

*Annual Report 2023*



*building a stronger region*

# Southwest Tennessee Development District

Building A Stronger Region for more than 50 years

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# *Our Mission is...*

As a planning organization, Southwest Tennessee Development District promotes the renewal and revitalization of both rural and urban communities through betterment of our economic base (Economic Development), physical infrastructure (Community Development), and quality of life (Area Agency on Aging & Disability) for the eight county area that we serve.

# *Our Vision is...*

To enable self-sustaining economic growth and to ensure the personal well being of all citizens in the areas we serve.

# *Created to Serve and Assist...*

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

Organized in 1971, 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, a state senator and representative, 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 all county and city mayors in our region, meets once each fiscal year – typically at an Annual Meeting held in the fall.

SWTDD is staffed by about 34 full-time people with expertise in district management, economic development, community development, housing, environmental planning, regional planning, aging and disability assistance, social work, nursing, grant writing, and public guardianship for the elderly. Financial support is provided from EDA, THDA, Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development, Tennessee Department of Transportation, TACIR, Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability, TennCare, Delta Regional Authority, USDA Rural Development, and others.

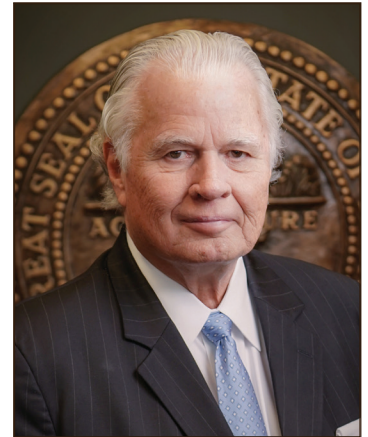
Funds received from the Commission on Aging & Disability are distributed through contracts with senior centers and regional service provider agencies. SWTDD also receives fees for grant administration/management services rendered for member governments, as well as income from its small business loan 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 Barker, Executive Director of SWTDD

For the past 16 years, I have had the honor of serving as SWTDD Executive Director. Prior to becoming Executive Director, I served on the SWTDD Board of Directors for eight years in my capacity as County Executive of Hardin County. SWTDD continues to be a vital partner with our leaders in local government as we continue to serve the aging and those in need with a dedicated professional staff and volunteers from throughout the District.

SWTDD is the Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) and constantly looks for more programs and services to assist our increasingly aging population. SWTDD also works closely with our local communities in economic and community development. Our ECD division, writes and administers grants, provides planning and technical assistance, develops strategic plans, and assists in economic growth with small business loans to grow jobs and expand the local tax base.

In FY2022/2023, the Southwest region saw the beginning of many years of transformational change with the announcement and construction of BlueOval City. The ripple effect of this project will affect every county and city in rural West Tennessee. In the time since the Ford Motor Company/SK Battery announcement, our organization has seen increased funding and demand for almost every program SWTDD provides. A renewed interest in working together as a region is at the forefront of everything we do. SWTDD has received a place of leadership in developing this regional synergy. We understand that we are stronger working together than as individual cities or counties. Now is the time for all local leaders to look beyond county lines and municipal city limits to determine how best we can capitalize on this great economic opportunity. We also know, in addition to jobs created, the demand for educational upgrades, additional fire, police, and EMS services, health care facilities, infrastructure, and senior services will continue to grow at a very rapid pace. We must have strong, visionary local leadership to meet the challenges ahead! I am confident that the Southwest region is well positioned to meet these challenges and SWTDD looks forward to being a vital partner in the exciting future for West Tennessee.



