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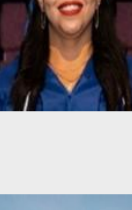
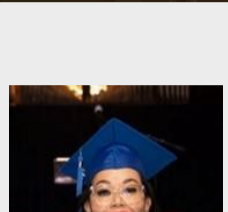
Agency Wins

Metropolitan Action Commission Celebrates its 32nd Annual Graduation Ceremony

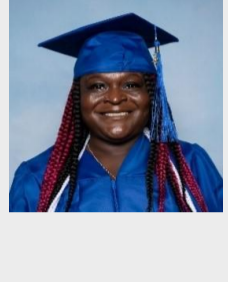
On September 16, 2022, the Metropolitan Action Commission (MAC) hosted its annual Graduation Ceremony at Trevecca Nazarene University. This recent Workforce Graduation reflects the agency's mission to provide a spirit of hope, help children and youth develop their potential, equip adults and families to achieve their goals, improve social and economic mobility, and advance well-being for people and communities. This year, fifty-four students received their diplomas and certificates through MAC's HISET/GED program, CompTIA A+ Certification, English as a Second Language (ESL), and EKG Technician certification programs. Eleven graduates were inducted into the Metro Action Honor Society and four HISET graduates are currently enrolled in college.

Student speeches were the graduation's highlight. One featured speaker, recent CompTIA A+ graduate Jessica Kelly, spoke about completing her certification and participating in an IT internship with the Justice Integration Service (JIS) department of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and announced that she was recently hired as an IT Specialist. Ms. Kelly spoke about both her struggles related to going back the school, and the joys of receiving three job offers to choose from after completing her CompTIA A+ certification. Her speech emphasized the opportunities that now lay before her and her fellow graduates after achieving such key milestones. One of the more memorable moments of her speech was the statement to her fellow graduates that "we no longer have to take whatever job we can get." Students Sherron Cooper, Shomari Elsberry, and Stephanie Rodriguez also shared their stories.

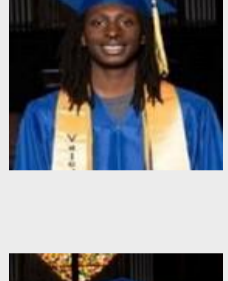
The Metropolitan [Action Commission's CompTIA A+ program](#) was selected by the Office of Community Services (OCS) as one of its Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) CARES Act Rapid-Cycle Impact Projects (RCIP) because of its success in helping Head Start parents as part of MAC's two generation initiatives.



Metro Action Commission Graduation Ceremony



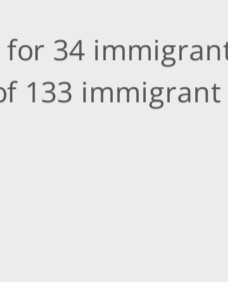
Pictured above: Graduate and Speaker Jessica Kelly



Pictured above: Graduate and Speaker Sherron Cooper



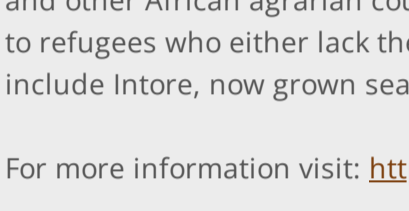
Pictured above: Graduate and Speaker Shomari Elsberry



Pictured above: Graduate and Speaker Stephanie Rodriguez

Feeding Families Farm to Table

Beardsley Community Farm provides on-site space for 34 immigrant and refugee families to grow food each year, and supports 99 off-site garden plots, assisting a total of 133 immigrant and refugee families.



The farm staff helps to prep the soil, provides access to water, and donates culturally appropriate seeds and plants to gardeners, who maintain large 10' by 15' tracts of land. These seeds include lenga-lenga, an amaranth green like spinach which is often used in stews, and intore, a large, white fruit similar to eggplant that can be substituted for meat.

