

# southwest tennessee development district



building a stronger region

# annual report 2017

# Building a Stronger Region 2016-2017 Annual Report

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Haywood

Madison

Henderson

Decatur

Chester

Hardeman

McNairy

Hardin

# Who We Are & What We Do



The SWTDD staff strives to meet the needs of the elderly, disabled, unemployed and dislocated workers, high school and college-aged students, as well as local and regional governments as we work in cooperation with local, state and federal agencies.

Southwest Tennessee Development District was created by the Tennessee General Assembly under the Tennessee Development District Act of 1965. Like all development districts, SWTDD provides comprehensive planning and promotes economic, community, and human resource development in a defined geographic area.

As a public non-profit association of local governments, SWTDD serves Chester, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, McNairy and Madison Counties. The SWTDD Executive Director & Board of Directors (including member government officials, state representatives and minority representatives) manage SWTDD. Its 24-member Executive Committee meets six times per year to set policy and conduct business. The full Board of Directors, which includes mayors from every city, meets once each fiscal year.

Organized in 1971, SWTDD is staffed by about 30 full-time people with expertise in district management, economic development, community development, housing, environmental planning, regional planning, aging assistance, social work, nursing, grant writing, educational assistance, and public guardianship for the elderly. Financial support is provided from EDA; THDA; Tennessee Departments of ECD, Transportation and Environment & Conservation; TACIR; TN Commission on Aging & Disability; TennCare; Delta Regional Authority; USDA Rural Development and others. SWTDD's REDI Program is funded by grants from local, state and federal agencies.

Funds received from the Commission on Aging & Disability are distributed through contracts to senior centers and regional service provider agencies. SWTDD also receives fees for grant administration/management services rendered for member governments and income from its small business loan program. SWTDD is designated as a regional clearinghouse for projects under Executive Order 12372 and acts as the Regional Affiliate Data Center for the Bureau of the Census.

## A Letter from Joe W. Barker, SWTDD Executive Director

It is our pleasure to present the 2016-2017 SWTDD Annual Report. This past fiscal year has seen growth and opportunities for our agency. I am proud of our staff for accepting new challenges and, as usual, taking those challenges and making successful opportunities for the citizens of Southwest Tennessee. Our Area Agency on Aging and Disability continues to provide valuable services, with our partners, to our most vulnerable population and our Economic and Community Development Division services have expanded with physical locations in each of our eight counties.

The AAAD division was recognized with a NADO Innovation Award with the successful implementation of the “My Ride” program in Madison County. This program utilizes volunteers to provide transportation services to seniors who need some assistance in traveling to destinations that range from doctor’s appointments to grocery shopping. The goal of “My Ride” is to expand into each of our counties and to provide technical assistance to other transportation programs across the state.

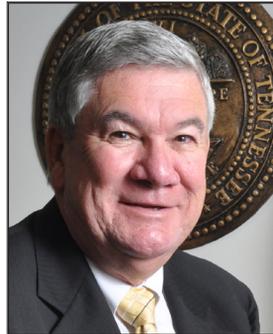
The ECD Division was recognized with a NADO Innovation Award for the REDI College Simulation Program. The SWTDD REDI program is the second largest provider of Tennessee Promise services in the state and the College Simulation Day allows students to experience the challenges of being a freshman on a college campus. For many of our students, going away to college is a daunting experience and being able to simulate this experience has been invaluable for our high school seniors.

The Innovation Awards received in this past fiscal year are just two of the many programs that are provided on a daily basis. It is pleasure coming to work every day with dedicated employees that believe our mission is to “Create Opportunity” for each and every client/city/county for whom we work!

I also want to thank our Board of Directors and Executive Committee for their support and dedication to the employees and programs of SWTDD. Your guidance is appreciated by our entire organization! Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can assist you in any way.