Joe W. Barker, Executive Director  
Southwest TN Development District

*Joe W. Barker*

# FY2023 SWTDD Board of Directors

## **CHESTER COUNTY**

County Mayor Barry Hutcherson\*  
Vacant, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Melinda Johnston, Enville  
Mayor Bobby King, Henderson\*

## **DECATUR COUNTY**

County Mayor Mike Creasy\*  
Joseph Fisher, Minority Rep.  
Mayor Tim Grace, Decaturville  
Mayor Tim David Boaz, Parsons\*

## **HARDEMAN COUNTY**

County Mayor Todd Pulse\*  
Elmer Cobb, Minority Representative  
Mayor Julian McTizic, Bolivar\*  
Mayor Curtis Lane, Grand Junction  
Mayor Ricky Ayers, Hickory Valley  
Mayor Curtis Vandiver, Hornsby  
Mayor Evan Mott, Middleton  
Mayor Jim Daniel, Saulsburry  
Mayor Willard Beshires, Silerton  
Mayor Jackie Kelley, Toone  
Mayor Gene Bowden, Whiteville

\*SWTDD Executive Committee Member

## **HARDIN COUNTY**

County Mayor Kevin Davis\*  
Allen Cherry, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Ricky Tuberville, Crump  
Mayor Ricky Hollin, Milledgeville  
Mayor Greg Billings, Saltillo\*  
Mayor Bob Shutt, Savannah

## **HAYWOOD COUNTY**

County Mayor David Livingston\*  
Vacant, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor William Rawls, Jr., Brownsville  
Mayor Allan Sterbinsky, Stanton\*

## **HENDERSON COUNTY**

County Mayor Robbie McCready\*  
Barbara Parker, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Jeff Griggs, Lexington\*  
Mayor Kenneth Kizer, Parkers Crossroads  
Mayor J.W. Creasy, Sardis  
Mayor Woody Capley, Scotts Hill

## **LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS**

Senator Ed Jackson\*  
Representative Chris Todd\*

## **MADISON COUNTY**

County Mayor A.J. Massey\*  
Herbert Slack, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Scott Conger, Jackson\*  
Mayor Brad Replogle, Medon  
Mayor Mary Ann Tremblay, Three Way

## **McNAIRY COUNTY**

County Mayor Larry Smith\*  
Harry Crayton, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor David Leckner, Adamsville  
Mayor John Wood, Bethel Springs  
Mayor Elvis Butler, Eastview  
Mayor Cody Moss, Finger  
Mayor Keith Rinehart, Guys  
Mayor Anthony Smith, Michie  
Mayor George Armstrong, Ramer  
Mayor Sherry Inman, Selmer\*  
Mayor Larry Russell, Stantonville



## SWTDD Officers



Mike Creasy, Mayor of Decatur  
Co. Chairman of the Board



Jeff Griggs, Mayor of Lexington  
Vice Chairman of the Board



Bobby King, Mayor of Henderson  
Secretary/Treasurer

# FY2023: SWTDD Administrative Accomplishments

SWTDD'S administrative team works closely with all staff and governmental groups by assisting in the roles of human resources, office management, financial management, IT management, facility management, special projects, and communications. Some highlights during FY2023 include:

**Facilities Management:** SWTDD was approached about the possibility of leasing the unfinished third floor to a partner organization. The administrative staff went through the lengthy steps of discovery and even bidding the job. Ultimately, they decided to remain in the present location. The process, however, was worthwhile in that SWTDD's leadership team now knows (should another partnering organization approach SWTDD) what it would take to build out the third floor.

**Technology:** SWTDD had the building re-wired for data and Internet. This was necessary because the space leased for the server room was no longer available; virtually all of the District's technology assets were moved to the second floor.

**Communications:** SWTDD provided publicity for MyRide, SHIP, Public Guardianship, and other services through monthly newsletters, flyers/brochures, Facebook, and releases to media outlets. With an ever increasing number of news sources disappearing, SWTDD has actively pursued publicity for events and information coming out of SWTDD's eight counties on Facebook.

**SWTDD Annual Meeting-Legislative Lunch-Golf Tournament**  
 SWTDD hosted an elegant evening at the New Southern Hotel in Jackson for its annual meeting. This gathering is held each year and is the only official board of director gathering that includes all mayors in all SWTDD counties. The annual legislative luncheon was held in Jackson and co-sponsored by NWTDD. SWTDD's Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held in October and, with 144 golfers participating and awesome corporate sponsors, more than \$12,000 was raised for the SWTDD Future Choices Fund.

