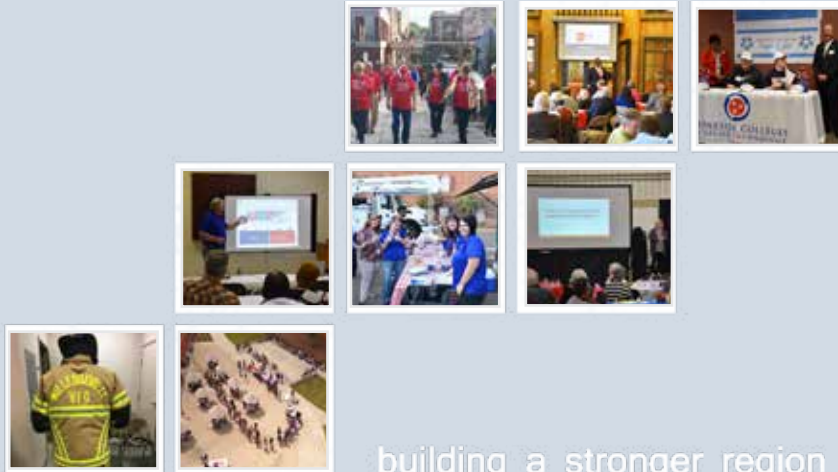




# southwest tennessee development district



building a stronger region

# Annual Report 2018

# WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO



The SWTDD staff strives to meet the needs of the elderly, disabled, unemployed and dislocated workers, college-aged and high school students, as well as local and regional governments as we work in cooperation with our 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 48 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; Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability; TennCare; Delta Regional Authority; USDA Rural Development and others. SWTDD's REDI Program is funded by local governments and school systems.

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.

# BUILDING A STRONGER REGION 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Haywood

Madison

Henderson

Decatur

Chester

Hardeman

McNairy

Hardin

# A LETTER FROM JOE W. BARKER, SWTDD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2017-18 fiscal year has been one of expansion and accomplishment at SWTDD. On July 1, 2017, SWTDD began work as the One-Stop Operator for LWIA-11. This program allowed SWTDD to expand its role in economic and community development in our eight county service area. In addition, approximately 15 new employees were added to our staff with a budget over two million dollars. The SWTDD ECD staff continued to work with our cities and counties in areas of technical and planning assistance along with grant writing and administration. We also saw an increase in demand for our small business loan program as SWTDD made loans totaling \$570,000 in the past year.

The SOAR [Strategic Opportunities to Advance our Region] program continued to assist our counties in a comprehensive strategic planning program. This program was developed and initiated by SWTDD and guides local leaders through a series of sessions that prioritizes assets and develops a plan of action for the county. The following SWTDD counties have participated in the program: Henderson, Decatur, McNairy, Chester, and Hardeman.

The REDI college access program is the second largest provider of college access services and programs in the state. This program provides in-school mentors in sixteen West Tennessee high schools. These mentors guide students on the path to achieving post-secondary education. Thousands of West Tennessee students have been mentored in the REDI program. The REDI program is funded entirely by local governments and school systems.

SWTDD continues to be an advocate for completion of infrastructure at the Memphis Regional Megasite [MRM]. This project has the potential to transform rural West Tennessee and SWTDD has been instrumental in coordinating local leaders and advocates as we lobby the State of Tennessee for continued funding and recruitment of jobs.

Our AAAD [Area Agency on Aging and Disability] continues to be a model in providing services and being an advocate on behalf of older and disabled persons. SWTDD was designated by the state in 1971 as the AAAD for Southwest Tennessee and is the leader in the region for delivering a host of services for our designated clients. Our AAAD employees work tirelessly every day to provide quality services to our citizens who need very specialized care. We contract, on their behalf, for services that include home-delivered meals, homemaker services, and personal care. Our staff works closely with providers, caregivers, and family members to ensure that every client is afforded the services and professional treatment they deserve.

We continue to provide ombudsman services to advocate for the rights of persons living in long-term care facilities and our public guardianship program for the elderly continues to expand. The public guardianship program acts under court appointment to assist those 60 and over who are unable to manage their affairs and has no other person willing to do so. This year we were able to add a staff member who is focused on elder abuse prevention. Through outreach and education we bring attention to fraud, scams, and domestic violence effecting the senior population.

