State of Tennessee Four-Year Appalachian Development Plan

Governor Bill Lee

Brooxie Carlton, Governor's Alternate
Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Rural Development

Logan McCoy, ARC Program Manager, Special Projects Director
Lindsay Gainous, ARC Program Coordinator, Special Projects Coordinator

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
312 Rosa L Parks Avenue, 27th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
tn.gov/ecd

Tennessee ARC Region Local Development Districts

First Tennessee Development District
3211 North Roan St.
Johnson City, TN 37601
ftdd.org
Counties: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington

East Tennessee Development District
PO Box 249
Alcoa, TN 37701
etdd.org
Counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen,
Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Sevier, Scott, Union

Southeast Tennessee Development District
1000 Riverfront Pkwy
Chattanooga, TN 37405
sedev.org
Counties: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

Upper Cumberland Development District
1225 South Willow Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38506
ucdd.org
Counties: Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon,
Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, White

South Central Tennessee Development District
101 Sam Watkins Blvd.
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474
sctdd.org
Counties: Coffee, Franklin, Lawrence, Lewis

Bob Rolfe
Commissioner

Bill Lee
Governor

October 21, 2019

Mr. Scott Hamilton
Executive Director
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009-1068

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

It is my pleasure to submit Tennessee's Four-Year Plan for the 2020 fiscal year.

This document was prepared with my understanding and involvement. If you have any questions regarding content, you may call my ARC Alternate Board Member, Brooxie Carlton, or the ARC Program Manager, Logan McCoy, in the Department of Economic and Community Development at 629-201-0063.

Best Regards,

Bill Lee

Introduction

In 1960, governors from the Appalachian states, recognizing the economic challenges and persistent poverty of the Appalachian region, came together in an effort to develop a regional approach to address the problems facing the citizens of the Appalachian states. At that time

- *One of every three Appalachians lived in poverty,*
- *Per capita income was 23 percent lower than the U.S. average, and*
- *High unemployment and harsh living conditions had, in the 1950s, forced more than 2 million Appalachians to leave their homes and seek work in other regions.*

This determined and visionary group formed the Conference of Appalachian Governors to develop a regional approach to resolve these problems and developed a plan which they presented to newly elected President John F. Kennedy, who had seen the abject poverty in the region during campaign trips to West Virginia. President Kennedy formed a federal-state committee in 1963 that became known as the President's Appalachian Regional Commission and directed the group to design a comprehensive economic development plan for the region. The resulting plan was endorsed by the Conference of Appalachian Governors and Cabinet-level officials in 1964, and President Lyndon B. Johnson used this report as the groundwork for legislation which received bipartisan Congressional support. The Appalachian Regional Development ACT (ARDA) was submitted to Congress and passed by a broad bipartisan coalition and signed into law in March of 1965.

In accordance with Section 5.3 of the Appalachian Regional Commission Code, this document serves as the State of Tennessee's Appalachian Region Four-Year Development Plan and establishes the process to develop and advance goals, objectives, strategies, priorities, and policies for Tennessee's ARC Region. This plan additionally identifies broad issues and needs that Governor Lee plans to address with ARC investments. The execution of this Plan will provide a comprehensive framework to enhance economic and community development and improve the quality of life for the residents of Appalachian Tennessee.

As a regional economic development agency, the Appalachian Regional Commission represents a partnership of federal, state, and local governments designed to address local needs. The region is composed of thirteen states and includes 420 counties stretching from southern New York to northern Mississippi. The Commission is composed of governors from the Appalachian states and a Federal Co-Chairman, who is appointed by the President. Governor Bill Lee serves as Tennessee's ARC Commission Member. He has assigned the administration of Tennessee's ARC program to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD). TNECD's Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Rural Development, Brooxie Carlton serves as the Governor's Alternate Board Member and is the state-level contact for those seeking ARC funding. Logan McCoy, TNECD's Special Projects Director, serves as the ARC Program Manager and Lindsay Gainous serves as the ARC Program Coordinator. These TNECD staff together with the Local Development Districts listed on page 2 of this Plan perform the day-to-day operations of the TN ARC program.

Fifty-two (52) of Tennessee's counties are located within the Appalachian Region. These counties are Anderson, Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Cannon, Carter, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Coffee, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Franklin, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Lewis, Loudon, McMinn, Macon, Marion, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Smith, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, Van Buren, Warren, Washington, and White.