**Meeting Assistance:** SWTDD's administrative team helps hosts meetings for West Tennessee mayors, federal, state, and local partners at our facility and assists as requested at these partner meetings.



Michael Banks (left) and Joe Barker (right) present former Haywood County Mayor Franklin Smith with a gift for his tenacity in creating the Memphis Regional Megasite -- his vision will benefit all of West Tennessee as Ford Motor Company's BlueOval City opens in Haywood County. (Left) Housing a possible tenant in the unfinished third floor of SWTDD was explored during FY2023. Ultimately the requesting organization decided to stay in its present location.



## SWTDD Financial Overview

FY 2023 - Operating Budget	\$7,265,232
FY 2023 - Pass Through Budget	\$2,691,563
Total Assets & Liabilities [Govt.-Wide] Audited FY23	\$4,397,169
Full-Time Staff Members - 33	Part-Time Staff Members - 6

# FY2023 Services & Programs for the Aging & Disabled

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging & Disability staff's ultimate goal is to ensure that each client receives the services and supports to live in a dignified and fulfilling manner. Staff members receive training on providing person-centered planning and strive to include each consumer's family members when developing a plan of action. The following programs are provided either directly or through service provider contracts:

**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 have no family member, friend, bank, or corporation willing and able to act on his or her behalf.

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

**Nutrition Services:** Nutritious meals at community locations and through home-delivered services.

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

**Senior Centers:** SWAAAD has ten community centers that provide resources, support groups, congregate meals, and activities for seniors and their families.

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

**MyRide West TN:** Volunteer transportation service to those 60 years and older.

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) serves consumers who are 60 years and older, as well as, adults 18 years 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).



SWTDD's Southwest Area Agency on Aging and Disability participated in an event called "Stay Socially EngAGED" (top photo) and "Alive Inside" during FY2023. SWAAAD was also recognized as a "Friend of Southwest HRA" for serving as a partner organization in serving the counties in the Southwest Tennessee region for more than 40 years.

# Southwest Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services

The mission of the Development District's Area Agency on Aging and Disability is to improve the quality of life for older adults and persons with disabilities in the eight county service region. The AAAD has been focused on ensuring that services, resources, and information were available through all delivery methods during FY 23.

This year the aging network received increases in federal and state funding for senior nutrition and caregiver services, as well as aging and disability resource center services. Although the senior nutrition cost per meal for our region increased significantly this year, as a recipient of the increased funding, the AAAD was able to continue to provide services to all current clients. Along with the food cost increase, the contracted providers in the region who provide services in the home, continued to struggle to hire enough staff to meet the demand.

## **Ten Senior Centers:**

The AAAD is very proud of the accomplishments of the Southwest TN Senior Centers. During FY 23, the AAAD assisted the Senior Centers with some additional funding. This funding allowed the Agency to contract with the Senior Centers to provide evidence based programs to the older adults in the Southwest region. Although the programs varied in each center, classes like Tai Chi and Take Charge of Your Diabetes were among the classes offered. All of these programs are proven ways to promote health and prevent disease among older adults. The AAAD contracted with 6 of the centers to provide 2053 units to 176 older adults. Along with these additional funds, the AAAD also provided the traditional annual funding to the senior centers. The senior centers were able to reach 1,587 older adults with 56,673 units of service through this state and federal funding.

## **Nutrition for Older Adults:**

The Nutrition program at the AAAD provides for the nutritional needs of older adults through the provision of congregate meals, home-delivered meals, nutrition education, counseling, and nutrition screening. The congregate sites continue to gain strength as seniors feel more comfortable in group settings. For the period of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 the AAAD saw a substantial increase in the cost of meals. This was largely due to the increase in overall food costs over the past few years. Despite the increase in overall food cost, the Agency was able to utilize \$1,383,394 to provide 203,621 meals. The AAAD provides direct administration of the Nutrition program, and operates the Lewis Center Nutrition Site in Jackson. The provider for the meals (under contract) is the Southwest Human Resource Agency in Henderson, TN. The Nutrition Director for the AAAD is Angie Weber.



