

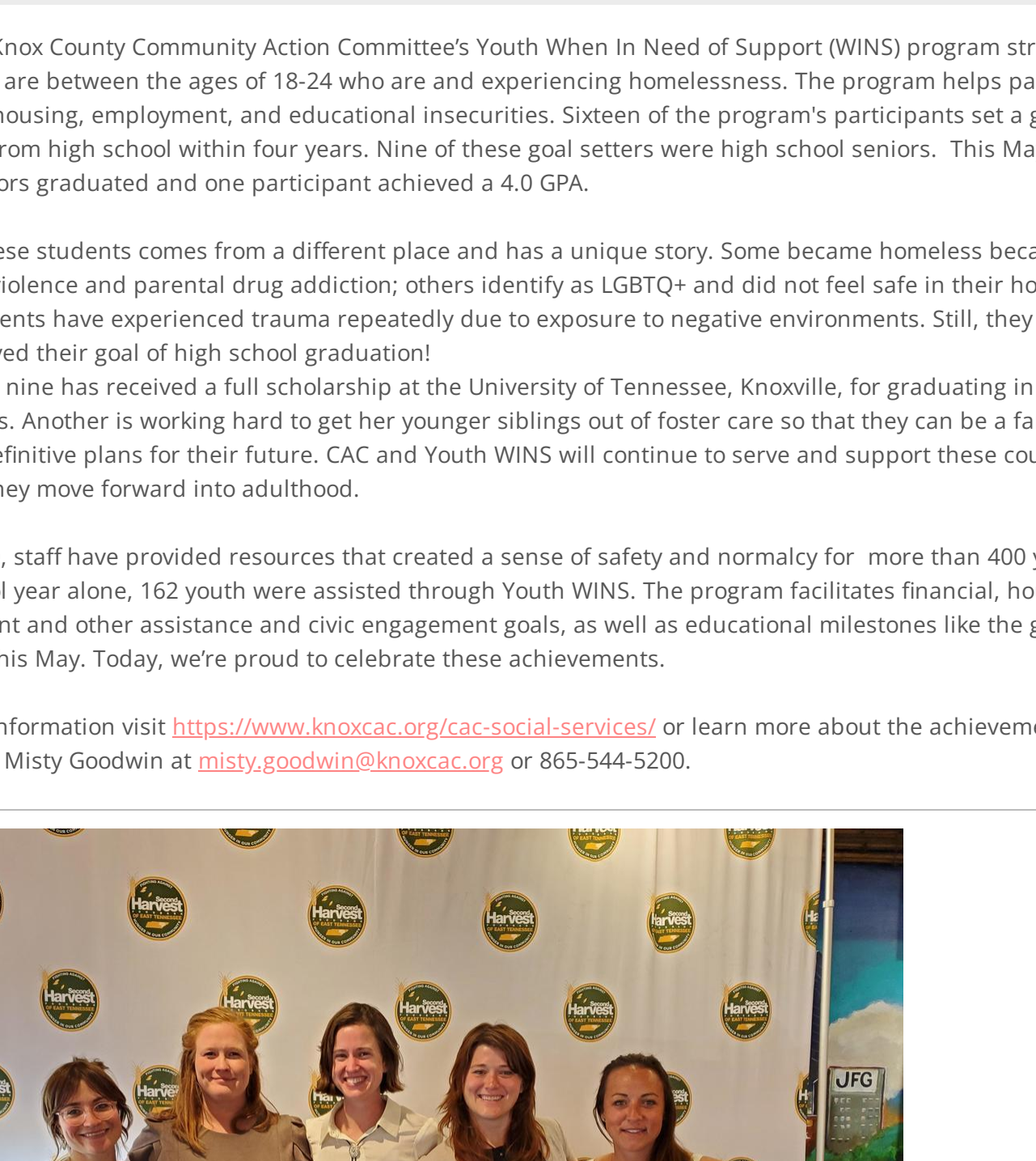


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Primary Call To Action

Agency Wins



Pomp and Circumstance: Great Graduations! Nine of Nine Accomplish Their Goals in May 2023!



Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee's Youth When In Need of Support (WINS) program strives to help youth who are between the ages of 18-24 who are and experiencing homelessness. The program helps participants deal with housing, employment, and educational insecurities. Sixteen of the program's participants set a goal to graduate from high school within four years. Nine of these goal setters were high school seniors. This May, all nine of these seniors graduated and one participant achieved a 4.0 GPA.

Each of these students comes from a different place and has a unique story. Some became homeless because of domestic violence and parental drug addiction; others identify as LGBTQ+ and did not feel safe in their home. Many of these students have experienced trauma repeatedly due to exposure to negative environments. Still, they persevered and achieved their goal of high school graduation!

