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The Community Information Hub: Your Community's One-Stop Shop

Connected Communities Webinar Series

October 8, 2024

Meet Today's Speakers

Georgia Caruthers

Senior Project Lead –
Connected Communities, TVA

Christian Bergland

Managing Consultant,
Guidehouse

Lyle Hoge

Consultant, Guidehouse

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Welcome

- Updates from the Connected Communities Team
  - **Georgia Caruthers**, TVA
- Community Information Hub Overview
  - **Christian Bergland**, Guidehouse
- Resource Database
  - **Lyle Hoge**, Guidehouse
- Funding Database
  - **Lyle Hoge**, Guidehouse
- Community Maps Overview
  - **Christian Bergland**, Guidehouse
- Community Assessment Tool Walkthrough
  - **Christian Bergland**, Guidehouse
- Q&A
- Close Out

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The Latest From Connected Communities

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Accelerating Progress and Overcoming Challenges

We're helping communities embrace technology and data solutions to overcome their challenges and prepare to be part of the energy system of the future.

FOCUS AREAS

Broadband and Digital Literacy

Economic Empowerment

Energy and Environmental Justice

Enhanced Community Resiliency

RESOURCES

Community Information Hub and Website

Tailored Support and Success Coaching through Partnerships
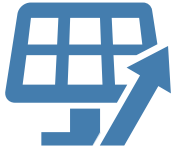
Pilot Project Funding

Network to Share Information and Success Models

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Conference Overview

HIGHLIGHTS

- September 24 – 25 in Franklin, TN

- Approximately 150 attendees including:
  - Community leaders
  - TVA leaders
  - State / regional / federal stakeholders leading work related to initiative focus areas

- Attendees participated in a Pilot Project Tour, exploring Cheatham County School District's solar and storage system

- Attendees heard from over 30 panelists about their experiences working in collaboration with our initiative to make progress in our four focus areas

- We can't wait for next year!

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Upcoming Webinar

Solar for All:
Leveraging Federal funds to advance your community's priorities

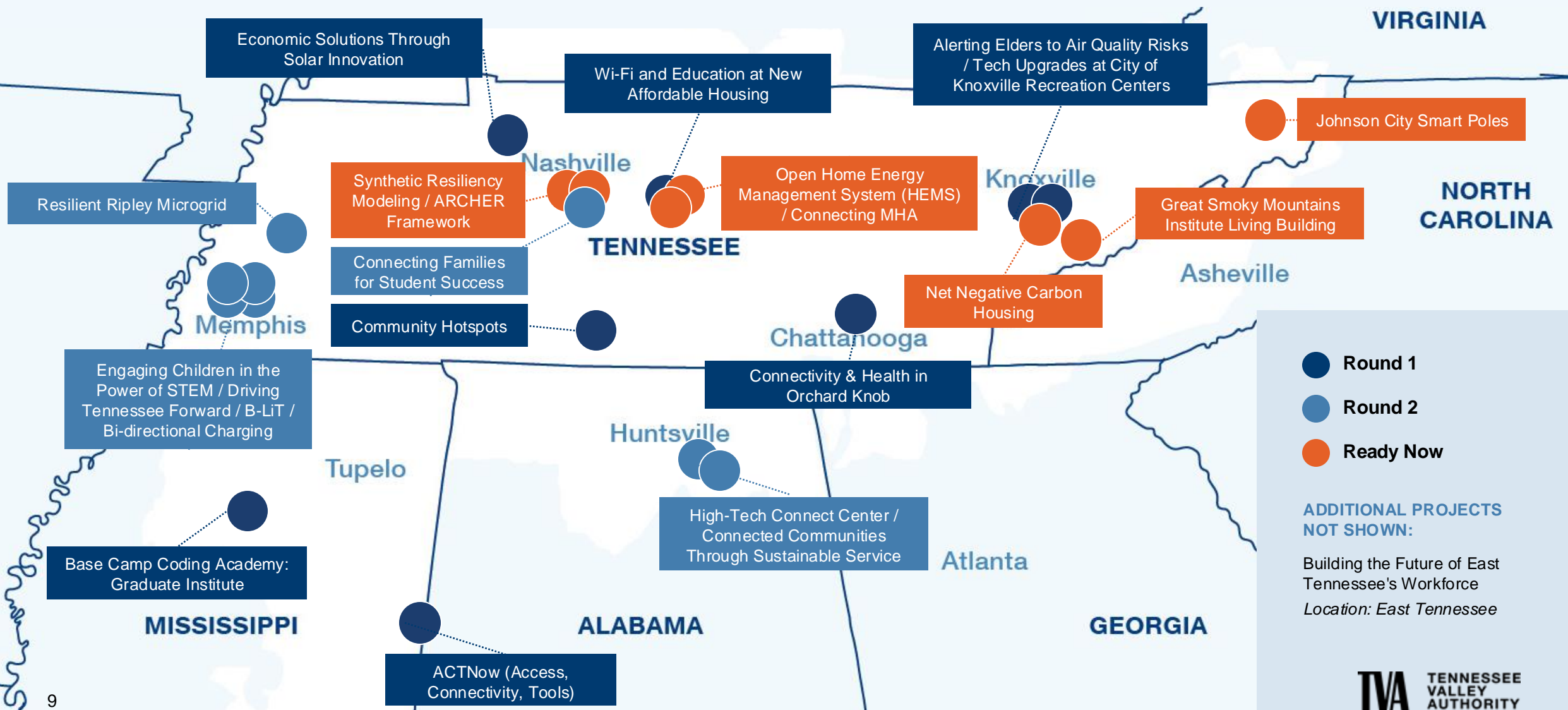Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET

REGISTER NOW

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Community Partnerships: Recruiting Round 2

Mayfield, KY

Hopkinsville, KY

Rockwood & Harriman, TN

Juice Orange Mound

Memphis Metropolitan Land Bank

Grundy County, TN

Bedford County, TN

Fayetteville, TN

Athens, AL

Kemper County, MS

Round 1
Round 2

Pilot Project Portfolio

Economic Solutions Through Solar Innovation

Wi-Fi and Education at New Affordable Housing

Alerting Elders to Air Quality Risks / Tech Upgrades at City of Knoxville Recreation Centers

Johnson City Smart Poles

Synthetic Resiliency Modeling / ARCHER Framework

Open Home Energy Management System (HEMS) / Connecting MHA

Great Smoky Mountains Institute Living Building

Resilient Ripley Microgrid

Connecting Families for Student Success

Net Negative Carbon Housing

Community Hotspots

Engaging Children in the Power of STEM / Driving Tennessee Forward / B-LiT / Bi-directional Charging

Connectivity & Health in Orchard Knob

Base Camp Coding Academy: Graduate Institute

High-Tech Connect Center / Connected Communities Through Sustainable Service

ACTNow (Access, Connectivity, Tools)

Round 1

Round 2

Ready Now

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS NOT SHOWN:

Building the Future of East Tennessee's Workforce
Location: East Tennessee

VIRGINIA

NORTH CAROLINA

TENNESSEE

MISSISSIPPI

ALABAMA

GEORGIA

Nashville

Knoxville

Asheville

Memphis

Chattanooga

Huntsville

Tupelo

Atlanta

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Community Information Hub

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Community Information Hub

An interactive tool to help **assess your community's needs, prioritize solutions** and **identify funding opportunities.**
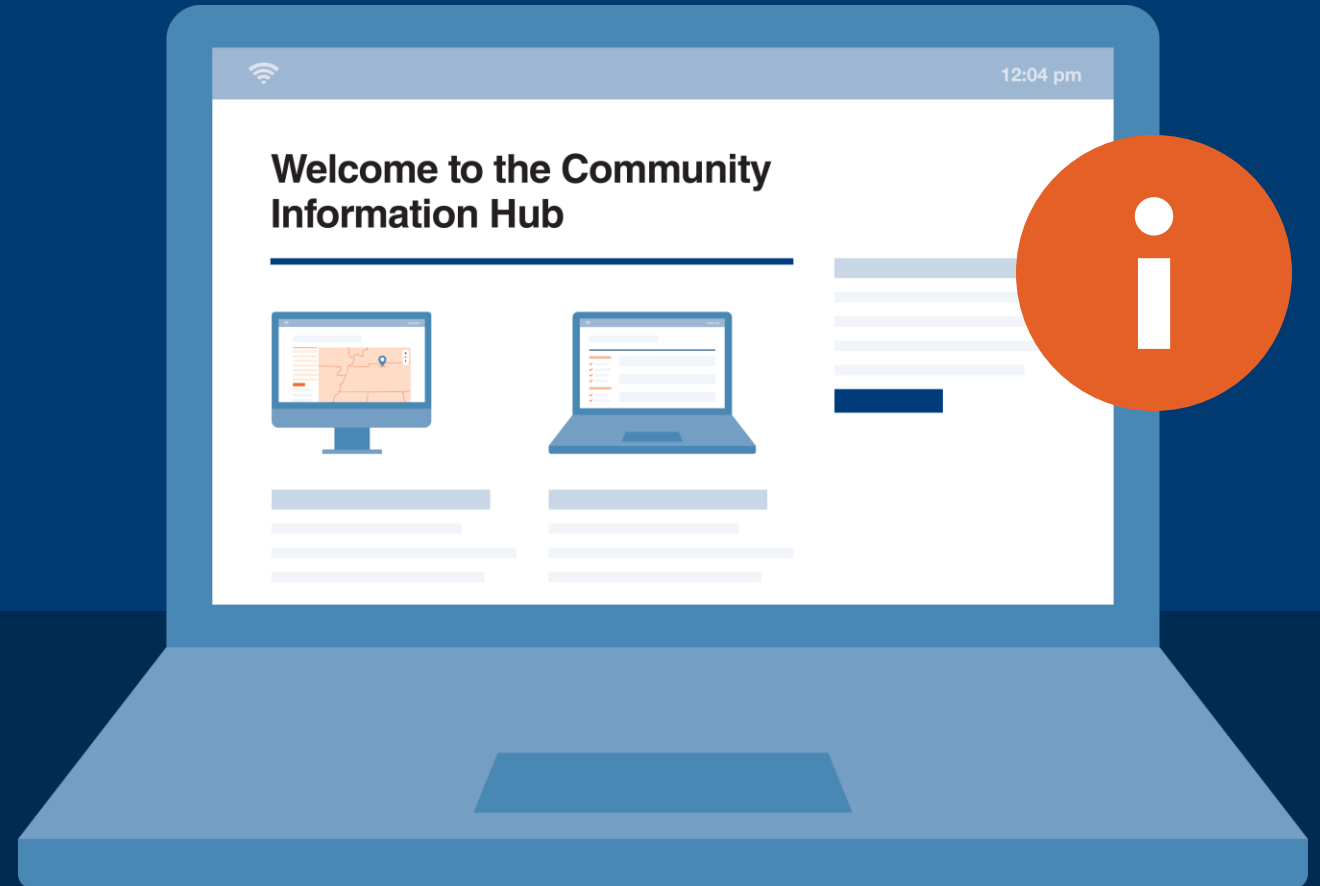
Community Information Hub Resources