County Economic Status in Appalachian Tennessee, Fiscal Year 2020
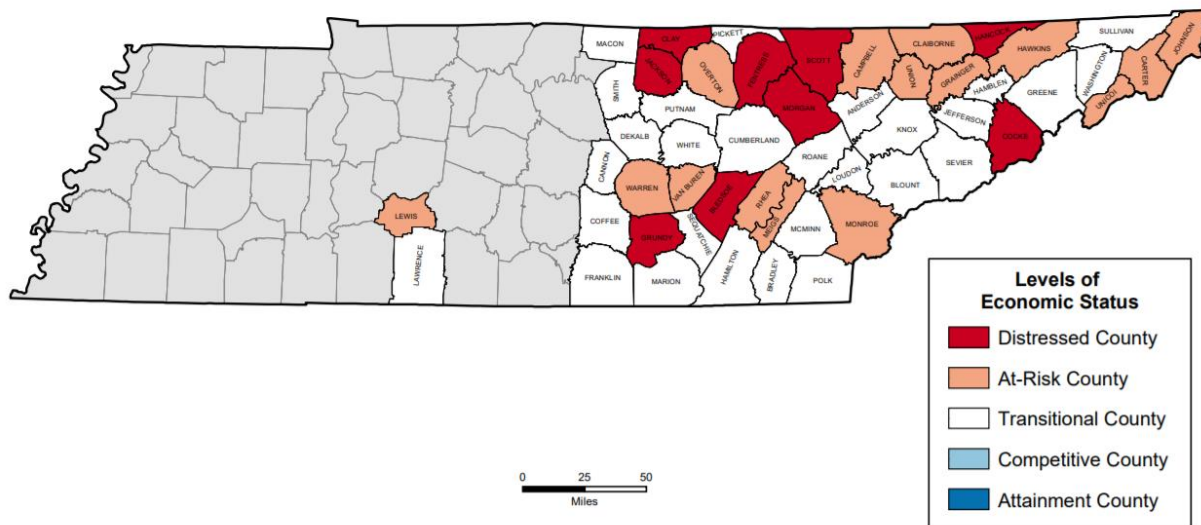
Challenges and Opportunities: The State of the Region

The Appalachian Region of Tennessee has historically been distressed. The economy has been based on agriculture and manufacturing, and the area is mostly rural. As shown in Figure 1, this area is generally growing more slowly than the rest of the state or even losing population. The per capita income in every county in the region other than the urban areas of Loudon, Hamilton and Knox counties is lower than the state average. The average annual wage is also lower than the state average in every community except Anderson County (which contains the city of Oak Ridge) and Roane County (which borders Anderson County). As shown in Figure 2, the unemployment rate over last year and in the last month for which numbers are available (August 2019) is above the state average for 41 of the 52 counties.

However, it is not just doom and gloom for the Appalachia Tennessee. In through October of 2019, Tennessee announced more than 4,400 job commitments and provided over $40,000,000 in grant funding in the ARC region.

