

QTRLY UPDATE

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**KNOX COUNTY
TENNESSEE**
GRANTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



KCGCD staff attended the NCD Winter Conference in Washington, DC.



KCGCD set up at the ETPA's Diversity Business Expo in March to promote Knox County's Home Rehab Program.

The Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau joins KCGCD!

The Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau has joined the Grants and Community Development Department's Public Safety Division. The mission of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to make Knox County a safe place to live, work, or visit by protecting its residents and guests from the ravages of fire. This is accomplished by conducting safety inspections of existing structures and new construction, developing proactive and diverse public education programs, and maintaining an aggressive fire investigation program. Along with Fire Marshal Kathy Saunders and Deputy Fire Marshal Travis Evans, five fire inspectors, a fire and safety educator, and an office manager have joined KCGCD.



UPCOMING DATES

4/15/2024

March invoices and reports are due for CDBG subrecipients.

Quarter 3 invoices and reports are due for Defined Service and SLFRF (ARPA) subrecipients.

4/17/2024: Knox County Annual Action Plan Public Comment Period ends.

5/15/2024: April invoices and reports are due for CDBG subrecipients.

6/15/2024: May invoices and reports are due for CDBG subrecipients.

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

April is National Fair Housing Month! On April 11, 1968, the Fair Housing Act, Title VIII Civil Rights Act of 1968 was signed into law, affirming the right to equal housing opportunity for all individuals. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, and familial status.

For this QTRLY UPDATE, we will focus on how Knox County and its partners are utilizing federal funds to foster fairness and equal opportunity.



At the March 2024 Knox County Commission Meeting, Mayor Glenn Jacobs proclaimed April *Fair Housing Month*. KCGCD staff attended to show their support.

Construction & Infrastructure - Habitat for Humanity

Safe, decent, and affordable housing is fundamental to a family forging a path to a better future. Quality housing is not only about having shelter but serves as a launching point for improved educational, employment, and health outcomes, and stands as a crucial avenue for families to build and pass down intergenerational wealth.

Partners like Knoxville Habitat for Humanity provide quality affordable housing opportunities through their developments. Once complete, their most recent development Ellen's Glen will provide 34 new affordable housing units in East Knox County. Knox County provided funding for the roads and infrastructure needed for the subdivision.



Housing Stability - MDC Recovery Support Fund

Finding a safe and supportive housing situation is often the first obstacle faced by individuals following treatment, incarceration, and/or unstable housing. Established in 2018, Metro Drug Coalition's Recovery Housing Support Fund provides aid to individuals who are not financially capable of paying the initial fee to enter a safe place that will further their recovery process.

Knox County's support of the Recovery Housing Support Fund empowers community members who are at their most vulnerable with the opportunity to change their lives by finding and sustaining long-term recovery in a safe, supportive environment.



Community Development - HomeSource Community Room

HomeSource East Tennessee collaborates closely with local governments, businesses, and private citizens to offer affordable and sustainable housing opportunities to the residents of Knox County. Knox County has allocated funding to assist HomeSource in expanding the community room that serves the residents of Riverbirch Village and Willow Place senior complexes, located in the northwestern part of the county. The expansion of the community room is a significant development; it not only provides additional space for an existing food bank, enhancing the support to the community, but also allows for an office dedicated to senior care coordination services. This enhancement is crucial for the well-being of the community's senior residents, offering them easier access to essential services. Additionally, the funding has facilitated the purchase of a generator, ensuring that in the event of an electrical outage, medically-vulnerable residents are safeguarded against extreme temperatures. The Community Room is slated to be completed at the end of May 2024.



Public Service Program - Sacred Ground Hospice House

Community Development goes beyond providing quality housing, it serves as the foundation for creating improved outcomes for communities, especially for low-to-moderate income persons. To support this, the County utilizes federal funding to support a wide variety of public services that benefit individuals and households in need.

Since partnering with Knox County, Sacred Ground has been able to provide end-of-life care to individuals experiencing homelessness and low-income individuals at no cost. Everyone deserves to die with dignity and affordability should not be the reason they cannot experience it.



Public Service Program - Olive Tree Early Learning Academy

The Olive Tree Early Learning Academy provides a whole-child approach to learning, serving children with trauma-responsive, affordable, high-quality early education. With the support of Knox County funding, Olive Tree fills the early education and childcare gap for working low-income single parents in Knox County. The Academy currently serves 68% low-income families and employs highly qualified staff.

By investing in early childhood education, Knox County is able to support Olive Tree in engaging with children at an early age which is critical for development and increased future educational and employment outcomes. Additionally, providing affordable and secure childcare allows adults to enter and stay in the workforce.



Knox County PY 2024 Annual Action Plan

KCGCD has released its Program Year 2024 Annual Action Plan, the final plan for the 2020 – 2024 Consolidated Plan. Knox County's Consolidated Plan establishes funding priorities, outlines strategies, and identifies yearly action plans for the CDBG and HOME programs offered through HUD. To qualify for Federal HUD funding, Knox County must complete a Consolidated Plan every five years and provide yearly updates. The Program Year 2024 Annual Action Plan describes how the County intends to utilize its upcoming allocation of HUD funding.

The public comment period for the Annual Action Plan is March 18 through April 17, 2024. Citizens are encouraged to share input on the plan. Comments may be submitted to Alanna McKissack by email to alanna.mckissack@knoxcounty.org, by phone at 865-215-5253, or mailed to KCGCD, 400 Main Street, Suite 364 Knoxville, TN 37902. The County will incorporate all comments received into the proposed plan.

A draft copy of the Annual Action Plan is available at <https://knoxcounty.org/communitydevelopment/>.