Community Assessment Tool

Offers framework to assess current conditions across 25 progress indicators and generates a community score card capturing the current level of progress toward milestones in four focus areas.

Community Maps

One-stop-shop for publicly-available economic and demographic data. The interactive map includes all U.S. Census Bureau-defined census tracts in the TVA service area and includes data from a variety of U.S. federal sources.

Resource Database

Aims to help communities identify opportunities and learn from other communities' efforts through a collection of concepts, examples, programs, reports, data platforms, grants, tax credits, policies and organizations from across the U.S.

Funding Opportunities Database

Provides in-depth information regarding new funding opportunities for topics like broadband, economic development, job training, and more. Users can filter funding resources by various criteria such as state(s), funding entities, and maximum amount.
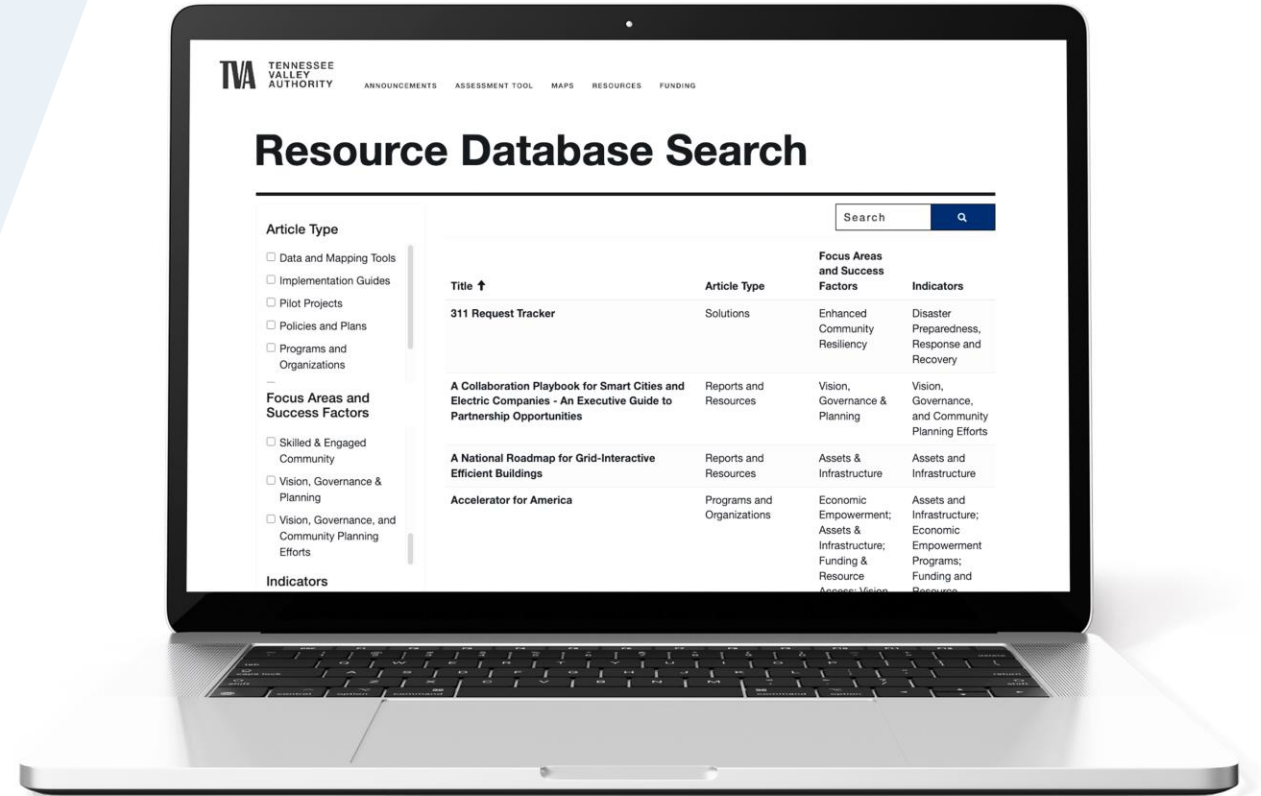
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Resource Database