FIGURE 1: Appalachian Tennessee Population and Income Statistics

County	2018 Population	Population Change (2010-2018)	Population Forecast (2025)	Per Capita Personal Income 2017	2018 Annual Average Wage
Anderson	76,482	1.8%	78,454	$40,847	$57,644
Bledsoe	14,755	14.6%	15,537	$25,705	$34,661
Blount	131,349	6.8%	140,526	$41,224	$47,286
Bradley	106,727	7.8%	112,242	$38,766	$41,752
Campbell	39,583	-2.8%	39,784	$33,042	$34,236
Cannon	14,462	4.8%	14,316	$35,489	$34,035
Carter	56,351	-1.9%	54,892	$33,506	$35,348
Claiborne	31,756	-1.4%	31,873	$34,635	$36,517
Clay	7,717	-1.8%	7,410	$31,134	$30,582
Cocke	35,774	0.3%	35,183	$31,362	$35,004
Coffee	55,700	5.5%	58,376	$38,205	$45,688
Cumberland	59,673	6.5%	63,521	$36,038	$33,682
DeKalb	20,138	7.6%	20,062	$38,720	$38,591
Fentress	18,217	1.4%	18,443	$31,462	$32,364
Franklin	41,890	2.0%	42,246	$37,556	$37,582
Grainger	23,145	2.2%	23,742	$32,317	$38,480
Greene	69,087	0.4%	70,417	$38,967	$38,911
Grundy	13,346	-2.6%	12,681	$30,407	$28,207
Hamblen	64,569	3.2%	66,971	$36,017	$40,177
Hamilton	364,286	8.3%	383,388	$50,196	$49,905
Hancock	6,549	-4.0%	6,295	$26,422	$27,291
Hawkins	56,530	-0.5%	56,262	$33,439	$41,966
Jackson	11,758	1.0%	11,944	$30,370	$33,108
Jefferson	54,012	5.1%	56,842	$34,362	$42,761
Johnson	17,778	-2.6%	17,693	$31,464	$42,227
Knox	465,289	7.6%	491,829	$48,160	$49,674
Lawrence	43,734	4.5%	44,031	$33,845	$35,125
Lewis	12,086	-0.6%	11,785	$33,294	$32,029
Loudon	53,054	9.3%	56,835	$46,183	$44,331
McMinn	53,285	1.9%	54,415	$35,084	$43,282
Macon	24,265	9.1%	25,575	$33,041	$33,125
Marion	28,575	1.2%	29,494	$37,473	$37,616
Meigs	12,306	4.7%	12,445	$33,347	$38,972
Monroe	46,357	4.1%	48,124	$32,283	$39,416
Morgan	21,579	-1.9%	22,211	$28,699	$35,191
Overton	22,068	-0.1%	22,775	$32,445	$35,998
Pickett	5,082	0.1%	5,065	$39,171	$31,239
Polk	16,898	0.4%	17,136	$33,290	$31,305
Putnam	78,843	9.0%	82,150	$38,688	$39,413
Rhea	33,044	3.9%	33,990	$34,267	$44,588
Roane	53,140	-1.9%	52,427	$39,763	$66,013
Scott	22,039	-0.9%	22,053	$28,721	$31,960

Sequatchie	14,876	5.4%	16,437	$36,691	$32,424
Sevier	97,892	8.9%	108,834	$38,114	$31,246
Smith	19,942	4.0%	20,473	$36,759	$42,779
Sullivan	157,668	0.5%	155,767	$41,431	$49,141
Unicoi	17,761	-3.0%	17,802	$36,779	$44,734
Union	19,688	3.0%	19,515	$30,686	$35,414
Van Buren	5,765	3.9%	5,565	$30,793	$32,435
Warren	40,878	2.6%	40,978	$33,483	$39,180
Washington	128,607	4.6%	137,542	$42,002	$41,929
White	27,107	4.9%	27,885	$32,207	$35,149
Tennessee	**6,770,010**	**6.7%**	**7,148,217**	**$45,517**	**$50,450**

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates; UT CBER 2016 Population Projections; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics QCEW; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

FIGURE 2: Appalachian Tennessee Employment Statistics

County	Labor Force Aug. 2019	Employed Workers Aug. 2019	Unemployed Workers Aug. 2019	Unemploy-ment Rate Aug. 2019	12 Month Unemploy-ment Rate (Aug. 2018 - Aug. 2019)
Anderson	35,358	34,135	1,223	3.5%	-0.5%
Bledsoe	4,372	4,157	215	4.9%	-1.2%
Blount	64,388	62,394	1,994	3.1%	-0.2%
Bradley	50,732	48,850	1,882	3.7%	-0.2%
Campbell	15,189	14,547	642	4.2%	-0.6%
Cannon	6,629	6,411	218	3.3%	0.0%
Carter	24,382	23,397	985	4.0%	-0.3%
Claiborne	13,371	12,826	545	4.1%	-0.2%
Clay	2,754	2,587	167	6.1%	1.3%
Cocke	15,509	14,872	637	4.1%	-0.4%
Coffee	26,753	25,875	878	3.3%	-0.2%
Cumberland	24,305	23,324	981	4.0%	-0.2%
DeKalb	7,920	7,602	318	4.0%	-0.6%
Fentress	7,394	7,049	345	4.7%	0.2%
Franklin	20,390	19,716	674	3.3%	-0.2%
Grainger	9,751	9,383	368	3.8%	-0.3%
Greene	30,544	29,128	1,416	4.6%	-0.4%
Grundy	5,050	4,855	195	3.9%	-0.5%
Hamblen	28,027	26,923	1,104	3.9%	-0.1%
Hamilton	184,893	178,691	6,202	3.4%	-0.2%
Hancock	2,140	2,012	128	6.0%	0.6%
Hawkins	24,493	23,482	1,011	4.1%	-0.1%
Jackson	4,741	4,536	205	4.3%	-0.7%
Jefferson	24,477	23,579	898	3.7%	-0.3%
Johnson	7,880	7,627	253	3.2%	-0.3%
Knox	248,372	241,056	7,316	2.9%	-0.3%
Lawrence	19,022	18,261	761	4.0%	-0.1%
Lewis	5,262	5,077	185	3.5%	-0.5%
Loudon	23,701	22,900	801	3.4%	-0.2%
McMinn	23,563	22,660	903	3.8%	-0.3%
Macon	11,468	11,107	361	3.1%	-0.4%
Marion	12,594	12,039	555	4.4%	-0.6%
Meigs	5,269	5,043	226	4.3%	-0.2%
Monroe	20,638	19,901	737	3.6%	-0.2%
Morgan	8,098	7,780	318	3.9%	-0.7%
Overton	10,347	9,989	358	3.5%	-0.2%
Pickett	2,519	2,422	97	3.9%	-0.2%
Polk	7,359	7,041	318	4.3%	0.0%
Putnam	35,159	33,913	1,246	3.5%	-0.3%
Rhea	13,244	12,527	717	5.4%	-0.4%