Franklin Smith, Mayor Haywood Co.  
Chairman of the Board



Dwain Seaton, Mayor Chester Co.  
Vice Chairman



Jerry Gist, Mayor of Jackson  
Secretary/Treasurer



Joe W. Barker  
SWTDD Executive Director

# Southwest Tennessee Development District 2016/2017 Board of Directors

## CHESTER COUNTY

County Mayor Dwain Seaton\*  
Emily Johnson, Industrial Representative  
John Welch, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Patrick Mooney, Enville  
Mayor Bobby King, Henderson\*

## DECATUR COUNTY

County Mayor Mike Creasy\*  
Charles Taylor, Industrial Representative  
Joseph Fisher, Minority Representative  
Mayor Jerry Buchanan, Decaturville  
Mayor Tim David Boaz, Parsons\*

## HARDEMAN COUNTY

County Mayor Jimmy Sain\*  
Bob Williams, Industrial Representative  
Elmer Cobb, Minority Representative  
Mayor Julian McTizic, Bolivar  
Mayor Curtis Lane, Grand Junction  
Mayor Ricky Ayers, Hickory Valley  
Mayor Mack Carter Jr., Hornsby  
Mayor Jackie Cox, Middleton  
Mayor Jim Daniel, Saulsbury  
Mayor Willard Beshires, Silerton  
Mayor Joseph Jones, Toone  
Mayor Aubrey Phillips, Whiteville\*

## HARDIN COUNTY

County Mayor Kevin Davis\*  
Steve Bunnell, Industrial Representative  
Allen Cherry, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Glen Spencer, Crump  
Mayor Dannie Kennedy, Milledgeville\*  
Mayor Larry Lowery, Salttillo  
Mayor Bob Shutt, Savannah

## HAYWOOD COUNTY

County Mayor Franklin Smith\*  
Steve Hilton, Industrial Representative  
Robert Green, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor William Rawls, III, Brownsville\*  
Mayor Allan Sterbinsky, Stanton

## HENDERSON COUNTY

County Mayor Dan Hughes\*  
Mark Bartel, Industrial Representative  
Barbara Parker, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Jeff Griggs, Lexington\*  
Mayor Kenneth Kizer, Parkers Crossroads  
Mayor Joe Ross, Sardis  
Mayor Don Buckingham, Scotts Hill

## LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

Senator Ed Jackson\*  
Representative Jimmy Eldridge\*

## MADISON COUNTY

County Mayor Jimmy Harris\*  
Tammy West, Industrial Representative  
Herbert Slack, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Jerry Gist, Jackson\*  
Mayor Connie Mullins, Medon  
Mayor Larry Sanders, Three Way



\*Indicates individual is a member of  
SWTDD's Executive Committee Member

## McNAIRY COUNTY

County Mayor Ronnie Brooks\*  
Eddie Crittendon, Industrial Representative  
Harry Crayton, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor David Leckner, Adamsville  
Mayor Gary Bizzell, Bethel Springs  
Mayor Jessie Robbins, Eastview  
Mayor Robert Heathcock, Finger  
Mayor Keith Rinehart, Guys  
Mayor Anthony Smith, Michie  
Mayor George Armstrong, Ramer  
Mayor John Smith, Selmer\*  
Mayor Larry Russell, Stantonville



# Administrative Accomplishments

Administration works closely with all staff and governmental groups by assisting in the roles of human resources, office management, financial management, IT management, and communications. Some highlights during FY 2017 include:

**Computers & Technology:** In FY2017, SWTDD purchased a drone that is capable of taking pictures and video. The drone has been used to fly over street intersections capturing video of streets, traffic, and sidewalks that can be submitted along with grant applications on behalf of our communities. The SWTDD drone also has been flown at community events allowing viewers to see the crowds in attendance [pictured below is drone footage from a REDI College Summit at DSCC]. In FY2017, SWTDD purchased a new server and the financial software necessary to prepare for SWTDD assuming the contract for Southwest Tennessee WIOA starting July 1, 2017.

**Health & Wellness:** SWTDD continues to encourage each employee to accept personal responsibility for managing his or her health. SWTDD continued to be an active part of Governor Haslam’s “Working for a Healthier Tennessee” and “Small Starts Workplace” initiatives. Administration oversees monthly challenges that encourages healthier behaviors and schedules health-related education sessions each quarter. SWTDD has been named a “Healthier Tennessee Workplace” for three consecutive years and won the 2017 West Tennessee Health and Wellness Award, which was presented at a springtime awards luncheon hosted by the Jackson Chamber.