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Resource Database

Knowledge article database that helps communities identify opportunities and learn from other communities' efforts.

Types of Knowledge Articles

1

Data and Mapping Tools

Provides information on a particular data source or mapping platform

2

Implementation Guides

Summarizes and links a Connected Communities informational guide

3

Reports and Resources

Summarizes and links a report, article, or website

4

Programs and Organizations

Describes and links a model program or organization

5

Policies and Plans

Describes and links a relevant policy or plan

6

Pilot Projects

Provides an executive summary of a Connected Communities pilot project

7

Solutions

Provides key information on and links case studies of innovative technologies and approaches

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Funding Database

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Funding Opportunities Database

Provides in-depth information regarding new funding opportunities for relevant topics. Users can search for funding resources using various criteria such as state(s), funding entities, and maximum amount.
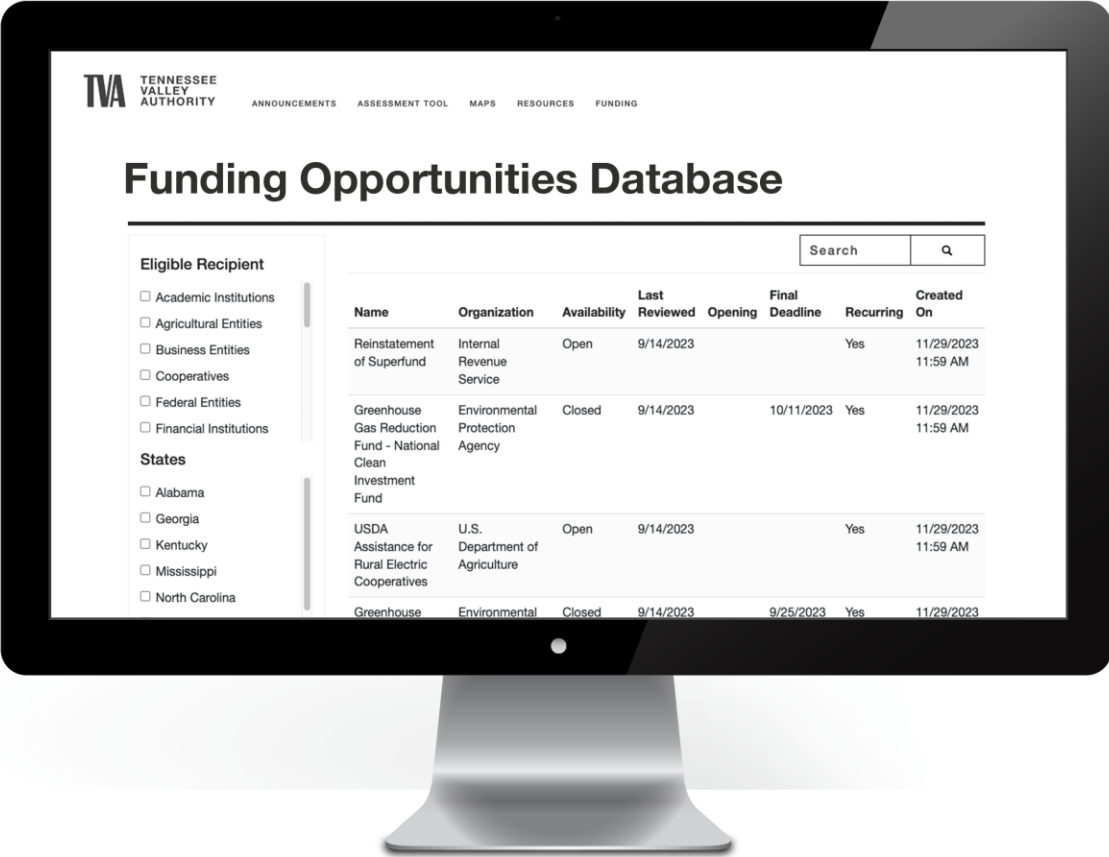
Types of Funding Opportunities

1

Discretionary / Competitive Grants

Funds awarded to winning entities and projects at the end of a competitive application process. Grants do not require repayment.