SWAAAD participated in the Chester County BBQ Festival to bring awareness of services available in this region. Jackson's Community Fridge was created with help from an AARP grant. Robinson Toyota is a great supporter of SWTDD and also is a great sponsor of Alzheimer's Tennessee.



# FY2022/2023: SWAAD Accomplishments

## **Public Guardianship Services:**

The Public Guardianship for the Elderly program provides services to persons over the age of 60 who have a physical disability, are unable to make financial or healthcare decisions for themselves, and who have no person or entity willing to serve. The program takes direct referrals from consumers, healthcare centers, hospitals, Adult Protective Services, and other agencies. The program is not allowed to solicit cases. During FY2023, the program served 34 persons through either court-appointed conservatorship or power of attorney, and provided 1,510 hours of direct service. Kichisa McGoughy serves as the Public Guardian on behalf of the Development District and Charleston Croom serves as the Assistant Public Guardian. The program has served clients in seven of the eight counties within the region this fiscal year and collected \$38,854.03 in fees according to the approved sliding scale fee rates.

## **Long-Term Care Ombudsman:**

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) Program is directly administered by the AAAD through a Waiver for Services with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability. This program provides advocacy, support, education, and assistance with dispute resolution for persons living in a healthcare facility and assisted living facility. Due to the nature of this work, all activity with residents and/or their representatives is kept highly confidential. The Southwest TN LTCO is Norma Bell, MSW. Through additional ARP funds, the AAAD was able to hire a part time LTCO, Barbara Gammel. She has been and continues to be a great asset to the Southwest Ombudsman program. In FY2023, the LTCO opened 563 cases and 568 were closed. A total of 1,023 complaints were worked by the LTCO program and \$109,084 of federal and ARP funding was utilized on the program.

## **Home and Community Based Services (HCBS):**

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are integral to fulfilling the mission of the AAAD. By providing homemaker and personal care services, the Agency enables older adults to remain independent and within their own homes longer. Persons who are 18 and older with a physical disability and persons age 60 and older are screened for services by calling the AAAD directly or by applying online at [www.swtdd.org](http://www.swtdd.org). Services are managed by three Options Counselors employed by the Agency: Andrea McDermott, LPN, Mya Spivey, LPN, and Ellen Hernandez, LBSW. The Agency contracts with six service provider agencies to complete the authorized services. Older American's Act funding (supplemented by state funding and additional ARP funding) of \$205,198 served 214 consumers with 9,725 hours of homemaker services. Options funding for the AAAD was \$579,932 and was utilized to provide homemaker, personal care, and home-delivered meals to 173 consumers. In addition, the state legislature approved additional Options funding known as "Options 2" for FY2023. The AAAD used \$280,414 to provide in home services to an additional 316 consumers with this new funding. The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) assists Caregivers who care for an older adult who is at least 60 years old. This program allows the care receiver to remain at home, rather than going to a facility to be cared for. The services provided under NFCSP are homemaker, personal care, and in home respite. NFCSP served 73 consumers with \$226,661 of Older American's Act funding (supplemented by state funding and additional ARP funding).



# FY 2022/2023: SWAARD Accomplishments

## **Alzheimer's Dementia Respite Pilot Program:**

The Alzheimer's Dementia Respite Pilot Program began in July 2022. This is a pilot program created by the state legislature to assist caregivers with much needed respite time as they care for loved ones, 60 years of age or older, who are diagnosed or have symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. The program allows for up to 4 hours of respite a week for a caregiver. The AAAD was able to serve 22 consumers with 1,093 hours of respite services utilizing \$48,087.

## **Legal Representation:**

West Tennessee Legal Services contracts with the AAAD to provide legal representation and advice to older adults who are age 60+. Focus areas include public benefits, healthcare, housing, consumer, elder abuse, and powers of attorney and advance directives. In FY 2023, WTLS utilized \$26,250 to serve 140 consumers. 100% of seniors responding to surveys strongly agreed or agreed they were satisfied with the legal help they received from WTLS, and 87% reported that their legal situation improved because of the help they received. The number served and level of satisfaction are strong evidence of a high quality, cost effective program.