**Communications:** SWTDD continued creating a user-friendly experience for those viewing www.swtdd.org on a mobile or handheld device - including a whole new format that includes a calendar feature allowing communities to submit festivals, events, and other happenings in our eight county service area. Administration assisted the Aging staff with the pre-, post- and day-of kick-off publicity for MyRide, an all new volunteer transportation program for those who are 60 years and older. SWTDD distributes newsletters monthly; helps publicize events and happenings through our Facebook, newspapers/radio stations, and other media outlets; and helps create brochures/flyers for communities.

**Management of Human Resources & Financial Matters:** SWTDD switched financial auditors to Godwin & Associates.



SWTDD Financial Overview	FY 2017 - Operating Budget	\$4,408,137.23
	Pass Through Budget	\$1,381,883.00
	Total Assets & Liabilities (unaudited)	\$ 564,902.20
	Full-Time Staff	30
	Part-Time Staff	10



# Programs for the Aging & Disabled

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging & Disability works to fulfill its mission “to improve the quality of life” for those it serves. The following programs are provided either directly or through contracts with service providers:

**Options for Community Living:** In-home care: meals, homemaker and personal care services.

**Public Guardianship:** Court-appointed guardian for financial and medical decisions for persons 60 years of age and older who are unable to manage their own affairs and who have no family member, friend, bank or corporation willing and able to act on their behalf.

**Ombudsman:** Advocates for persons in nursing homes and other long-term care institutions.

**Nutrition Services:** Nutritious meals at community locations or home-delivered.

**Elder Abuse Prevention:** Outreach and education about fraud, scams and domestic violence affecting seniors.

**Caregiver Support:** Helping families provide better care to their loved ones.

**Senior Centers:** Community centers that provide resources, support groups and activities to seniors and their families.

**TennCare CHOICES:** Medicaid long-term services and supports.

The Area Agency on Aging & Disability works to provide services and planning for persons who are elderly and/or disabled within the eight county service area (Chester, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and McNairy). Services are targeted to persons who have the greatest economic need with particular attention to low-income older individuals (including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas.)



The SWAAAD helps host the 'Facing Future Choices' Conference for senior adults and their caretakers each year.



SWTDD's Area Agency on Aging & Disability Staff

# Area Agency on Aging & Disability

The AAAD performs duties under three separate contracts.

- The Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability [TCAD] provides \$2,171,100 to provide services outlined in the Older Americans Act and the state-funded Options and Public Guardianship programs.
- The Bureau of TennCare contracts with the AAAD for \$671,922 to provide services under the Long-Term Care CHOICES Act. Finally, the Upper Cumberland Development District contracts with the AAAD for \$16,000 to provide services under the Senior Medicare Patrol program.
- The Agency received a grant during FY 16 from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee for the MyRide West Tennessee program in the amount of \$25,000. The Edison Number for the Southwest Tennessee Development District is 2544.

During FY17, the AAAD worked to complete goals as outlined in its Area Plan. Benchmarks were set by the AAAD Director based upon review of the data from the past three fiscal years. These benchmarks were used to determine progress. All proposed activities for FY17 were completed.

## [Information and Assistance](#)

The AAAD completed outreach and education activities based upon its annual plan. This Plan targets low-income, minority, rural and limited-English proficiency individuals. This year's plan focused on reaching these population groups within Hardeman, Haywood, and McNairy Counties. The AAAD continued to provide information to consumers and family caregivers through its information and assistance phone line, in-person, and at local health fairs, conferences, and professional staff in-service.

Additionally, the AAAD produced its monthly I & A newsletter, "The Information Connection", posted useful information on the AAAD and Development District's Facebook page, and published articles in the Development District's "E-News". Finally, the AAAD provided info to professionals within the aging network at the monthly Southwest TN Inter-Agency Council meeting.

## [Home and Community-Based Services \[Title IIIB and Options\]](#)

HCBS services are at the heart of what the AAAD provides. By utilizing state and federal dollars, the Agency is able to provide support to older adults who wish to age within their own home and community. These services are provided through the Options for Community Living Program and the Older American's Act.



Aging & Disability staff members at work our information booth at the annual Future Choices Conference.