2

Formula Grants

Funding allocated to eligible applicants based on a set of eligibility requirements. All eligible organizations who apply will receive funding and repayment is not required.

3

Loans

Low-interest loans or loan guarantees provided to finance eligible community projects. Loans often provide access to larger funding amounts than grants and typically require repayment over a long period of time.

4

Rebates

Direct cash payment reimbursements or bill credits to reimburse eligible applicants for purchasing certain types of technology or enrolling in a specific program, most often for energy-efficient products or energy-savings programs.

5

Tax Credits

Reimbursements for certain types of investments (e.g., electric vehicles), awarded through directly reducing the amount of tax a person or entity owes and captured after filing a tax return. Under the IRA, the new Direct Pay provision allows tax-exempt entities to benefit from tax credits in the form of cash payments.

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Sources of Funding Opportunities

Federal

Funding program administered by federal government agencies or departments, such as the Department of Energy.

State

Funding program administered by state government agencies or departments, such as Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development.

Local

Funding program administered by local government agencies or departments, such as the City of Asheville Community and Economic Development, or local private organizations and foundations, such as the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga.

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Key Terms in the Funding Database

Contact

Shares any available contact information provided by the funding organization.

Cost Share

Indicates if the applicant will be required to provide any funding of their own in addition to the funding they may be awarded. For example, some grant programs require applicants to "match" the funding amount being awarded to them for their project, therefore requiring the applicant to pay for 50% of the project themselves.

Eligibility

Describes eligibility criteria for applicants and/or projects.

Eligible Recipients

Indicates which type of entities are eligible to apply for and receive funding from the program.

Final Deadline

Date the most recent funding application window closed or will close.

Funding Total

Refers to the total amount ($) the funding entity is distributing through the program to all applicants for the current application period.

Maximum Amount

Refers to the maximum grant/loan amount ($) per applicant.

Opening

Date the most recent funding application window most opened or will open.

Organization

Entity (e.g., government agency) providing funding and administering the funding program.

Recurring

Indicates if a program is a one-time opportunity or if it reopens for applications on a regular basis (e.g., annually)

