGIONAL

All Local City and County Governments served by the Southeast Tennessee Development District
Lyndhurst Foundation

Southeast Development Foundation
Southeast Industrial Development Association (SEDIA)
Tennessee Valley Authority & Power Distributors (SEIDA region)
United Way McMinn/Meigs



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