# Accomplishments: Fiscal Year 2016-17

During FY17, the AAAD received \$312,744 in Options dollars and served 208 consumers with homemaker, personal care, home delivered meals and transportation services. Older American's Act dollars, supplemented by state funding, served 122 consumers utilizing \$86,608 for homemaker services. The Agency continued to maintain a waiting list for services during FY17. Unfortunately, funding was not sufficient to remove any consumers for services. Waiting list management is a priority for the Agency.

The AAAD Management Team meets monthly to review accuracy and note additions. Each consumer on the List is called annually by the Information and Assistance Specialist to be re-screened, re-prioritized [if their condition has changed], or removed if requested. The Waiting List had 1,092 persons listed as of June 30, 2017.

## Nutrition Services

Nutrition services play a vital role in not only feeding seniors but also in reducing isolation. Older adults who are frail and homebound are eligible to receive a home delivered meal daily delivered by a volunteer. Nutrition Sites are utilized as a means of serving persons who are able to get out. The Agency spent \$576,500 for these meals and served 52,965 home delivered meals and 58,592 congregate meals. The AAAD contracts with the Southwest Human Resource Agency [SWHRA] to provide the meals. Costs are supplemented with \$87,636 from the Nutrition Services Incentive Program.

Quality is measured utilizing satisfaction surveys. Both SWHRA and SWAAAD complete surveys during the fiscal year to measure consumer satisfaction with quality, variety, and service: AAAD tabulated a 95% satisfaction rate from home delivered meal's clients. Nutrition Site Managers are asked by the caterer to provide daily feedback on vouchers in order to ensure that meals meet expectations

Nutrition services are targeted to persons with the greatest social and economic need. Each Nutrition Site is located in a central location within its community and most utilize vans to provide transportation to the Site. Each Site Manager completes a minimum of three outreach activities per month to ensure that persons are aware of the service.

The AAAD also promotes Nutrition services at each of its outreach events. Inclement weather meals were provided to ensure continuity of service when the Nutrition Site was unable to operate.



The Southwest Area and the West Tennessee Regional Senior Brain Game Competition is held each year at the SWTDD office.

# Area Agency on Aging & Disability

## Public Guardianship

The Public Guardianship Program provides service for persons age 60 and older who are no longer able to make decisions for themselves. The Public Guardian can be appointed as conservator of person and/or property by the court, or serve as power of attorney in some cases.

The Program served 35 consumers during FY17 by providing 2,130 units of service. During FY17, the program's goal was two-fold: to continue to build relationships with district probate Judges/Chancellors to ensure appropriate case referral and to increase the number of volunteers utilized. To that end, the PG program developed an Outreach and Education plan to target presentations and other activities specifically to those within the court system.

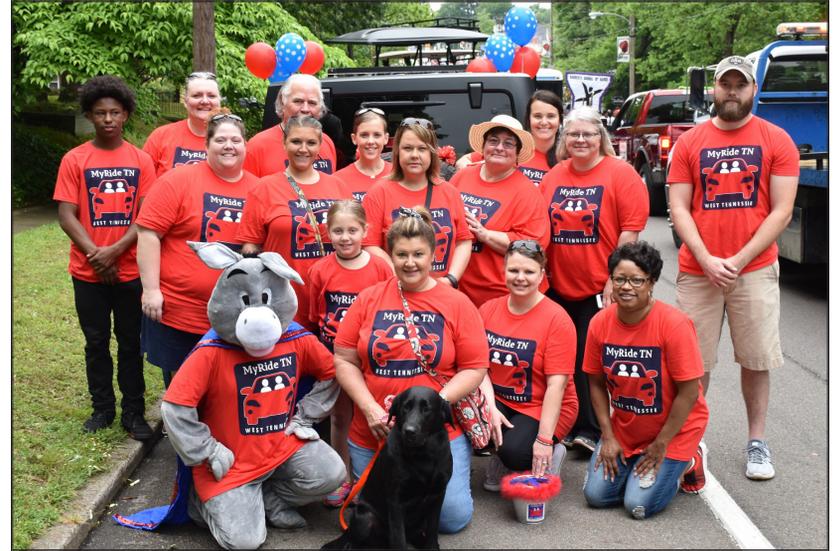
The District Public Guardian and Assistant Public Guardian made face-to-face contact with most of the County Court Clerks within the region and was assisted in reaching Judges and Chancellors by the retained attorney for the Program. Ten volunteers were utilized during the year. Activities performed by volunteers include: administrative duties, errands for clients, and outreach planning. The Program also utilized one college intern during the year.