Roane	23,944	22,982	962	4.0%	-0.3%
Scott	8,739	8,360	379	4.3%	0.0%
Sequatchie	6,229	5,958	271	4.4%	-0.1%
Sevier	57,323	55,876	1,447	2.5%	-0.4%
Smith	9,500	9,221	279	2.9%	-0.2%
Sullivan	72,254	69,630	2,624	3.6%	-0.2%
Unicoi	7,198	6,858	340	4.7%	-0.3%
Union	7,712	7,415	297	3.9%	-0.3%
Van Buren	2,101	2,011	90	4.3%	-0.6%
Warren	16,943	16,275	668	3.9%	-0.1%
Washington	60,806	58,661	2,145	3.5%	-0.3%
White	12,265	11,797	468	3.8%	-0.2%
Tennessee	**3,351,428**	**3,237,976**	**113,452**	**3.4%**	**-0.3%**

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is not seasonally adjusted

Governor's Goals, Priorities and Programs

Governor Lee was elected in November 2018 and assumed office on January 19, 2019. During his first State of the State address he prioritized four key policy objectives: deliver a world class education system aligned with the job creators of today and tomorrow; build a better criminal justice system that is tough, smart and above all, just; access to high-quality healthcare that is affordable; and a government that is operated with integrity, effectiveness and as little cost as possible.

Education

The first legislative initiative for Governor Lee was the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) to expand access to vocational and technical training for Tennessee students. It aims to build public-private partnerships and doubles the dual enrollment offerings. The public-private partnership will utilize regional networks to develop work-based learning and apprenticeship opportunities and will allow for local communities to access grant funding for flexible programs the best reflect what private industry needs. The dual enrollment offering will provide funding for high school juniors and seniors to utilize four, fully-funded dual enrollment credits for trade and technical programs.

Job Creation and Economic Development

Tennessee was named "Best Business Climate" according to *Business Facilities* magazine for 2019. Since the beginning of the Lee administration, TNECD has announced 12,337 job commitments representing $2.7B in capital investment (as of October, 2019).

Governor Lee has set a vision for Tennessee to be the number one state in the Southeast for high-quality jobs. The Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) has been tasked with helping to reach that vision and has set five long-term objectives: have the highest personal income per capita in the Southeast, have the lowest unemployment rate in the Southeast, have the highest labor force participation rate in the Southeast, lower the number of distressed counties to 10 by 2025, and achieve annual improvement in county economic status ranking (as measured by ARC) in 70% of rural counties.

Community and Economic Development Programs

On January 23, 2019, just four days after assuming office, Governor Lee issued Executive Order 1 which instructed each state department to issue a "Statement of Rural Impact" which included how their mission impacts rural Tennesseans, number of taxpayers and customers served by each department who live in a rural community, comprehensive description of the initiatives adopted or funded in the last four years to address challenges unique to rural communities and a summary of each department's participation, and status of specific initiatives identified, in the Governor's Rural Task Force convened under former Governor Haslam.

Governor Lee's focus on rural development is primarily carried out through programs described below in TNECD's Rural Development division that also manages the ARC program.

Through the ThreeStar program, Governor Lee has set the focus on asset-based strategic planning with a focus on workforce development. Each year the communities develop asset-based plans and goals and receive a "report card" showing their status and how they progressed over the previous year on various indicators to be able to evaluate the success of their community development initiatives and how they relate to the rest of the state.