One of the nine has received a full scholarship at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for graduating in the top 10% of her class. Another is working hard to get her younger siblings out of foster care so that they can be a family again. All have definitive plans for their future. CAC and Youth WINS will continue to serve and support these courageous youth as they move forward into adulthood.

Since 2020, staff have provided resources that created a sense of safety and normalcy for more than 400 youth. This past school year alone, 162 youth were assisted through Youth WINS. The program facilitates financial, housing, employment and other assistance and civic engagement goals, as well as educational milestones like the graduations achieved this May. Today, we're proud to celebrate these achievements.

For more information visit <https://www.knoxcac.org/cac-social-services/> or learn more about the achievement by contacting Misty Goodwin at misty.goodwin@knoxcac.org or 865-544-5200.



Knoxville-Knox County CAC Beardsley Farm: Innovative Partnerships Recognition!

On April 20, 2023, the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) Beardsley Community Farm received the "Innovative Partner of the Year" award from Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee. The award recognized Beardsley's effective process for distributing of fresh produce from the food bank's Reclamation Program and use of the local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) grant.

Here's how Beardsley's Fresh Produce Distribution program works:

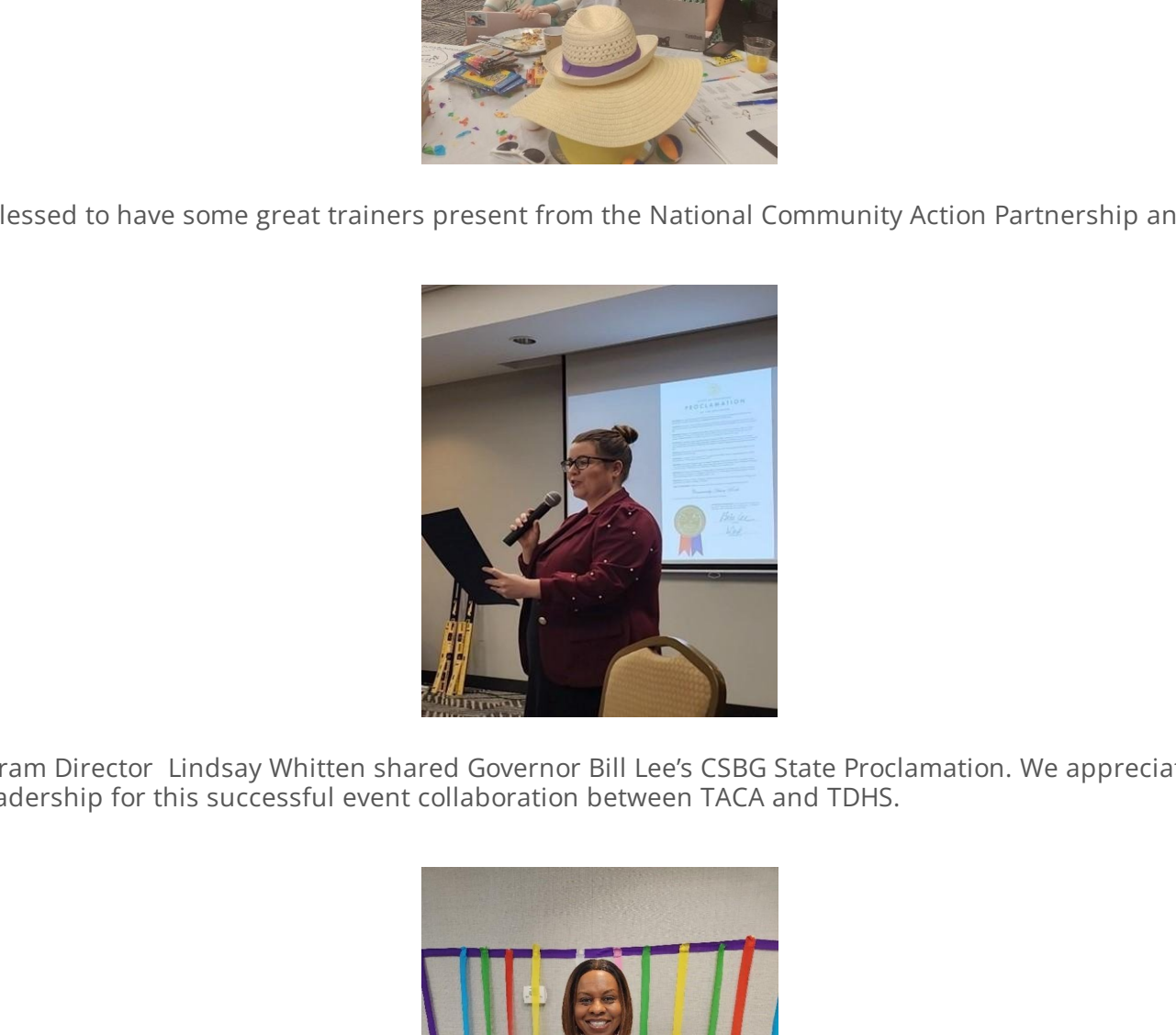
Beardsley Farm orders produce through Second Harvest that would otherwise be thrown away by grocery stores and distributes it bi-weekly to KCDC and refugee clients.