My-Ride, a volunteer transportation program was recognized by NADO for an Innovation Award as a best practice program in senior services. This past year, volunteers provided over 2000 rides and SWTDD AAAD was awarded a state-wide grant to oversee the development of thirty additional volunteer ride programs across the state over the next three years.

I am so proud to work with our staff and volunteers to make our eight county region a wonderful place to call home. Our accomplishments are made possible by our local elected officials who support us and provide us with outstanding leadership in each of our counties. The upcoming fiscal year will bring some newly elected leaders to our organization and we look forward to working with each of you to make Southwest Tennessee the best it can be!

*~Joe W. Barker*

# SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 2017/2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## CHESTER COUNTY

County Mayor Dwain Seaton  
Emily Johnson, Industrial Representative  
John Welch, Minority Representative  
Mayor Melinda Johnston, 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  
Allen Cherry, Minority Representative  
Mayor Glen Spencer, Crump  
Mayor Dannie Kennedy, Milledgeville  
Mayor Larry Lowery, Saltillo  
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 Jessie Powers, 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

## SWTDD 2017/2018 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



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

# 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 FY2018 include:

**Computers & Technology:** In FY2018, SWTDD converted to a new VOIP [voice over IP] phone system. The age and limited ability to find replacement components or phones required SWTDD to purchase a new phone system. The new VOIP system has enhanced features and abilities, including remote login which will eliminate service calls and the cost associated with those service calls. SWTDD also replaced an aging Linux server and installed a new network in FY2018. The new Windows server has more available space and is easier to manage. The new network allows for more safeguards against outside intrusions, has more space for District files, and includes a new wireless network that allows for more security and control over the devices connected to the network.

**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 four consecutive years.

**Communications:** SWTDD continued assisting with publicity for MyRide, WIOA, and other services provided by SWTDD through distribution of monthly newsletters, our Facebook pages, and media outlets. Communications also helps create brochures/flyers for SWTDD and SWAARD events and our communities on an as needed basis. Communications assists with the Memphis Regional Megasite Authority and other related events/committees by coordinating meetings, keeping and distributing minutes, and assisting in other ways on an as needed basis. SWTDD also hosts many meetings each year for federal, state and local authorities. Administration coordinates facility bookings and needs.

**Management of Human Resources & Financial Matters:** SWTDD’s finance department was swamped in FY2018. Largely because SWTDD became the One-Stop-Operator for WIOA. This required an intense ramp-up of onboarding personnel, adding new payroll categories, and managing grant requirements/deadlines to facilitate timely payments of reimbursables. This transition caused many growing pains as these new programs were implemented and improved under SWTDD’s watch.

<b>SWTDD FINANCIAL OVERVIEW</b>	FY 2018 - Operating Budget	\$7,181,166
	Pass Through Budget	\$1,378,814
	Total Assets & Liabilities [unaudited]	\$ 551,208
	Full-Time Staff	48
	Part-Time Staff	8





# 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.

[MyRide West TN:](#) Provides volunteer transportation service to those 60 years and older.

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.]



Every other year, SWAAAD hosts its “Senior Expo”, a day-long event for seniors in the Southwest Tennessee region. Held in May 2018, the attending seniors in the area had a ‘ball’ at the sports-themed event.

More than 250 people and 50+ vendors participated in the event.



# AREA AGENCY ON AGING & DISABILITY

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging and Disability [AAAD] serves consumers who are 60 years and older as well as adults 18 and older with a physical disability. The service area includes Chester, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and McNairy Counties. 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].

While the mission of the Agency focuses on improving the quality of life for those living within the region, it is the ultimate goal of the staff to ensure that clients receive the services and supports to live in a dignified and fulfilling manner. Staff receives training on providing person-centered planning and strives to incorporate each consumer's family members when developing a plan of action.

The AAAD operates under contract with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability to administer state and federal programs and with the Bureau of TennCare to administer the CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports [LTSS] program. Further, the Agency contracts with the Upper Cumberland Development District to provide services to Medicare beneficiaries who suspect fraud and/or abuse. During FY18, the AAAD successfully applied to receive grant funds from the Senior Trust/Elder Trust Settlement from the Chancery Court of Davidson County. These funds total \$3.6 million [over a three year period] to develop 30 new senior volunteer transportation programs across the state and to expand six current programs.