## **MyRide West TN:**

MyRide West TN served consumers in Madison, Henderson and Chester Counties in FY 23. The Program Coordinator, Renee Young worked to recruit new volunteers and ensured all requested rides were picked up. A volunteer in Madison County, Mr. Dan Hylkema completed his 1,000th trip by taking a MyRide consumer to the grocery store. We are proud to have such a dedicated volunteer in the program.

The McNairy County MyRide and MyRide+ program officially launched in July 2022 and has been a huge success, serving both non-veteran and veteran clients in the county. Veteran rides included trips to Memphis, Nashville, Birmingham, AL and Oxford, MS. During FY 23, MyRide provided 751 trips and served 37 persons in Madison County. In Henderson County, 409 trips were provided and 26 persons were served. In Chester County 373 trips were provided and 8 persons were served. MyRide McNairy County provided 1115 trips to 131 persons-89 were non-veterans and 42 were veterans.

## **Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program (TN SHIP):**

The Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program (TN SHIP) is a program that provides free, unbiased counseling and assistance to Tennessee's Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers. There are three parts to the TN State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Program, MIPPA, SHIP, and SMP. All parts of the SHIP program have now returned to SWAARD office as of 2022. Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) is a portion of the SHIP program that provides outreach and assistance to eligible Medicare beneficiaries to apply for benefit programs that help to lower the costs of their Medicare premiums and deductibles. The MIPPA program served 3124 beneficiaries from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. The SHIP program served 3442 beneficiaries from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is a program that empowers and assists Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, counseling, and education. The SHIP program coordinator Allison Hurst, MSW, and the SHIP Volunteer Coordinator, Gloria Stewart both continue to do outreach and education. They inform the beneficiaries of Southwest TN of the services SHIP can offer them, as well as topics of interest regarding Medicare, fraud, and low-income subsidies. The SHIP program also continues to recruit volunteers to assist in a variety of ways. SHIP utilized 33 volunteers from September, 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

# SWTDD Economic & Community Development Programs

The SWTDD Economic & Community Development team works with our regional governments – all eight counties and 35 cities – to improve the quality of life for citizens in the area. Our ECD services are free-of-charge to our area governments, except planning services and solid waste assistance, which are provided on a contractual basis with participating communities. Below are brief explanations of some of SWTDD's ECD services:

## **Grant Writing & Grant Administration:**

SWTDD has 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, Site Development Grants, TVA InvestPrep, CDBG, CDBG Façade, ARP, DRA, SAFETEA-LU, LPRF/LWCF/RTP, USDA-RD, Assistance to Firefighters, Governor's Highway Safety Office, TDOT, THDA, Solid Waste, Byrnes, Broadband, Childcare, Downtown Improvement, Main Street, and Disaster.

## **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.

## **Regional Planning Services (provided on a contractual basis):**

SWTDD's regional planners provide customized services to planning commissions and local governments with the development of a comprehensive long range plans, including 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 FY2023, SWTDD had contracts with the cities of Bolivar, Brownsville, Henderson, Lexington, McKenzie,

Parkers Crossroads, Saltillo, and Stanton; as well as with Chester, Hardeman, and Haywood Counties.

## **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. The SWTDD Lending Policy is set by the Executive Committee. The loan program is overseen by a Loan Review Committee comprised of a Loan Officer from each county that SWTDD serves. The SWTDD Loan Officer handles the day to day operations of the loan program; marketing, underwriting, document preparation, servicing, and collections. In addition to the RLF and IRP loan programs, SWTDD administers a revolving loan fund through the CARES Act to assist businesses financially damaged by the coronavirus. The CARES Act RLF has provided working capital to 29 businesses totaling 680,000.00.