During peak growing season, Beardsley adds its own produce (including culturally appropriate foods such as intore and lenga-lenga—crops that are important to the diets of many of our community's refugee families) into the bags. Beardsley also utilizes Second Harvest's LFPA grant to support local farms by buying eggs and produce used to supplement the food bags.

Once the produce and eggs are gathered, it is all packed into bags and delivered by volunteers to refugee families bi-weekly (feeding 135 individuals each distribution) and by staff to sites managed by our local housing authority, Knox County Community Development Corporation, monthly (feeding 150 individuals). An average of 418 individuals are provided approximately 4,200 pounds of produce through this program each month.

<https://www.knoxcac.org/beardsley-community-farm/>

If you want to learn more about the achievement contact: Charlotte Rodina, charlotte.rodina@knoxcac.org, 865-546-8446



Milestone: Senior Companions Celebrate 35 Years of Service!

The Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee's Senior Companion Program began serving Knoxville in 1988. Under the umbrella of CAC Office on Aging and AmeriCorps Seniors, this national service initiative mobilizes older adults to address social isolation and promote independent living. This free service is a lifeline for individuals living alone and family care partners on the brink of burnout and those supporting individuals with memory loss.

Senior Companion volunteers provide life changing friendship and essential in-home support to frail, isolated, and homebound older adults. Volunteer service activities include companionship, shopping assistance, light cleaning, aid with medical appointments, resource support, and advocacy for individuals they serve. Over the past 35 years, 2,000 volunteers have completed over 1.75 million hours of service, helping over 8,000 seniors, and saving taxpayers over 35 million dollars.

The rich history of this program continues to empower individuals to age with dignity, resources, and purpose.

If you want to learn more about the achievement contact: Deisha Finley, deisha.finley@knoxseniors.org, 865-524-2786 or

<https://www.knoxcac.org/office-on-aging/>

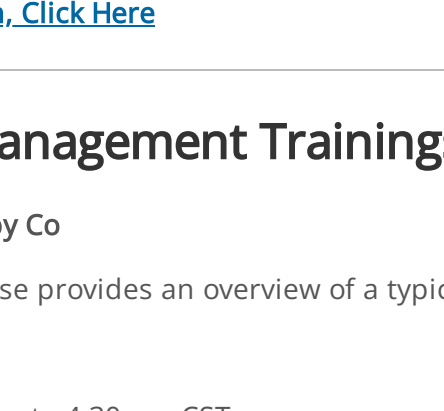
Submit Your Agency's Win

Has your agency broken new ground, increased services, achieved a milestone, or created an innovative experience? Our "Agency Wins" column spotlights innovative programs, services, achievements, community awards, and accomplishments from agencies across the state. If there's an activity or agency accomplishment you're proud of, we want to hear from you. Your story can inspire others.

Submit Your Agency Win

The Best Play Book

Shout Out! As always proud of all our agencies, but let's give a little extra praise....



The CSBG Team would like to send a great big shout out to the Shelby County Community Services Agency for the hard work they are doing to keep staff up to date on the tools needed to help current, new and returning customers find assistance!

We'd like to send an extra special shout out to:

- Stephanie Duckett:** Thank you for going above and beyond to make sure our members have the chance for a self-enrollment into Data Security Awareness Training by sending in a 2730c for all users without request. We appreciate her efforts!
- Yulonda Rhodes:** Thank you for utilizing Facebook Live at every opportunity as a communication tool to share the team's location and invite customers to come out and apply for services. We love watching your service in action!