The Broadband Accessibility Grant program provides grant funding to broadband providers to expand broadband service to underserved or unserved areas of the State. Funding has increased each year from $10M in FY17 to $20M in FY19.

The Select Tennessee program provides opportunities for communities to develop their available sites for industrial development. Through the certification program, site selection consultants certify qualified sites that are then marketed by TNECD. The Site Development Grant program offers assistance to certified sites and those working toward certification to make improvements. And the Property Evaluation Program helps communities evaluate potential sites and prioritize their investment into sites.

The Tennessee Main Street program helps communities develop their downtown business districts, and the Tennessee Downtowns program provides a structure that is based on Main Street principles for communities who may just be getting started on downtown revitalization.

The Rural Hospital Transformation program provides healthcare consulting services for rural hospitals to develop plans to ensure their financial viability and ability to continue to provide necessary healthcare services. The transformation plan assesses viability, identifies new delivery models, identifies strategic partnerships, and recommends necessary operational changes.

The Tennessee Placemakers Entrepreneurship Fund is a pool of monetary resources dedicated to assisting communities across the state to develop and train entrepreneurs and small business owners in three categories: assess and plan, build and sustain, and support and train.

The Tourism Enhancement Grant program provides funding to help communities improve their tourism assets and increase tourism-related economic impact.

Federal funding is also important, and the Rural Development division manages the Community Development Block Grant program that assists communities primarily with infrastructure improvements.

Through these programs and the economic development incentives offered by TNECD through the FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program and Job Skills Training programs, communities have a toolkit for economic and community development that prepares them for success.

Additionally in Appalachia, there is a great need for development of the highway system. Many of the Tennessee ARC counties do not have high-quality roads. In order for the communities to experience economic development and job creation in the 21st century, the highway system must be safe, reliable and easy to travel. Tennessee continues to support the completion of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) and will continue to use ADHS funds for local access roads that help create jobs.

Alignment of State Priorities with Appalachian Regional Commission Goals

As a part of the celebration of ARC's 50th Anniversary in 2015, the Commission looked at their successes over the last 50 years as well as their goals for the coming years. The outcome was a new strategic plan: Investing in Appalachia's Future – The Appalachian Regional Commission's Five-Year Strategic Plan for Capitalizing on Appalachia's Opportunities, 2016-2020. With input from community members across the region, the Board, the staff, local and state partners and others, the ARC developed five goals. Each of the goals will be implemented by Tennessee through the strategies and objectives listed below.

ARC Investment Goal 1: Economic Opportunities – Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy

    State Objective 1.1: Develop entrepreneurs and local businesses through the State's entrepreneur center system and other initiatives.

    State Objective 1.2: Develop the infrastructure needed to create new jobs.

    State Objective 1.3: Create jobs in areas that align with the state's job clusters.

    State Objective 1.4: Increase international exports from the ARC region.

    State Objective 1.5: Develop the broadband infrastructure needed to create jobs, educate students and assist with workforce development across the region.

    State Objective 1.6: Increase the number of marketable industrial sites.

ARC Investment Goal 2: Ready Workforce – Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachian

    State Objective 2.1: Align programs with Governor Lee's "GIVE" program.

    State Objective 2.2: Provide training opportunities for the current and future workforce.

    State Objective 2.3: Provide infrastructure and equipment needed for workforce development.

    State Objective 2.4: Increase educational attainment in the Appalachian region through Tennessee Promise and Reconnect.

    State Objective 2.5: Increase access to STEAM training throughout the education system.

    State Objective 2.6: Improve the health of the workforce and access to high-quality, affordable healthcare.

ARC Investment Goal 3: Critical Infrastructure – Invest in critical infrastructure – especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems

    State Objective 3.1: Provide quality basic infrastructure including water and sewer infrastructure in distressed counties and distressed areas.

    State Objective 3.2: Increase the availability of broadband through investment in broadband infrastructure.

State Objective 3.3: Promote the completion of the Appalachian Development Highway System and local access roads.

State Objective 3.4: Invest in infrastructure that supports the creation of new jobs in the industrial and tourism sectors.

State Objective 3.5: Increase the availability of adequate industrial sites for job creation.

ARC Investment Goal 4: Natural and Cultural Assets – Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region's natural and cultural heritage assets

State Objective 4.1: Develop and preserve natural and cultural assets.

State Objective 4.2: Develop local food assets.