## National Family Caregiver Program [NFCSP]-Title III-E

The NFCSP at the AAAD is for persons who are caring for someone age 60 and older.

The Program provides Caregiver Training, Support Groups, Information, Counseling, Access Assistance, Respite, and Supplemental Services. Caregivers in the Southwest AAAD region identify their top needs as: Respite, Homemaker Service, Caregiver Training, In-Patient Respite, and Durable Medical Equipment. The AAAD worked to address each of these needs during FY17.

The Agency partners with various medical and in-home service providers to sponsor the annual Facing Future Choices Conference each November. This day-long training event for family caregivers focused on legal issues facing caregivers in FY17 and had over 150 attendees. Vendors who display their products and information at the conference pay a fee which goes into an emergency fund at the AAAD. An exciting development during FY17 was the formation of the Alzheimer's Community of West Tennessee. This group is funded by a sizable donation to the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation and is intended to produce training and education for caregiver and patients with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias. The AAAD is on the steering committee for this group and has worked alongside it to present the annual Alzheimer's Conference with Teepa Snow and the Mini Alzheimer's Conference in the fall.



MyRide West Tennessee began officially in May 2017 in Madison County. This volunteer-driven transportation program provides senior adults with rides to essential appointments. The program was created with a grant from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee for \$25,000.

# Accomplishments: Fiscal Year 2016-17

## Legal Assistance:

The SWTDD contracts with West Tennessee Legal Services [WTLS] to provide services under the Senior Law Project. During FY 17, 98 individuals were provided with legal assistance utilizing Title III dollars. This assistance resulted in \$56,796 in economic benefits to clients and \$43,049 in economic savings to clients. Utilizing an Americorps Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Fellow, WTLS presented training on elder abuse and financial scams.

## Ombudsman:

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program completed 175 non-complaint visits during FY17, 44 complaint visits; submitted 4 timely reports to TCAD; and had 1,465 contacts. VOR training was completed as required annually.

## Senior Centers:

The AAAD continued to fund ten Senior Centers throughout the service region during FY17. These focal points within each community are strategically located to provide service to the greatest number of older adults possible.

Each Senior Center employs a Director to maintain day-to-day operations. The AAAD provided quarterly training on “aging” issues and technical assistance for contractual compliance. Quality Assurance monitoring was completed at each Center according to TCAD policy. Each Center submitted a timely annual report to the Secretary of State Office and a separate report to the AAAD.

Southwest Tennessee Senior Centers served 1,897 consumers during the fiscal year: 21% were low-income, 10% were minority, and 94% were rural.

Each Senior Center developed and followed their Outreach and Marketing Plan to target the above listed populations.

## Emergency Preparedness:

The SWTDD Emergency Preparedness Plan was updated as required and disseminated to all staff during the month of July. Staff participated in disaster training that included: identification of closest exit, identification of fire extinguisher locations, using universal precautions, and The Great American Shakeout.



Each year, SWTDD participates in the “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” and earmarks monies raised at our Future Choices Charity Golf Tournament putting contest for this cause.

# Economic & Community Development

The SWTDD ECD team works with regional governments to improve the quality of life for citizens in the area. SWTDD's Economic & Community Development services are provided free-of-charge to area governments - except planning services which are provided on a contractual basis with participating communities. Examples of the Economic & Community Development services offered include:

## Grant Writing & Grant Administration:

SWTDD has both a community & economic development grant writer and a grant administrator on staff. All grant writing services are completely free to member governments. SWTDD receives an administration fee only when a grant is funded.

## Types of Grants Written by SWTDD:

EDA, FastTrack Infrastructure, USDA-RD, CDBG, DRA, SAFETEA-LU, LPRF/LWCF/RTP, Assistance to Firefighters, Governor's Highway Safety Office, TDOT, THDA, Solid Waste, Byrnes, Broadband, and Disaster grants.

## TACIR [Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations]:

SWTDD surveyed 74 School Infrastructure projects and 552 General Infrastructure projects (including the Tennessee Department of Transportation's bridge projects) throughout our eight county region for a total project count of 626 projects. All projects were submitted to TACIR through the Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory database (PINI). The inventory projects surveyed include active and conceptual projects for the next 20 years.