During FY18, AAAD completed its goals as outlined in its Area Plan. Benchmarks were set by the AAAD Director based upon review of data from the past three fiscal years. Progress towards meeting benchmarks are monitored monthly by management staff and reviewed with all AAAD employees. All proposed activities for FY18 were completed.

## [Information and Assistance \[I&A\]:](#)

AAAD completed outreach and education activities based on its annual Outreach and Education Plan. The Plan targets low-income, minority, rural and limited-English proficiency individuals. The Plan is developed as a collaborative effort between the Agency Director and Department Managers. All outreach activities completed over the past three years are reviewed to determine which parts of the service area have received adequate education and which have not. Identified gaps determine the focus for the next year's Plan.

The Agency continued to provide information to consumers and family caregivers through its I & A phone line, in-person, and at local health fairs, conferences, and professional staff in-service meetings. Additionally, the I & A Department produced its monthly newsletter, "The Information Connection", for digital distribution throughout the region. The Development District's monthly "E-News" also served as a platform for publishing helpful articles on aging topics and for announcing upcoming events. Finally, the AAAD's social media presence grew during FY18 with the development of an additional Facebook page devoted solely to senior volunteer transportation across the state.

The AAAD continued to host the monthly "Southwest TN Inter-Agency Council" lunch and learn meetings for its partners throughout West Tennessee and its quarterly "Collaboration Meeting" for its LTSS partners.





# AAAD ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

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

HCBS services [or “in-home” services] are the center-piece for helping consumers age-in-place. By utilizing state and federal dollars, the Agency is able to provide support to older adults who need extra assistance to maintain their independence and dignity at home. The services are provided through the Options for Community Living and the Older American’s Act programs.

During FY18, the AAAD received \$380,938 in Options funding and served 274 consumers with homemaker, personal care, home-delivered meals, and transportation services. Older American’s Act funding [supplemented by state funding] served 83 consumers utilizing \$62,398 for homemaker services.

It is notable that with additional dollars appropriated by the Tennessee General Assembly, the AAAD was able to increase the number of consumers served on Options by 31%. These new consumers were removed from the Agency’s waiting list based on need. To date, the waiting list contains 1,014 persons.

## [Nutrition Services](#)

Nutrition plays a vital role in staying healthy and independent. The AAAD’s Nutrition Program works to reduce food insecurity among the older adult population as well as to combat isolation. Older adults who are frail and homebound are eligible to receive a hot meal, delivered daily by a volunteer. Nutrition Sites are utilized as a means of serving persons who are able to get out. The Agency spent \$494,180 for these meals and served 43,046 home-delivered meals and 53,289 congregate meals. The AAAD contracts with the Southwest Human Resource Agency [SWHRA] to provide meals. Costs are supplemented with \$83,414 from the Nutrition Services Incentive Program [NSIP].

The quality of the meals is measured utilizing satisfaction surveys. Both SWHRA and SWAAAD complete surveys during the fiscal year to ensure quality, variety, and service. The AAAD Satisfaction Survey Analysis shows the rate of satisfaction with home-delivered meals to be 93%. Nutrition Site Managers provide daily feedback to the Central Kitchen in order to ensure that meals meet or exceed quality 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.



# AREA AGENCY ON AGING & DISABILITY

## Public Guardianship

The Public Guardianship Program provides service for persons 60 years and older who are no longer able to make decisions for themselves. The Public Guardian may be either appointed as conservator of a person and/or property by the court or serve as power of attorney in some cases. The Program served 31 consumers during FY18 by providing 1,842 units of service.

The Guardianship Program is staffed by a Public Conservator and Assistant Conservator. They serve as Representative Payee on all clients for Social Security, Railroad Benefits, and VA Benefits as appropriate. During FY18, the Program collected \$27,650.97 in fees according to the approved sliding scale fee rates.

The capacity of the program to serve was increased during FY18 through the use of eight volunteers. These volunteers made visits, assisted in the purchase of groceries, and performed administrative tasks. The Public Guardian department also completed twenty-three outreach and education events.

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

The NFCSP at the AAAD is for persons who are caring for someone age 60 years or older. The Program provides Caregiver Training, Support Groups, Information, Counseling, Access Assistance, Respite, and Supplemental Services.