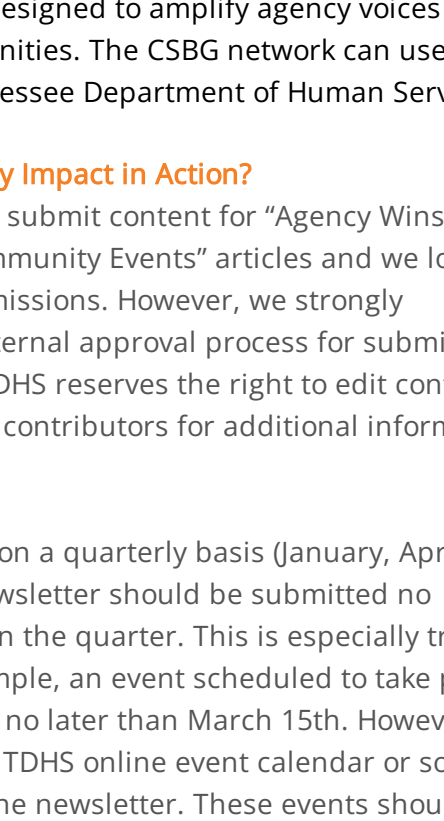
Tell Us Your Best Plays!

We want to know what the best practices are for your agency's service delivery/administration or if there is advice you'd like to share with others as they work to serve communities in our state.

Share a Best Play

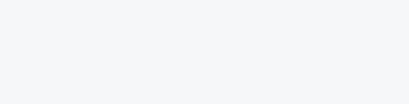
Team Highlights

2023 TACA Conference – A Joyful Occasion



We appreciate each agency and their staff who attended this year's Tennessee Association of Community Action (TACA) Conference.

Stay posted as we post more outreach, motivational experience, and knowledge from participating agencies!



We were blessed to have some great trainers present from the National Community Action Partnership and BLI.

CSBG Program Director Lindsay Whitten shared Governor Bill Lee's CSBG State Proclamation. We appreciate Kreda Yokley's leadership for this successful event collaboration between TACA and TDHS.

Seems everyone had a great time as outreach staff got to slow down and focus on time together with team members and colleagues.

Policy Updates You Should Know

Just in Case You Missed It:

The Multi Year Community Action Plan is due August 25, 2023. Watch the CSBG website for notifications and access to new training modules!

- 2023 Training and Technical Assistance Survey Results**
 - Participants: 68
 - Executive Director/Deputy Director 8.82% (9)
 - Financial Accounting, Human Resources 2.64% (2)
 - Information Technology (0)
 - Program Manager/Supervisor 19.12% (13)
 - Case Management/Outreach Staff/Other 32.35% (22)
- Top Trainings/TA Topics by Need (50%+)**
 - 63.45% Communicating Activities and Results
 - 59.70% General Communication
 - 55.88% Leadership Development
 - 55.22% Measuring Community Level work
 - 55.22% Communicating Engagement Volunteers- General Strategies
 - 55.22% Tracking Demographics and Services
 - 54.55% Financial Empowerment
 - 54.41% Risk Assessment
 - 53.73% Tracking Customer Outcomes
 - 53.73% Creating a Common Agenda
- Top Trainings by Urgent Need**
 - 23.88% Compensation and Benefits
 - 18.18% Self-Care
 - 17.65% Emerging Leaders
 - 16.42% Analysis of Causes and Conditions of Poverty
 - 16.18% Leadership Development
 - 14.93% Fund Development
 - 14.93% Building Partnerships Across Sectors
 - 13.64% Volunteers - General
 - 13.43% Financial Development
 - 13.43% Staff Development

Happenings in Tennessee

The ALICE Essentials Index launched!

ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed and describes community member and households who "earn more than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but not enough to afford necessities." These community members cannot afford luxury items like fancy jewelry, a long vacation or often, even just a trip to the movies or other items included in the 200+ categories of goods and services tracked by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the standard measure of inflation in the U.S.

The increasing costs of household basics, the goods and services that matter most to ALICE, are concealed by the CPI's much larger basket of goods. [United For ALICE's](#) new [ALICE Essentials Index](#) focuses specifically on six categories of household essentials: housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan. Nationwide, the rise in the cost of these basics – 3.3% annually from 2007 to 2023 – outpaces the CPI's 2.5% annual rate of increase. When prices increase faster than wages, ALICE struggles to afford the same basket of goods they bought last year.

Key findings from the National Report include:

- Inflation particularly impacts the [52 million U.S. households \(41%\)](#) below the ALICE Threshold (poverty and ALICE). Household Pulse Survey respondents below the ALICE Threshold were twice as likely (59%) as respondents above the Threshold (31%) to report that the increase in prices in the prior two months had been very stressful (December 2022 to February 2023).
- The impact of inflation is cumulative: For example, a retail salesperson's buying power eroded by 4.5% from 2007 to 2022 – which equates to a loss of more than \$26,000 over 15 years – more than a year's full-time earnings.
- Despite tracking costs for a much larger basket of goods and services, the CPI is used to calculate increases in critical supports for low-income families, including Social Security and Medicaid. Because the CPI has increased more slowly than the ALICE Essentials Index, the effect of these programs erodes over time.