Milledgeville was able to use AFG funding to purchase personal protective equipment for its volunteer firefighters.

## Small Business Loans:

SWTDD is an economic development lender. As an Intermediary for USDA Rural Development and the Economic Development Administration, SWTDD utilizes federal funds to leverage local dollars and create jobs in the region. Loan funds extended to businesses or industries can be used for business startup or expansion, real estate or equipment purchase, and working capital. Lending policy is set by the Executive Committee. The loan program is overseen by a Loan Review Committee comprised of a Loan Officer or Bank President from each county SWTDD serves.

## Regional Planning:

SWTDD contracts with local governments to help protect and develop communities. Our planners provide customized services to build development processes, develop design guidelines compatible with local values, and provide counsel that is enforceable within the scope of local authorities. In FY 2016, SWTDD had contracts with the cities of Brownsville, Bolivar, Henderson, Lexington, McKenzie, Sactillo, and Stanton, as well as with Hardeman and Haywood Counties.

## Solid Waste Expertise & Assistance:

SWTDD contracts with the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) to provide services like solid waste progress reports, needs assessments, and grant writing assistance.

## Rural Roads & Transportation Planning:

SWTDD is one of TDOT's 12 rural planning organizations for enhanced service and rural transportation development. Our RPO serves all SWTDD counties, except Madison. Leadership of the RPO is through a technical committee and an executive committee.

## U.S. Economic Development Administration [EDA]:

SWTDD, a designated Economic Development District, conducts the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy process for our region. Partially funded by EDA dollars, this consists of keeping regional goals, strategies, and city/county statistical data up-to-date.

# Services assisting local & state governments

## Environmental Reviews:

SWTDD prepares environmental reviews for state and federal grants and loans that have review requirements - including CDBG, THDA, HOME, LPRF/LWRF/RTP, Transportation Enhancement, Revolving Loan Fund, Intermediary Relending Program, FEMA, DRA and USDA Rural Development and other projects as deemed necessary.

## Strategic Opportunities to Advance our Region [SOAR]:

This cooperative, collective program was developed and implemented to help each SWTDD County assess strengths and weaknesses as a launchpad for improved economic/community development success. The SOAR team includes regional experts who lead community leaders in fact-gathering sessions in multiple areas including: Agriculture, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Retail/Retail Development, Education/Workforce Development, Tourism, and Quality of Life. Ultimately, the SOAR program provides a free, customized strategic plan to help build consensus within a county and to help leaders work together to create a healthy economic climate.



Joe Barker leads one of many SOAR programs held in the SWTDD region during FY2016/17.

## REDI & Improved Educational Attainment Levels:

REDI completed its seventh year of service to the region and its third year as one of three official “partnering organizations” for the State of Tennessee’s Tennessee Promise program. Together, REDI, Tennessee Promise, and our committed community leaders, are creating collaborative efforts to change the educational and workforce culture of the region as part of Tennessee’s Drive to 55 program. We have served

more than 14,000 students across West Tennessee to date. REDI mentors are imbedded in high schools so students have maximum access to needed resources.

## Southwest Tennessee Reconnect:

SWTDD assisted in the start-up of the Southwest Reconnect program in this region to support adults returning to college. The Tennessee Reconnect Communities, geographically positioned, across the state are unique in that they represent a first-in-the-nation, state-wide network of regional, college degree completion initiatives.

## Pathways & LEAP:

As the regional intermediary for two career readiness initiatives in Southwest Tennessee, SWTDD partners with area stakeholders to ensure more youth complete high school, attain a postsecondary credential, and enter the workplace with value to the local labor market. Seven school districts, four postsecondary institutions, area chambers and numerous industries participate in the Pathways program, funded by Perkins IV Reserve grants, to provide early career assessments, coordinated programs of study, and related work-based learning opportunities.

The LEAP 2.0 grant, funded by the Tennessee General Assembly, combines the efforts of all nine TCATs in West Tennessee to expand programs of study in Advanced Manufacturing at nineteen schools, through the purchase of equipment for use in dual enrollment classes at the high school level. Continued funding from these sources enables SWTDD to fulfill its mission to create a skilled workforce.



