



# Rural Development

## **Downtown Revitalization**

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### **Tennessee Main Street Program – Nancy Williams - [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal – To serve as a statewide coordinating program for communities that want to revitalize their downtown commercial districts using the National Main Street Four-Point Approach, to provide training and assistance to those communities, and to conduct the annual accreditation process for Main Street communities.
- There are 45 nationally accredited Main Street communities.
- Important Dates – Applications accepted at any time

### **Tennessee Downtowns – Nancy Williams - [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal – Develop downtowns in rural communities using the Main Street Four-Point approach in communities who would like to try the Main Street program
- There are currently 78 Tennessee Downtown communities.
- Grant Opportunities - Communities receive \$15,000 grants to implement project developed from training received
- Important Dates – Round 9 coming in January 2024

### **Downtown Improvement Program – Nancy Williams - [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal – Assist Tennessee Main Street and Tennessee Downtown communities in improving the exteriors of their downtown commercial buildings, streetscape improvements, signage, and gateway improvements
- Downtown Improvement Grant - Grants up to \$300,000 per community
- Important Dates – Awards announced Fall 2023

### **Historic Development Grant Program – Nancy Williams - [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal – Redevelop shuttered historic buildings to create jobs and economic impact
- Grant Opportunity - Grants up to \$300,000 per project with varying match rates
- Important Dates – Awards announced Fall 2023

## **Asset-Based Community Development**

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### **ThreeStar – Jody Sliger - [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal - Assist counties in community development and capacity-building through asset-based strategic planning and the creation of S.M.A.R.T. goals with stakeholder collaboration. One of these goals must align with workforce development.
- Grant Opportunities - Grants up to \$50,000 for projects that complete an asset-based goal from the community's strategic plan.
- Important Dates – Awards announced Fall 2023



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## **Tennessee Placemakers Entrepreneurship Development – Jody Sliger – [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal – Develop entrepreneurs and small businesses
- Grant Opportunities – TN Placemakers Grants develop entrepreneurship through community assessment and planning, building and sustaining entrepreneurship centers, and supporting and training entrepreneurs
- Match Requirements – 10% match required
- Important Dates – Rolling applications, open now

## **Infrastructure Planning Grant (IPG) – Lynn Tutor**

- Goal – Assist rural Utility Districts with asset management planning and investigation
- Grant Opportunities - Grants up to \$500,000 to assist utility districts with water & sewer system modeling and analysis, formulating asset management plans, and performing regionalization studies.
- Match Requirements – 5% Match Rate for all awarded projects
- Important Dates – Applications due October 18, 2023

## **Site Development**

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### **Select TN Certified Sites Program – Kirby Lewis-Gill – [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal – Minimize the risks of a company locating by certifying shovel-ready sites that have undergone evaluation and are prepared for corporate investment
- Grant Opportunities – Grants are available after the site visit to assist in completion of needed studies and reports for publicly owned sites
- Important Dates – Step 1 Applications for certification due December 15, 2023

### **Property Evaluation Program (PEP) – Kirby Lewis-Gill – [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal - Improve inventory of industrial sites and buildings by evaluating potential properties, advising counties on where investment may be most beneficial, and identifying what steps are needed to address issues
- Important Dates – LOIs due January 14, 2024

### **Site Development Grant Program (SDG) – Kirby Lewis-Gill – [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal – Increase the availability of sites for industrial and business location
- Grant Opportunities – SDGs ensure sites are ready to locate companies by providing funds to develop a site's infrastructure, grading, etc., to enhance sites, overcome obstacles for certification, or improve a certified site
- Important Dates – Spring Round LOIs due February 28, 2024



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## Small Business Assistance

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### **Business Enterprise Resource Office – Wisty Pender - [Website](#)**

- Goal – Support the growth and expansion of diversity business enterprises, small businesses, microenterprises and aspiring entrepreneurs
- Resources – SmartStart Communities, TN SmartStart Business Startup Guide, business data, connections to funding sources

### **Fund Tennessee – Wisty Pender, Lamont Price – [Website](#)**

- Goal – Support small businesses and entrepreneurs with financing and technical assistance with federal funding targeting socially and economically disadvantaged individuals
- Opportunities – InvestTN (for early stage startups raising equity, led by Launch Tennessee), LendTN (loan program administered by Community Development Financial Institutions), and AssistTN (technical assistance provided by TN Small Business Development Centers)

## **Federal Programs – [Dashboard](#)**

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### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Kent Archer**