Please help us share via email – and social media: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

To learn more about the ALICE Essentials Index, to read the National Report, and to explore national, regional, and state-level inflation using the online dashboards, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Essentials-Index.

National Community Action Partnership 2023 Annual Convention

August 23-25, 2023, Atlanta Georgia

For details on [the 2023 Annual Convention](#), [Click Here](#)

Tennessee Emergency Management Trainings

- SAR101 TEMA Search Operations-Shelby Co**
 - This 8-hour awareness level course provides an overview of a typical state supported search operation (non-urban environment).
 - TLETA Post Certified
 - Prerequisites: None
 - When: September 6, 2023, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm CDT
 - Where: Shelby Co EMHS, 1075 Mullins Station Bldg C, Memphis, TN 38134
- S101- TEMA 101**
 - This one-day course is an introduction to TEMA and emergency management in Tennessee. This course covers the history of emergency management, hazards and Tennessee, the legal basis for emergency management, TEMA's organization both administratively and during disasters, as well as other introductory topics. The primary audience for this course is TEMA staff and state emergency services coordinators (ESC). Local emergency management directors may attend by coordinating with their regional office.
 - Prerequisites: None
 - When: September 6, 2023, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm CDT
 - Where: State Emergency Operations Center Suite Room, 3041 Sidco Dr. Nashville, TN 37204
 - Contact: TEMA.Training@tn.gov
- SAR125 GPS Land/Navigation-Carroll Co**
 - This course gives the participants a detailed understanding of GPS technology, topographical maps, coordinate systems, and mapping programs. Participants will be capable of relaying positioning information to search managers and receiving positioning instructions in order to move to directed search areas.
 - TLETA POST Certified
 - Recommended Prerequisites: SAR101 TEMA Search Operations
 - When: November 13, 2023 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm CST
 - Where: Lavinia Army National Guard Training Center, Building T-113, 325 Levina Gate Rd, Lavinia, TN 38348
 - Contact: Margaret.T.Waters@tn.gov
- G 191 ICS/EOC Interface (8-hr) Williamson Co.**
 - This one-day course provides an overview to the roles and responsibilities of first responders operating under the Incident Command System (ICS). Further, it explains how the Incident Commander and the IC staff interface with local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) during emergencies or disasters
 - Prerequisites: NONE
 - When: November 13, 2023 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CDT
 - Where: 304 Beasley Drive, Franklin, TN 37064
 - Contact: kathy.miller@tn.gov

Events from Tennessee State Parks and Department of Tourist Development

Have an upcoming happening? Please share!

Share an Upcoming Happening

Ask the Community

Community Impact in Action is meant to not only provide answers from the TDHS CSBG Office but also act as a "crowd-sourcing" forum. This column is an opportunity for agencies to pose questions to both the CSBG staff and other agencies. Agency staff members are encouraged to both ask questions and respond directly to questions from other agencies in the "Ask the Community" column.

Have a question for the Community?

Have a question for the TDHS CSBG team, want to know how other CSBG members are handling a problem, or are curious about a particular topic?

Submit a Question to the CSBG Network

About Community Impact in Action

Community Impact in Action is a quarterly e-newsletter that connects the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) network in Tennessee. The newsletter is designed to amplify agency voices across the state and increase communication and peer sharing opportunities. The CSBG network can use this newsletter as a forum to share information with each other and the Tennessee Department of Human Services CSBG team.

Who can make a submission to Community Impact in Action?

Any agency representative can create and submit content for "Agency Wins, the Best Play Book, Ask the Community or Community Events" articles and we look forward to reading and sharing your submissions. However, we strongly recommend that agencies establish an internal approval process for submitting content to Community Impact in Action. TDHS reserves the right to edit content and a representative may contact content contributors for additional information.

When to Make Submissions

Community Impact in Action is published on a quarterly basis (January, April, July, October) and submissions for the next newsletter should be submitted no later than the 15th day of the last month in the quarter. This is especially true for upcoming event submissions. For example, an event scheduled to take place in April, May or June should be submitted no later than March 15th. However, in some cases, events may be shared on the TDHS online event calendar or social media calendar without being shared in the newsletter. These events should be submitted no later than four weeks prior to the event.

Have questions about *Community Impact in Action* or related topics? Email the Tennessee Department of Human Services CSBG Office at CSBG.DHS@tn.gov with the subject line "Community Impact in Action Newsletter."

For the latest news from the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Follow @TNHumanServices

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