State Objective 4.3: Develop tourism opportunities based on assets.

State Objective 4.4: Promote the Region's natural and cultural assets.

ARC Investment Goal 5: Leadership and Community Capacity – Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development

State Objective 5.1: Develop leaders who understand asset-based economic and community development.

State Objective 5.2: Improve public safety and public health.

State Objective 5.3: Plan for strong, sustainable economic development.

State Objective 6.1: Decrease the number of distressed counties to 10 by 2025.

Tennessee ARC Operating Policies

Ineligible Activities

There are certain types of projects which are inappropriate for federal funding. Except for very unusual circumstances, which will be documented, the following types of activities will not be eligible for ARC funding in Tennessee:

1. Projects that would result in the relocation of business enterprises from another state to Tennessee.

2. Funding commitments that will influence the location of new industry or the expansion of existing business enterprises within the state. This restriction, however, will not extend to assisting a community in meeting the infrastructure or social demands that may be placed on it by a business that has already decided to locate or expand.

3. Projects that are related to the general operation of local governments. This would include the construction of city halls, courthouses, jails, fire halls, etc., as well as salaries and operating costs related to these governmental functions. This restriction will not, however, extend to programs operated by local governments that provide direct service to the residents of Appalachian Tennessee such as education or health services.

4. Political activities of any kind, at the local, state or national level.

Grant Rates

Distressed counties may be funded to the maximum 80 percent ARC funding; At-Risk counties will be eligible for 70 percent. Transitional counties may be funded to the maximum 50 percent ARC funding, and total federal funding for all projects will be limited to 80 percent. These percentages apply to construction projects. Non-construction projects may have different requirements.

For multi-county projects, if half or more of the counties participating are distressed, the project may be funded at 80 percent. If less than half but at least one of the participating counties are distressed counties, ARC assistance may be limited to the higher of 50 percent or the average percentage applicable to the various counties in the project. If a multi-county project includes at least one competitive county but no distressed counties, funding will be limited to the average percentage applicable to the various counties in the project.

Development district funding is at 75 percent with the remaining 25 percent as non-federal if a district has at least one distressed county. Four of Tennessee's five Appalachian developments have at least one distressed county.

Maximum Grants

Grant amounts will not exceed $500,000 in most cases. However, for very large and complex projects with high total costs, a $500,000 maximum grant may place an inordinate burden of funding on the local government. Therefore, projects which reach the $500,000 ceiling will be individually evaluated against

the financial ability of the potential grantee, and grants in excess of $500,000 will be recommended if warranted.

Exceptions Authorized

Applications may be submitted at any time if job creation is an outcome. Potential grantees should discuss the project and a potential application with the Program Manager.

The state fully intends to implement the above policies as stated. The state also recognizes that there may be instances where one size does not fit all, and unusual conditions will warrant exceptions. It is not possible at this time, however, to identify conditions which will warrant exceptions because this will be different in each situation. Therefore, each situation which warrants an exemption to the state's base policies will be fully explained when the application is submitted.

Notices

The state sends emails to eligible grantees when pre-applications are due. The information is also given to the development districts and consultants.

Development Districts

Local Development Districts (www.tennesseedevelopmentdistricts.org) are enabled by state statute and organized by local governments to provide planning and technical assistance to the governmental entities in their areas.

Tennessee relies on the development districts for regional and local planning, project development, application preparation and grant administration. These are useful services, especially in the rural areas and distressed counties. This will continue, and the state will look for additional opportunities to strengthen the development districts. The development districts that serve the ARC region are FTDD, ETDD, SETDD, UCDD and SCTDD.

Timeline

Additional project information including the pre-application, when available, is at https://www.tn.gov/ecd/community-development-block-grant/appalachian-regional-commission.html.

Pre-applications are available in the fall and are emailed to local governments, local development districts and non-profit and community agencies that have indicated interest in the program. Pre-applications will generally be due in early December. Notifications that full applications will be accepted and submitted to ARC occurs in the Spring. Full applications are due to ARC approximately six weeks after they are requested.

Applications are reviewed by TNECD for eligibility and alignment with the ARC and State goals and priorities. Applications are ranked based on impact to community, alignment with goals of ARC and the State, feasibility of the project approach, ability of the community or organization to fund the project on

their own, timeline, and on outputs, outcomes and performance measures. All projects must also be approved by the Governor's office.

Construction projects must have a preliminary engineering report included with the pre-application. Additional funding required must be fully committed before the project can receive final approval.