- Goal – Invest in community and economic development activities
- Grant Opportunities - Funding for community development projects including water and sewer system improvements, health and safety projects, and community improvement projects (~\$28M/year)
- Match Requirements – Vary by community according to Ability to Pay Index
- Important Dates – Awards announced Fall 2023

### **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) – Jill White**

- Goal – Innovate, partner and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia
- Grant Opportunities - Invest in community and economic development projects in the 52-county region (~\$8,000,000/year)
- Match Requirements – Vary by county based on ARC Economic Designation
- Important Dates – Pre-applications due December 8, 2023, job creation apps accepted year round





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## **Delta Regional Authority (DRA) – Brooxie Carlton**

- Goal – To improve regional economic opportunity by helping to create jobs, build communities and improve the lives of the 10 million people who reside in the Delta region
- Grant Opportunities – Invest in community and economic development projects in the 21-county region
- Important Dates – Grants announced Fall 2023, job creation apps accepted year round

## **Broadband Accessibility**

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### **Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Program – Taylre Beaty – [Dashboard](#)**

- Goal – Federal funding (\$813M) to facilitate last-mile broadband access to all Tennesseans while promoting practices that increase deployment and encourage adoption
- Grant Opportunities – Broadband Accessibility Grant funds through NTIA BEAD programs will be targeted to areas that are unlikely to receive broadband service without grant funding and cover a portion of the capital costs associated with extending infrastructure to these areas
- Match Requirement – TBD
- Important dates – Digital Opportunity Listening Sessions held Summer 2023, Funding available Summer 2024

### **American Rescue Plan – Taylre Beaty**

- Goal – Assist communities in pandemic recovery through broadband infrastructure expansion and digital opportunity funding (digital literacy, adoption programs, etc.)
- Grant Opportunities – \$50M for digital opportunity programs, \$185M for middle mile and last mile programs, \$30M for Connected Community Facilities
- Match Requirements – Varies based on program
- Important Dates – Middle mile and last mile applications due October 16, 2023, Connected Community Facility applications due November 15, 2023, Broadband Ready applications due November 15, 2023, Digital Skills, Education and Workforce Development applications due December 6, 2023



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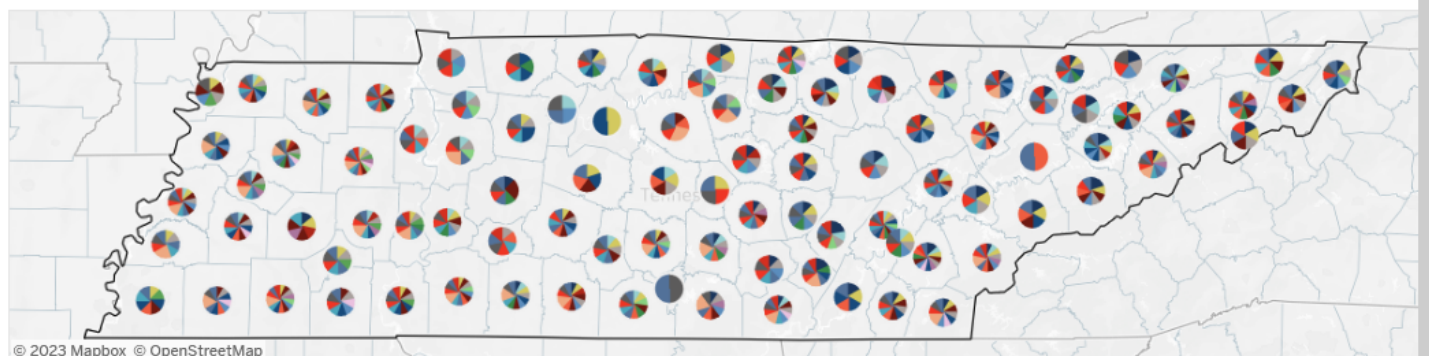
## Rural Development Programs

For information on all programs, see <https://www.tn.gov/ecd/rural-development.html>

To view data on the programs including the amount of grant funding a county has received, visit: <https://admin.teamtn.gov/openecd/article/openecd-rural-development-community-investment>

Rural Development Calendar - <https://www.tn.gov/ecd/rural-development/calendar.html>

## Rural and Community Development Investments: 2019-2023



Grants that serve multiple counties are not shown on the map.



**\$824,586,217**

Value of Grants and  
Consulting Services  
(2019 - 2023)

**95**

Counties Receiving Grants or  
Consulting Services  
(2019 - 2023)

**1,701**

No. of Grants Awarded and  
Consulting Services Applied  
(2019 - 2023)