During FY18, the AAAD added three new Support Groups which are located in Selmer, Sardis, and Henderson. The leaders were provided training in Alzheimer's Support Group Leader training. These groups work hard to provide education and training to persons in rural areas who are caring for a loved one.

The Agency continued to partner with senior service providers to sponsor the annual Facing Future Choices Conference. This event targets older caregivers and is held every November at West Jackson Baptist Church. The FY18 conference topics included nutrition education, staying healthy, and end of life planning. The conference had its highest attendance in its history – over 200 participants. Vendors who display their products and services at the conference pay a fee which goes into an emergency fund at the AAAD.

AAAD also continued to partner with the Alzheimer's Community of West Tennessee to bring education and awareness to families and professionals in the region. The group sponsored the Annual Alzheimer's Conference with Teepa Snow and the Mini Alzheimer's Conference in the fall.

## Legal Assistance:

SWTDD contracts with West TN Legal Services [WTLS] to provide services under the Senior Law Project. During FY18, 114 individuals were provided with legal assistance utilizing Title III dollars. This assistance resulted in \$9,475 in economic benefits to clients and \$38,205 in economic savings to clients. Utilizing an AmeriCorps Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Fellow, WTLS presented trainings on elder abuse and financial scams. Using Victim of Crime Act funding, WTLS also began providing holistic services to victims of elder abuse and financial exploitation.



# AAAD ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

## MyRide West Tennessee:

In its inaugural year of service, the MyRide West Tennessee Program provided 1,922 rides to 62 older adults in Madison County. The program, developed in collaboration with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, is a volunteer-based transportation program for persons needing extra assistance. During FY18, the program utilized 47 volunteers who drove over 8,762 miles and committed 1,620 hours to serving riders. MyRide was prominently featured at two different conferences during the year: the Aging in America Conference [held in San Francisco] and the LifeSavers Conference [held in Murfreesboro].

## Ombudsman:

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program completed quarterly visits to all Nursing Home and Assisted Living facilities in Southwest Tennessee. The program opened 106 cases during FY18 and held one volunteer training event.

## Senior Centers:

The AAAD continued to fund 10 Senior Centers throughout the service region during FY18. These focal points within each community are strategically located to provide service to the greatest number of older adults possible. Most Senior Centers also serve as Nutrition Sites to provide congregate and home-delivered meals.

The Agency completed quarterly training with each Senior Center Director to ensure up-to-date compliance with policy and to provide technical assistance. Each Senior Center submitted an Annual Report [as required] which highlights promising practices and highlights the year's accomplishments.

Southwest Tennessee Senior Centers served 2,596 older adults and provided 93,329 units of service.

## New Programs - SNAP and CREVAA:

Two new programs were implemented during FY18: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] and the Collaborative Response to Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Program [CREVAA]. The AAAD contracted with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability to provide both programs. For the SNAP Program, the AAAD works with its community partners to identify persons who may qualify for SNAP benefits. The Agency provides education, information, and facilitation of SNAP enrollment. For the CREVAA program, the Agency provides emergency assistance to persons who are victims of an alleged crime. Participants must be age 60 and older or adults age 18 and up who are considered vulnerable.



# ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

## [Grant Writing & Grant Administration:](#)

SWTDD has a both a grant writer and a grant administrator on staff. All grant writing services are completely free to our 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.

## [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 that SWTDD serves.

## [Regional Planning Services \[provided on a contract basis\]:](#)

Our regional planners provide customized services to planning commissions and local governments with the development of their land use and transportation plans, community facility plans, development process, design review guidelines, zoning ordinances/resolutions, and subdivision regulations that are compatible with local values, and provide counsel that is enforceable within the scope of local and state authorities. During FY18, SWTDD had contracts with Brownsville, Bolivar, Henderson, Lexington, McKenzie, Saltillo, Stanton, Hardeman County and Haywood County.

## [Solid Waste/Materials Management Technical Assistance:](#)

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 District Needs Assessments: providing technical assistance to solid waste boards to achieve Solid Waste Management Act goals: and providing assistance to the region to prepare and submit the Annual Progress Report for Decatur, Haywood, and Henderson Counties each year.