The farm partners with Bridge Refugee Services, Inc., a local non-profit that provides services to refugees, to match clients in need of land access to gardening space. Most refugee gardeners are from the Republic of Congo, Burundi, and other African agrarian countries. The farm distributes bags of produce, averaging 14 pounds each, twice a month to refugees who either lack the skillset to grow or are not settled enough to manage their own garden plot. These bags include Intore, now grown seasonally at Beardsley Farm.

For more information visit: <https://www.beardsleyfarm.org/> or contact Lisa at lisa.higginbotham@knoxcac.org

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.



Best Play Book

A Social Power for Good

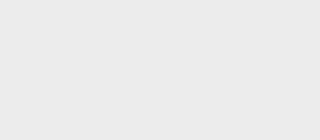
In today's world, SCHRA has found that social media is our best, most cost-effective means of outreach to clients. Almost everyone has a Facebook or Instagram account.



We are able to boost (pay for placement) ads to target specific service areas. For instance, if LIHEAP applications are low in a particular county, we can boost views in that specific geographical area. People who log into those platforms in those zip codes, will see more frequent views of LIHEAP

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.



Team Highlights

Tennessee Association of Human Resource Agencies Conference

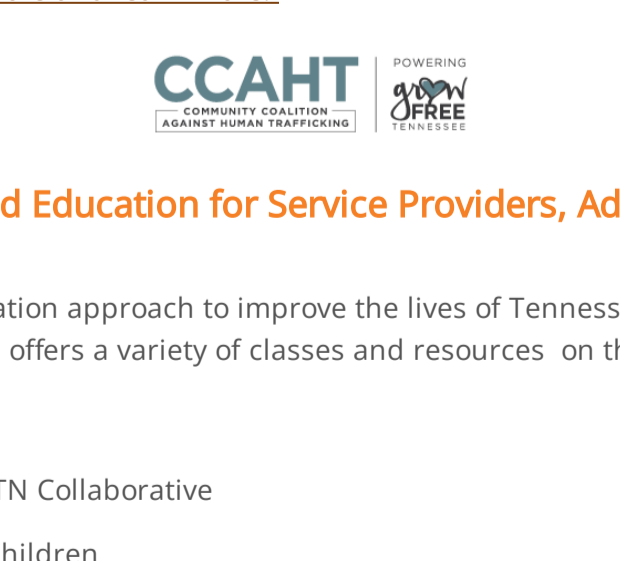
TAHRA (Tennessee Association of Human Resource Agencies) describes itself as "an effective statewide network to deliver social services to our communities...(that) builds strong partnerships with our funding sources, our community leaders, and our local, state, and federal officials." In August, TAHRA hosted a conference attended by staff from TDHS and human resource agencies across the state. For some attendees, this was the first in person conference attended since the COVID-19 changed business.

The event offered some great information and a variety of activities. Presentation topics included *Starting a Successful Daycare*; *Conflict Resolution*; *Deciding When It's Time to Stop, Start, or Change*. Attendees also participated in roundtables and TAHRA Bingo.

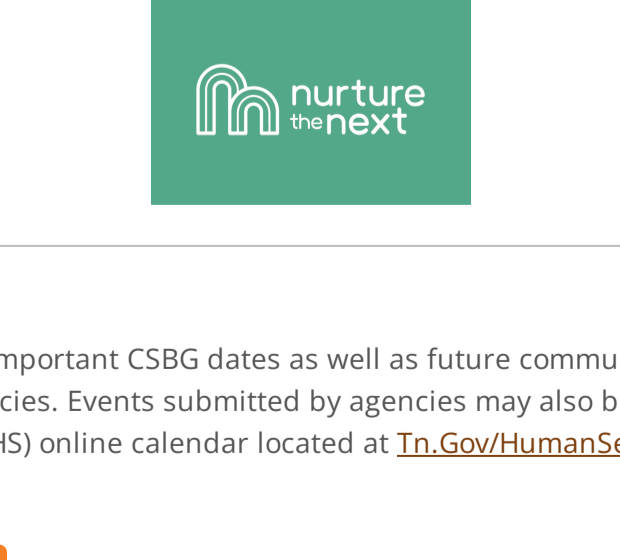
"It was really enjoyed, seeing people I knew, spending time with them, and getting to know everyone," said Administrative Services Assistant II Janet Cook, when describing the event. "Each guest speaker was so on point about what we do everyday, and they had so many great ideas for us to take and utilize in our daily transactions with our agencies, team members, and all of our vulnerable customers. I learned new things, refreshed on things we already do, and came away with a new understanding of just how we all can be more productive as part of a plan to take care of Tennessee!"