## **Solid Waste/Materials Management Technical Assistance:**

SWTDD contracts with interested communities in our eight county region 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; preparing the District-Wide Needs Assessments; providing technical assistance to solid waste boards to achieve Solid Waste Management Act goals; and providing assistance



# Assisting Local, Regional, & State Government Organizations

within the region to prepare and submit the required Annual Progress Report. SWTDD assisted Decatur, Haywood, Henderson, and McNairy County with collection of data and submission of the Annual Progress Report to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Every county in the SWTDD region exceeded the 25% Recycling and Diversion goal in accordance with TCA § 68-211-861. All local governments, businesses and industry actively engage in the recovery or recycling of materials being generated. Counties benefit from achieving the 25% waste reduction and diversion goal by demonstrating a need for collection or processing infrastructure.

## **Rural Planning Organization (Rural Roads & Transportation Planning):**

SWTDD 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 County. The Southwest Tennessee RPO leadership consists of an executive committee and technical committee; these groups meet at least two times each year.



Woodlawn Baptist Church in Nutbush (above) and the Haywood County Farm were both nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in FY2023. SWTDD provides help to historic zoning commissions, surveys historic resources, and contributes to Tennessee's Plan for Historic Preservation.



## **Historic Preservation Services:**

SWTDD collaborates with the Tennessee Historic Commission (THC) to provide technical support and state/federal program guidance. State Programs consist of Historical Sites and Historical Markers Programs and Tennessee 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 Tennessee's Plan for Historic Preservation.

## **Housing Services:**

SWTDD collaborates 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, provide individuals with references to agencies that can assist them in meeting their housing rehabilitation needs. Currently several communities are seeking housing assistance via THDA grants.

## **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA):**

SWTDD, a designated Economic Development District, conducts the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDSS) 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 for loans that have review requirements - including CDBG, THDA, HOME, LPRF/LWRF/RTP, FEMA, DRA, USDA Rural Development, and other projects as needed.

# SWTDD's ECD Department: FY2023 Accomplishments

## **Community Development**

### **Block and Façade Grants:**

During Fiscal Year 2023, three communities were awarded CDBG grants \$1,630,798 with project totals of \$2,520,294. These grants were awarded to Madison County and the cities of Henderson and Lexington. CDBGs are used for Economic Development (industrial infrastructure, buildings, and equipment) and Community Development (water and wastewater treatment facilities, housing rehabilitation and community livability projects).



### **TDEC American Rescue Program Grant:**

Seventeen TDEC's ARP grants were written for SWTDD's communities to improve drinking water and wastewater in FY2023. ARP grant awards in the Southwest Tennessee region totaled \$43,683,968.

### **TN ECD Broadband Accessibility Grant:**

TN ECD Broadband Accessibility grant program aims generally to promote broadband access to all Tennesseans, but more specifically, it aims to use funds in areas that are unlikely to receive broadband service without any sort of grant – SWTDD is aiding in the Grant Administration of 3 Broadband projects for the City of Lexington totaling over \$40,614,868.00

### **Community Development Block Grant – ChildCare:**

The TN Department of Economic and Community Development launched the Child Care Creation Grant Program using CDBG-CV funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program was intended to help expand childcare capacity within Tennessee communities and to provide new childcare options across the state. SWTDD was able



to write and is now administering grant funds in the amount of \$621,718.00 for six childcare facilities within West Tennessee to expand much needed services.

### **Site Development Grants:**

In FY2023, SWTDD applied for and was awarded Site Development Grants for the communities of Henderson and Bolivar. These two grants totaled \$1.5 million and are being used for projects that total nearly \$2.5 million. Site Development Grants are used, primarily, to improve many of TN-ECD's nationally recognized Select Tennessee Certified Sites and to prepare other sites to achieve certification.

### **TVA InvestPrep Grants:**

Tennessee Valley Authority's "InvestPrep" grants are match-based funds used to "attract new companies – resulting in more jobs and investments in the Valley." In FY2023, Henderson County received a TVA InvestPrep grant of \$500,000 towards its \$1,656, 250 project.