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Community Funding Guidebook

Interested in exploring funding opportunities but overwhelmed with where to start? The Community Funding Guidebook provides an overview of different types of funding, details of specific funding opportunities and best practices for pursuing funding.
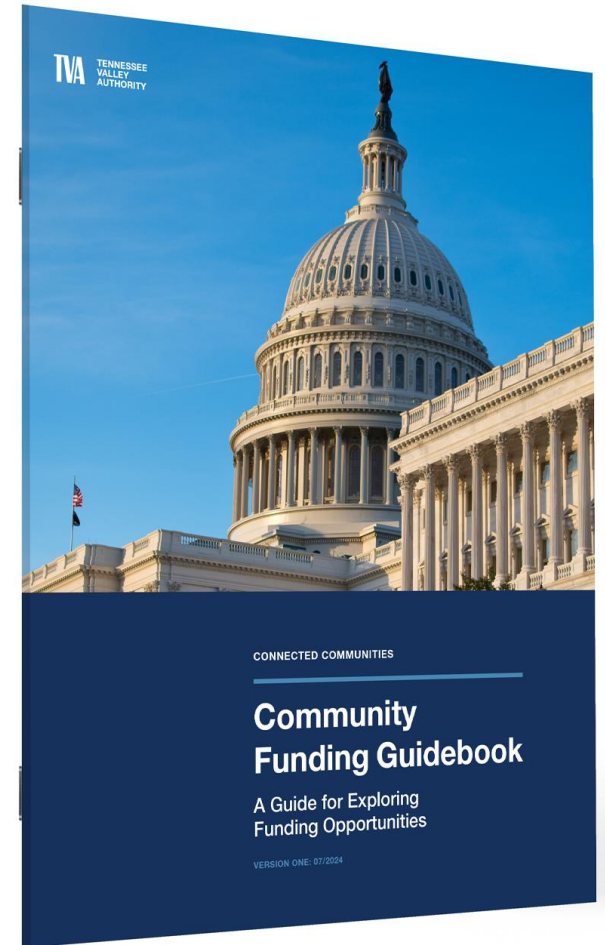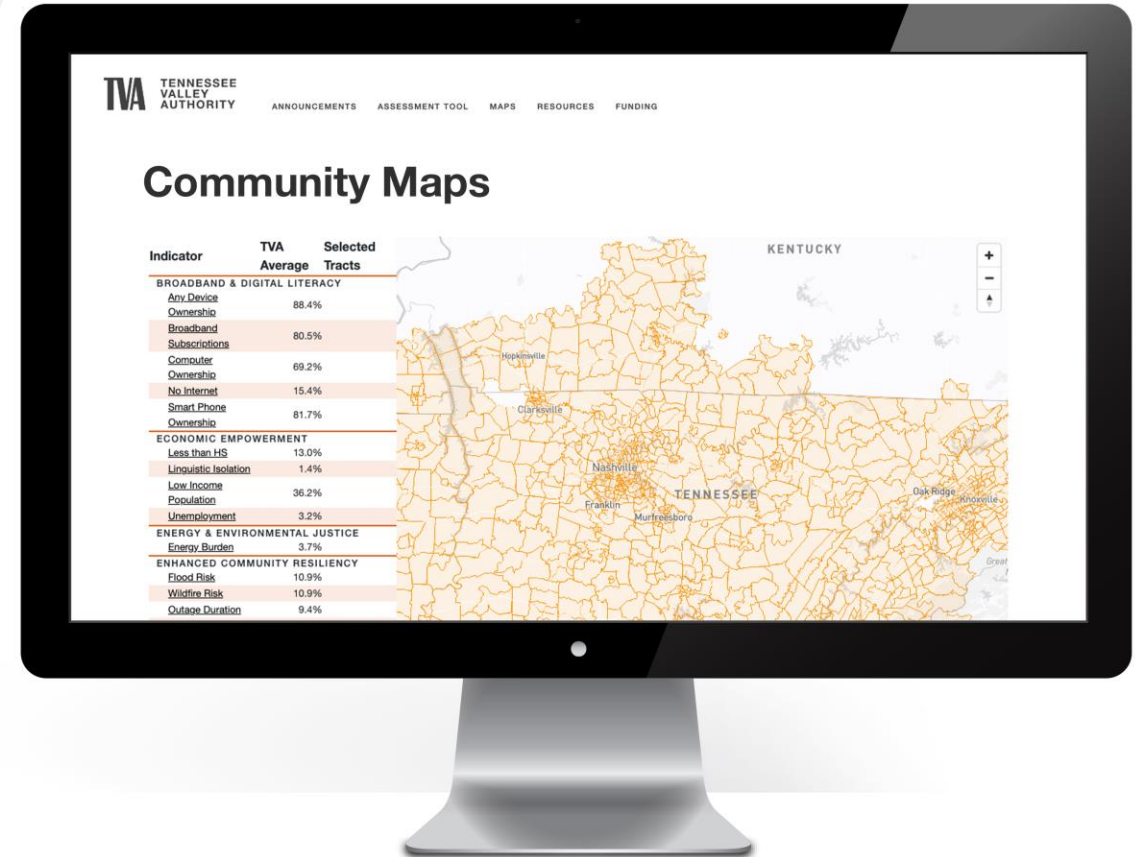
Community Maps

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Community Maps

One-stop-shop for publicly-available economic and demographic data. The interactive map includes all U.S. Census Bureau-defined census tracts in the TVA service area and includes data from a variety of U.S. federal sources.

Key Features of Community Maps

1 **Indicator**

"Indicator" measures the status of communities in each of the Connected Communities focus areas.
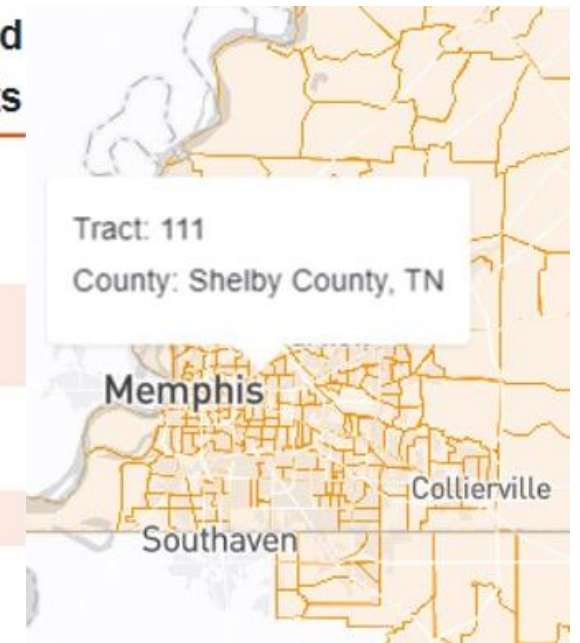
2 **TVA Average**

"TVA Average" provides the average for each indicator across all census tracts within the TVA service area.