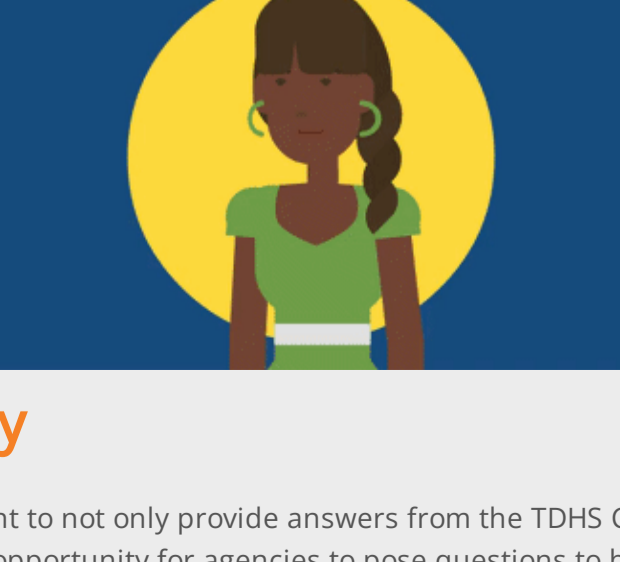
Pictured: Adrienne McGarity and Nikki Gray from Delta Human Resource Agency



TAHRA Bingo



TAHRA Conference Presentation



Pictured: Carol Childress, Lindsay Whittin, and Janet Cook from Tennessee Department of Human Services

Happenings in Tennessee

Webinar: Making Sense of Strategy: Protecting Our Communities Amidst COVID-19

Thursday, October 27, 2022

10:00 AM-11 AM CST

Join Rural Health Association of Tennessee and guest speaker Tennessee Department of Health COVID-19 Case and Community Support Team Lead Ashley Keese for a conversation on the current landscape of COVID-19 and Strategies for Protecting Our Communities.

Register and Learn more at TNRuralHealth.ORG/Events

Online Training: Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking Introductory Training

Based in Knoxville, the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CCAHT) serves 33 counties of East Tennessee, serving as the single point of contact Tennessee Counter-Trafficking Alliance (TCTA) partner for the East Tennessee region. CCAHT offers community education, an Anti-Trafficking Task Force, survivor care, and youth services.

The organization has several upcoming online training sessions to address:

- The prevalence of human trafficking in our community
- Myths and misconceptions of human trafficking
- An overview of identifying individuals who have been trafficked
- Who to report to if you suspect human trafficking

[Click Here to view the training schedule and learn more.](#)

Nurture the Next Training and Education for Service Providers, Advocates, Educators, Parents and Others

Nurture the Next takes a two-generation approach to improve the lives of Tennessee families through classes and support programs. The organization offers a variety of classes and resources on the following topics:

- Prevention for Parents
- Stewards of Children
- Building Strong Brains/Resilient TN Collaborative
- Show Resilience: Film Screen
- Impact of Domestic Violence on Children

[Click Here to learn about these resources or related training.](#)

Share an Upcoming Happening

TDHS will share information about important CSBG dates as well as future community events, fundraisers and happenings hosted by partner agencies. Events submitted by agencies may also be included on the Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) online calendar located at Tn.Gov/HumanServices/Events.html and TDHS social media pages.

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 team 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 Questions 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?

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.

Contact

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."

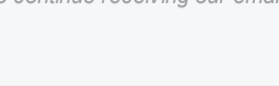
[Click Here to learn more about the Community Service Block Grant Program](#) or call 615-313-4892.

[Click Here to read previous editions of *Community Impact in Action*](#)



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