### **Rural Planning Organization (RPO) & TDOT Grants:**

TDOT's Office of Community Transportation awarded the cities of Decaturville and Stanton Multi-Modal Access Grants. The Southwest Tennessee RPO met twice during the FY2023 program year as required by TDOT. The RPO Coordinator attended four meetings with city and county officials relative to the RPO and prepared 52 weekly reports, four quarterly reports, and one annual report.

# SWTDD's ECD Department: FY2023 Accomplishments

## **Local Parks & Recreation Fund (LPRF) & Recreational Trails Program (RTP):**

Five LPRF's were awarded in the Southwest Tennessee region in FY2023. The cities of Bolivar, Henderson, Lexington and the counties of Henderson and McNairy collectively received \$3,536,038 on projects that will include \$7,072,075 of improvements. Local Parks and Recreation Funds provide funding to eligible local government entities for the purchase of lands for parks, natural areas, greenways, and recreation facilities. The funds may also be used for trail development and capital projects in parks, natural areas, and greenways.

## **Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Grant:**

In FY2023, three DRA grants were awarded in the Southwest Tennessee region. The cities of Parson, Stanton, and Selmer/McNairy IDB for Monogram received DRA grant funds of \$3,473,007 for projects totaling \$70,140, 412.

## **EDA Economic Disaster Recovery Grant:**

In FY2023, SWTDD coordinated follow-up meetings and helped SWTDD counties and communities, as needed, to begin implementation of their comprehensive regional plans. These individual county + regional plans were developed with professional assistance from Younger Associates in FY2021 and FY2022 with support and input from local elected officials and community stakeholders.

## **FY2023 Regional Workshops, Meetings, and Events:**

SWTDD hosted many trainings, forums, and workshop events. A few of these included CDBG Public Meetings, Grant Workshops, TDEC, USDA-RD Training, a Fair Housing Conference, West Tennessee City & County Mayors meetings, Memphis Regional Megasite Authority meetings, WestStar and WestTeach meetings, West Tennessee Affordable Housing, Medicare/SHIP Training, THDA Housing Conference and Trainings, TCAD Coalition Meetings, and more.

## **Tennessee Historic Commission Technical Assistance Grant:**

SWTDD closed out the TN-ECD Historic Development Grant Program for the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce building, assisted the Haywood Heritage Foundation in securing a Preservation Grant to list local properties on the National Register of Historic Places, and finalized a Federal Historic Tax Credit for the Greyhound Bus Station in Jackson. SWTDD completed 50 Tennessee

Historic Commission Architectural Surveys in Lexington, attended 14 Historic Zoning Commission meetings, eight related historic preservation meetings, reviewed nine Certificate of Appropriateness applications, and completed 22 Section 106 Reviews.

## **Tennessee Century Farms:**

SWTDD worked with Haywood County officials to secure a Tennessee Century Farm designation for the Haywood County Farm.

## **Tennessee Housing Development Technical Assistance Grant:**

SWTDD hosted a Fair Housing Conference with partner agency West Tennessee Legal Services. SWTDD also worked with the Town of Stanton administering two THDA HOME grants with families whose homes were selected for reconstruction.

## **Regional Planning:**

Regional Planning services are provided by SWTDD on a contractual basis. During FY2023, planning services were provided to Bolivar, Brownsville, Henderson, Lexington, Parkers Crossroads, Saltillo, Stanton and McKenzie and to the counties of Chester, Hardeman, and Haywood. As a result, SWTDD planners attended 78 planning commission meetings and several design review commission meetings for all contract communities.

During the FY2023, SWTDD regional planners provided the following: a zoning ordinance text amendment concerning Solar Farms was prepared for Hardeman County; revised telecommunication tower regulations for the Hardeman County Zoning; prepared updated Subdivision Regulations for the Town of Stanton; and prepared an updated version of the Town of Saltillo Zoning Ordinance. Planning also provided an Annexation Study/Annexation Execution Plan Packet for the City of Brownsville; and two Annexation Studies/Annexation Execution Plan Packets for the Town of Stanton.



# Southwest Tennessee Development District Staff Directory

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