Signing day at TCAT-Crump.

# Economic & Community Development

## [Community Development Block & Façade Grants:](#)

The City of Parkers Crossroads received \$161,000 in funds to purchase a new tanker truck. Additionally, the Town of Hornsby received \$249,000 in funds to replace water mains servicing area residents. SWTDD wrote both of these grants. CDBGs can be used for Economic Development [industrial infrastructure, industrial buildings and equipment] and Community Development [for water and wastewater treatment facilities, housing rehabilitation and projects that improve community livability.] CDBG funds are also distributed for disaster recovery. SWTDD writes and administers these grants.

## [FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program \[FDIP\] Grants:](#)

The City of Brownsville received \$630,000 for foundation and site work for an expansion at TekNor Apex resulting in 180 new jobs. FastTrack Infrastructure Program grants are made to local communities for public infrastructure improvements and must be for specific infrastructure projects benefitting one or more companies committed to creating new jobs and/or making new capital investments. SWTDD writes and administers Fast Track grants.

## [Assistance to Firefighters \[AFG\] Grants:](#)

The Town of Milledgeville received \$41,750 for complete sets of Personal Protective Equipment and the Town of Whiteville received \$120,000 in AFG funds for Personal Protective Equipment including SCBA units. AFGs are for fire departments, state fire training academies, and emergency medical service organizations. SWTDD writes and administers AFG grants.

## [TN Department of Transportation Grants:](#)

A SWTDD-written TDOT grant was awarded in FY2017 to Parkers Crossroads totaling \$486,000 [Phase IV] for expansion of their existing trails system.

## [Local Parks & Recreation Fund \[LPRF\] & Recreational Trails Program \[RTP\] Grants:](#)

The City of Bolivar received \$285,500 for the renovation and new construction projects for the Bolivar Hatchie River Park. The City of Parsons is expanding their Regional Community Park with \$296,000 in awarded funds.



## [Delta Regional Authority \[DRA\] Grants:](#)

The City of Henderson extended water lines to residents on Proctor Road with \$119,000 in DRA funds. Southwest Human Resource Agency expanded its Inside Out Dad/Responsible Mom Program training inmates in parenting and job skills with a \$38,000 award.

## [FY2017 Regional Workshops and Events:](#)

SWTDD hosted training and workshop events that included attendees from across the state. A few of these included TN Dept. of Education, TAEL Regional Training, CDBG Public Meetings, LPRF Grant Workshops, USDA-RD training and Fair Housing Conference, West TN Mayors Meetings, WestStar meetings and a dinner, TN Reconnect trainings, THDA Housing Conference and trainings, TCAD Coalition Meetings, and more.

## [SWTDD/REDI Annual Legislative Luncheon:](#)

More than 100 governmental, community, and business leaders gathered at SWTDD to present SWTDD's sixth Legislative Agenda to our state and federal legislators. Participating were Tennessee General Assembly senators Ed Jackson and Mark Norris and representatives Curtis Halford, Craig Fitzhugh, Steve McDaniel, Johnny Shaw, Ron Gant, and Jimmy Eldridge. Also attending were the field representatives of U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker and U. S. Representatives Marsha Blackburn and Stephen Fincher.



The 2017 SWTDD Legislative Luncheon.

# Accomplishments: Fiscal Year 2016-17

## [REDI College Summits and other College-related Events:](#)

In FY2017, REDI hosted five multi-county college summits at five partner colleges: hosted scholarship boot camps, FAFSA workshops, College Knowledge, orientation and financial aid sessions; and numerous College Simulations that mimic required activities in the first week in college - like paying fees, getting housing assignments, and registering for classes. These exercises give students a taste of what to expect and remove fear of the unknown in a creative, fun way. The academic year ended with College Signing Ceremonies where students signed a map indicating where they would be attending school while their entire student body and parents watched and joined in the celebration.

## [REDI & Tennessee Promise help 2.4K students in region:](#)

REDI worked with 2,449 seniors in 16 high schools in the region during FY 2017. In all, 98% of REDI students were registered for Tennessee Promise and had an 85% FAFSA completion rate. REDI continues to match students with the best school choice based on their academic, social and financial readiness. Additionally, REDI is doing everything possible to keep students Tennessee Promise eligible so that if they choose to attend a TCAT or community college, they can take advantage of this last dollar scholarship.