3 **Selected Tracts**

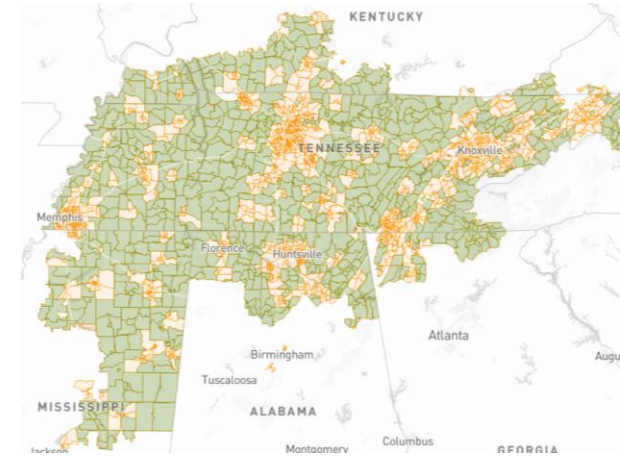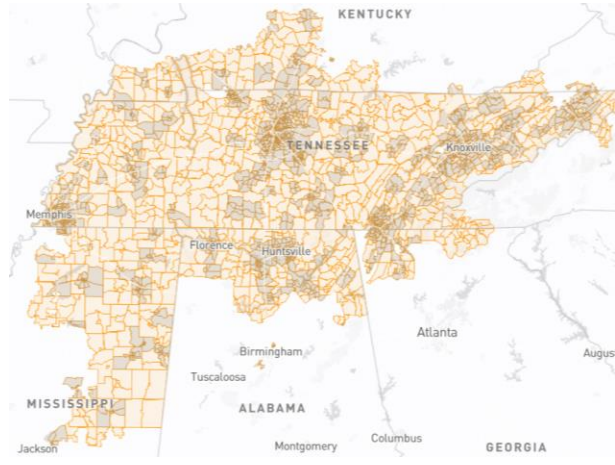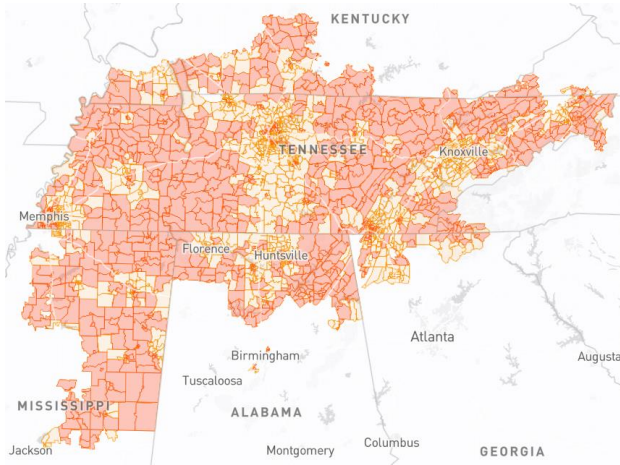"Selected Tracts" provides the average for each indicator within the selected census tract(s).

1 Indicator	**2** TVA Average	**3** Selected Tracts
BROADBAND & DIGITAL LITERACY		
Any Device Ownership	89.2%	
Broadband Subscriptions	81.3%	
Computer Ownership	69.9%	
No Internet	15.8%	
Smart Phone Ownership	82.6%	

Tract: 111
County: Shelby County, TN

Memphis Collierville Southaven

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Key Features of Community Maps (CONTINUED)

Disadvantaged Tracts

highlight and filter selected census tracts to areas designated as "disadvantaged" by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

🔵 🟥 Show Disadvanged Tracts
⚪ 🟫 Show Urban Tracts
⚪ 🟩 Show Rural Tracts

Urban Tracts

highlight and filter selected census tracts to areas designated as "urban" by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⚪ 🟥 Show Disadvanged Tracts
🔵 🟫 Show Urban Tracts
⚪ 🟩 Show Rural Tracts