## [Rural Planning Organization \[Rural Roads & Transportation Planning\]:](#)

Southwest Tennessee Development District is one of the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s 12 rural planning organizations for enhanced service and rural transportation development. Our RPO serves all SWTDD counties, with the exception of Madison. RPO leadership is through both an executive and a technical committee.

## [Historic Preservation Services:](#)

SWTDD partners with the TN Historic Commission [THC] to provide technical support and state/federal program guidance. State Programs consist of Historical Sites and Historical Markers Programs and TN War Commission. Federal Programs are National Register, Preservation Grants, Investment Tax Credit, Section 106 Review, and Local Government Assistance. SWTDD also provides help to historic zoning commissions, surveys historic resources, and contributes to TN’s Plan for Historic Preservation.



# SERVICES ASSISTING LOCAL & STATE GOVERNMENTS

## Housing:

SWTDD partners with Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) to provide technical assistance to local governments and the public. SWTDD will aid in grant preparation and, in some cases, provides individuals with references to agencies that can assist them in meeting their housing rehabilitation needs.

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

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

## 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, USDA Rural Development and other projects as deemed necessary.

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

This cooperative program was developed and implemented to help SWTDD counties assess strengths and weaknesses for improved economic/community development success. The SOAR team includes regional experts who lead each county's leaders in fact-gathering sessions in: 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.

## REDI & Improved Educational Attainment Levels:

REDI completed its eighth year of service to the region and its fourth year as one of three official "partnering organizations" for the state'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 the Tennessee Drive to 55 program. We have served 16,000+ students across West Tennessee. REDI mentors are imbedded in area high schools so students have maximum access to needed resources.

## Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act:

SWTDD became the service provider and One-Stop for the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act [WIOA] in July 2017. WIOA

is federal legislation that provides job training and placement assistance.

The program is funded in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development. The partnership is known as the one-stop system. This system is charged with enhancing the range and quality of workforce development services available to job seekers and businesses through a coordinated approach among partner agencies.

## Pathways & LEAP - Career Readiness Initiatives:

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 of commerce, 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 TN 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. Students can also earn industry certifications—such as NIMS, CPT, and OSHA Safety while still in high school—putting them on an accelerated path to meaningful employment. Continued funding from these sources enables SWTDD to fulfill its mission to create a skilled workforce.



Monogram Refrigeration in Selmer received a DRA grant, written by SWTDD, for an expansion.



# 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:

Henderson County was awarded two FastTrack Grants this year. Engineered Spray Components' expansion resulting in 20 new jobs will be supported by a \$63,000 investment for a water main extension. Welch Packaging/Cooper Container will receive site work for their expansion with a \$306,200 award bringing an anticipated 39 new jobs over three years. 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 City of Adamsville received \$152,000 to purchase a brush truck. AFGs are for fire departments, state fire training academies, and emergency medical service organizations. AFGs are for fire departments, state fire training academies, and emergency medical service organizations. SWTDD writes and administers AFG grants.

## Tennessee Department of Transportation Grants:

A SWTDD-written TDOT grant was awarded in FY18 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 Parsons is approaching construction for their Regional Community Park expansion with \$296,000 in awarded 2016 funds. Announcements for the 2018 application cycle are pending.

## Delta Regional Authority [DRA] Grants:

McNairy County Industrial Development Board received \$800,000 to expand their site that houses Monogram Refrigeration to support their expansion with HVAC system improvement project and new parking lot. Jackson State Community College's Robotics Regional Training Center was awarded \$150,000 for the purchase of new robotics equipment to expand current class offerings. Hardeman County will utilize \$750,000 for road entrance improvements to support increased traffic and improve safety for Chemring/Kilgore Flares expansion resulting in 100 new jobs and the retention of 200 existing jobs.

## FY2018 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 dinner, TN Reconnect trainings, THDA Housing Conference and trainings, Pathways and LEAP steering committee meetings and training sessions, TCAD Coalition Meetings, and more.