## [Southwest Tennessee ReConnect Community:](#)

The Southwest TN Reconnect Community launched in March 2016 with a goal of serving 45 adult "Reconnectors" by December. While enrollment numbers are difficult to predict for adults due to the number of issues that returning students face, our goal was to support 25 adults in enrolling in one of eleven partner postsecondary institutions by Sept. 1. To date, the Southwest TRC engaged 162 adults of which 19 have successfully enrolled.

The Southwest TRC has provided high-impact, high-touch services to these students with assistance in the college application and admissions process, financial aid application process, defaulted student loan and loan rehabilitation process; and, in some cases, has assisted students whose financial aid had been suspended due to a Satisfactory Academic Progress [SAP] related issue. With the program is up and running, SWTDD will be transferring the Reconnect program to the Jackson Chamber July 1 so that we can concentrate on our REDI program.

## [Pathways & LEAP:](#)

SWTDD coordinated several successful activities for these programs. Through Pathways, over 1,300 students in Chester, Decatur, Hardin, Haywood, Madison, McNairy, and Fayette Counties enrolled in Manufacturing and IT courses such as Mechatronics, Welding, Machining Technology, Information Systems, Networking, and Coding.

Forty-five educators across

the District participated in a very rewarding "externship" experience, in which they spent two days in a manufacturing setting to learn firsthand the skills sets needed in today's work environment. Dual enrollments with postsecondary increased, as did co-op and internship programs through a work-based learning emphasis.

LEAP funds purchased almost \$1 million in new equipment for high school students to accelerate their progress through Machine Tool and Welding Technologies, while earning industry-recognized certifications and completing credit hours towards a TCAT diploma. Over 400 students have benefited to date from this investment, with a success rate over 80% to earn CPT, NIMS, and OSHA certifications.

## [Tennessee Housing Development Technical Assistance Grant:](#)

SWTDD/SWAAAD created a Fair Housing Technical Assistance program with TennCare Housing and West Tennessee Legal Services. The pilot project consisted of creating a Fair Housing program for those who will be assisted; holding two Fair Housing programs in conjunction with TennCare employees and those that serve in Aging & Disability Housing; and educating TennCare transitional specialists on Affordable Housing and Fair Housing issues. SWTDD assisted the City of Bolivar with applying for the THDA HOME grant.



**Pathways Externship program partnered Stanley Black & Decker with educators from South Side High School for a two-day on site immersion in manufacturing.**

# ECD Accomplishments: Fiscal Year 2016-17

## Tennessee Historic Commission Technical Assistance Grant:

SWTDD received a grant from the Tennessee Historic Commission to handle elements of Historic Preservation such as putting together National Register nominations, meeting with communities on becoming a Certified Local Government, and putting grant applications together. This employee is involved in the Section 106 process, as part of the National Historic Preservation Act and reviews buildings 50 years or older as part of the resurvey of all eight counties.



SWTDD hosted a 'Retail Academy' in Aug. 2017.

## TDEC - Solid Waste Technical Assistance Grant:

SWTDD contracts with TDEC's Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste Management to provide solid waste services in designing, implementing, upgrading and maintaining solid waste plans, programs and facilities; providing assistance in the formation or dissolution of planning regions; assisting in workshops, seminars, and meetings; reviewing, revising and maintaining the District Needs Assessment for McNairy and Haywood County; providing technical assistance to solid waste boards to achieve Solid Waste Management Act goals; and provide assistance to the region to prepare and submit the APR and any supplemental documentation each year by March 31st.

## Regional Planning:

The Regional Planning Program had these major accomplishments during FY 2017: A Transportation Operational Improvement Study prepared for the City of Brownsville concerning State Route 19 [Mercer Road]; the Haywood County Planning Commission adopted a new Future Land Use Map for Haywood County; and the City of Henderson commenced with the Henderson Future Land Use and Transportation Plan process.



SWTDD's Administrative and ECD staff members.



SWTDD's REDI mentors work in high schools to help students become and remain eligible for Tennessee Promise -- and to help with FAFSAs, college applications, volunteer hours and other barriers to post-secondary education!

# SWTDD Staff Directory

## ADMINISTRATION:

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