Rural Tracts

highlight and filter selected census tracts to areas designated as "rural" by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⚪ 🟥 Show Disadvanged Tracts
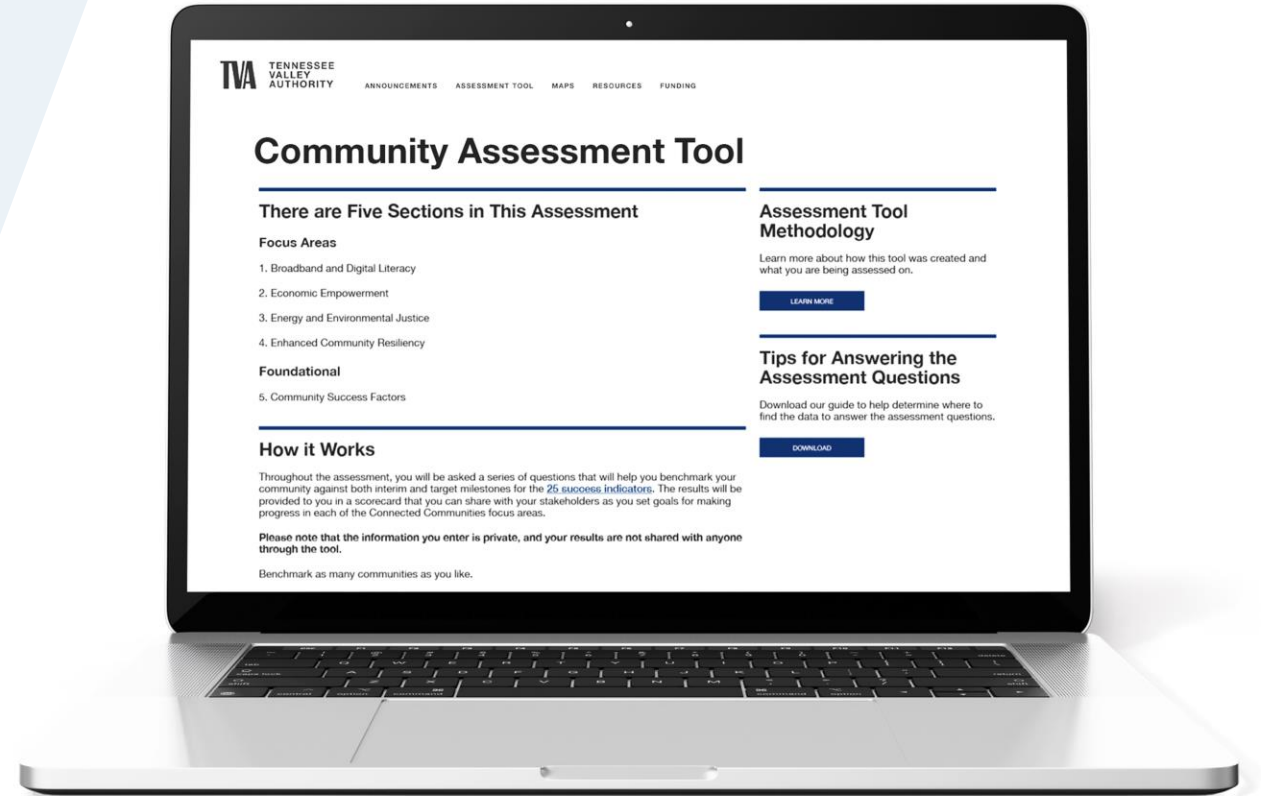⚪ 🟫 Show Urban Tracts
🔵 🟩 Show Rural Tracts

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Community Assessment Tool

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Community Assessment Tool

Interactive questionnaire you can use to benchmark your community's status across key progress indicators.

Overview of Community Assessment Tool

1

Focus Area Questions

The assessment consists of **five sections** of questions within each Connected Communities focus area.

2

Progress Indicators

Questions correlate to interim and target milestones for **25 total progress indicators** across all focus areas.

3

Community Score Card

The assessment generates a **community score card** capturing the current level of progress toward milestones in four focus areas.

The assessment is created for **community stakeholders** who want to:

- **Gauge current conditions** for their community

- Follow a systematic approach to **set goals and priorities** (e.g., to determine what funding to pursue)

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Methods of Research

Use the following methods of research and view our Community Assessment Tool Research Guide when determining where to find data to answer assessment questions.

Access Data Through Community Maps

Use the Community Information Hub's Community Maps Tool to access census data.

EXAMPLE

The percentage of households in your community with broadband access can be found by using the community maps, selecting census tracts in your community, and viewing the "broadband subscriptions" indicator for selected tracts.

Conduct Online Research

Some of the questions will require you to conduct online research to answer.

EXAMPLE

You can identify if your community has identified appropriate sites for public Wi-Fi locations by conducting online research to determine if there are local libraries, schools, etc. that offer free public Wi-Fi or have plans to offer Wi-Fi.

Contact Local Entities

Reach out directly to entities like local power companies and local government.

EXAMPLE

Determining if your community has or is developing a Comprehensive Plan may require reaching out to your local government planning department.

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Q&A

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Let's Stay Connected

Continue the Conversation

Contact Georgia Caruthers to learn more:

gmcaruthers@tva.gov

Or

ConnectedCommunities@tva.gov

Join Our Connected Communities Network

Visit the Connected Communities website and sign up to be part of the Connected Communities Network:

tva.com/connectedcommunities

Access Our Resources

Access the Community Information Hub and relevant guides:

- Community Information Hub
- Community Funding Guidebook

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