## SWTDD & REDI Annual Legislative Luncheon:

More than 150 governmental, community, and business leaders gathered for SWTDD's Seventh Annual Legislative Luncheon at Aeneas Internet & Telephone to present our Legislative Agenda to state and federal legislators. Participating were members of the Tennessee General Assembly Sen. Dolores Gresham, Sen. Mark Green, Rep. Steve McDaniel, Rep. David Byrd, Sen. Mae Beaver, Sen. Ed Jackson, Rep. Curtis Halford, Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, Rep. Jimmy Eldridge, Rep. Johnny Shaw and U.S. Congress members Marsha Blackburn, Diane Black, and Stephen Fincher. Also present was Tennessee gubernatorial candidate Bill Lee and Courtney Wheeler, a representative from Karl Dean's campaign.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

## REDI College Summits & other College-Related Events:

In FY18, REDI hosted four multi-county college summits at three 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 & TN Promise help 2.6K students in region:

REDI worked with 2,692 seniors in 16 high schools and home schools in the region during FY18. In all, 98% of REDI students were registered for Tennessee Promise and had an increase to 92% 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.

## WIOA/American Job Centers/One-Stop-Operators:

SWTDD began operating eight American Job Centers [One-Stop Centers], one in each Southwest Tennessee county in July 2017. These provide a full range of assistance to job seekers under one roof. Staff provide training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and employment-related services. WIOA seeks to align publicly- and privately-funded education, employment and training programs and provide high-quality customer service to job seekers [veterans, disadvantaged and those with disabilities], workers, and businesses. SWTDD gained 14 new employees when the WIOA program was acquired.

The AJC network is a partnership that includes the Local Workforce Development Board,

WIOA partners, AJC operators, WIOA Title 1, Adult Education and Literacy Act programs, Wagner-Peyser employment services and Vocational Rehabilitation programs to work together to leverage resources and provide participant-centered services.

At the end of FY18, WIOA enrolled 898 new participants and worked with a total of 1,249 participants. Of those, 589 were female and 660 male. As the One-Stop, we held quarterly partner and staff trainings, regular Business Services meetings, Partner Meetings, implemented a youth work experience program, provided employers with incumbent training and on-the-job training grants and had 21,082 visitors in our job centers.

These funds were administered and paid-out through the WIOA program: On-The-Job Training Grants - \$151,985.45; Incumbent Worker Training Grants - \$258,762.71; Classroom Training [Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth] - \$110,809.21; Sr. Community Service Employment Program - \$95,034.21; and Youth Work Experience - \$271,444.99. Total Funds - \$888,036.61.

## Pathways & LEAP:

Through Pathways 464 area 8th graders participated in a pilot program of YouScience aptitude testing to better align students with programs based on their combined skills and interests. Results gave students information ranking their career matches. Pathways focus areas of Manufacturing, Information Technology, and Health Care were highlighted to meet the need for high demand, high wage, and high skilled jobs in those fields. Twenty-two educators in the district participated in externships with industries to link the classroom to manufacturers to better understand the skills needed in today's workforce. Pathways also partnered with several local school districts to prepare for work-based learning opportunities with regional industries.

With a million dollars of equipment installed across West Tennessee, the LEAP 2.0 grant has enabled high school students to accelerate progress through Machine Tool and Welding Technologies, while earning industry-recognized certifications and completing credit hours towards a TCAT diploma. More than 400 students have dual enrolled and benefited from this investment, with a success rate over 95% on CPT and OSHA certifications, and a 100% pass rate for NIMS. Additionally, more than 100 students were placed in paid co-op positions with participating industries in West Tennessee, greatly expanding work-based learning opportunities in the region.

# ECD ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

## 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 created a Fair Housing program for those who'll be assisted; hosted two Fair Housing programs with TennCare employees and those that serve in Aging & Disability Housing; and educated TennCare transitional specialists on Affordable Housing and Fair Housing issues. SWTDD is working with the City of Bolivar administering their THDA HOME grant which will directly impact families whose homes are selected for rehabilitation.

## 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.

## 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 the following major accomplishments during the FY 2017-2018: Revisions were made and adopted to the Vision Lexington Land Use and Transportation Plan, the McKenzie Land Use and Transportation Plan, McKenzie Zoning Ordinance and Map, Hardeman County Growth Plan, and Saltillo Zoning Ordinance and Map.

## Community Transportation Grants:

Three communities in Southwest Tennessee were recipients of TDOT's Community Transportation Grants. These communities were Parsons, Brownsville and Savannah.

SWTDD wrote the AFG to purchase a brush truck for the Adamsville Fire Department as well as the LPRF for the baseball complex in Parsons (top and bottom photo). The Sardis Senior Center (middle photo) was surveyed during FY18 for the Tennessee Historical Commission.



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