



# Pilot Projects Lessons Learned: Funding, Supply Chains and Community Engagement

Connected Communities Webinar Series  
February 13, 2024



# Welcome

- Updates: The Latest From Connected Communities
- Meet the Round 2 Pilot Projects
- Lessons Learned: Round 1 Pilot Project Deep Dives
  - Cheatham County School District: Economic Solutions through Solar Innovation
  - City of Knoxville: Tech Upgrades at Recreation Centers
- Q&A Discussion

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# Updates: The Latest From Connected Communities

# Connected Communities Initiative

Connected Communities are towns, main streets, neighborhoods and cities using tech- and data-related solutions to address community challenges while preparing for a modern energy system.

FOCUS AREAS		RESOURCES	
 <hr/> <b>Broadband and Digital Literacy</b>	 <hr/> <b>Economic Empowerment</b>	 <hr/> <b>Off-the-Shelf Guides and Tools</b>	 <hr/> <b>Tailored Support and Success Coaching</b>
 <hr/> <b>Energy and Environmental Justice</b>	 <hr/> <b>Enhanced Community Resiliency</b>	 <hr/> <b>Pilot Project Funding</b>	 <hr/> <b>Network and Partnership Building</b>

# Upcoming Connected Communities Webinars



## Resiliency

Approaches, Technology and Funding to Get Your Community Prepared



REGISTER NOW

Tuesday, April 9, 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET



## Affordable Housing

Building the Foundations for a Connected Community



REGISTER NOW

Tuesday, March 12, 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET

# Check Out the New Community Information Hub

A new, interactive tool is available to help **assess your community needs, prioritize solutions and identify funding opportunities**

Go to [tva.com/connectedcommunities](https://tva.com/connectedcommunities) to get started.

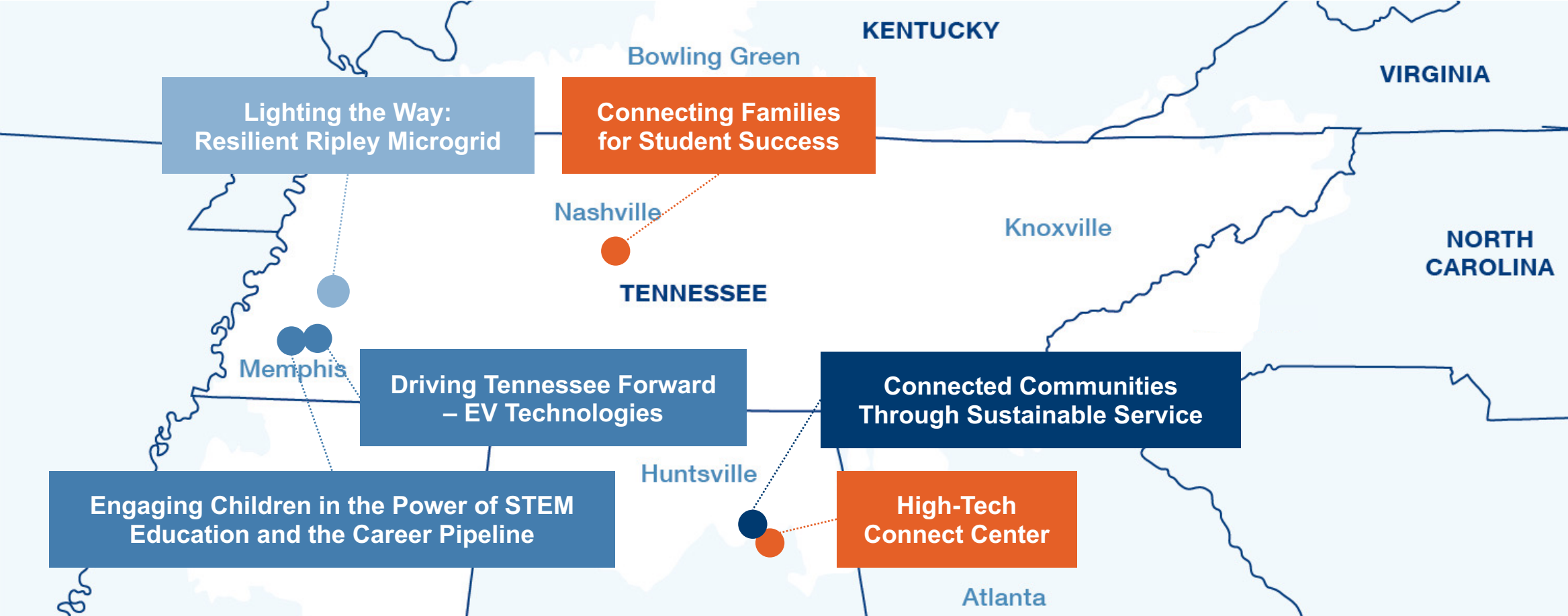


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# Meet the Round 2 Pilot Projects

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Projects are expected to begin implementation in the spring.





# A closer look at our Round 2 Pilot Projects



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## High-Tech Connect Center

Broadband access, digital literacy and technology training



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## Connecting Families for Student Success

Digital literacy



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## Driving Tennessee Forward – EV Technologies

EVs and workforce development



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## Engaging Children in the Power of STEM Education and the Career Pipeline

STEM education and technology training



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## Lighting the Way: Resilient Ripley Microgrid

Emergency power generation and distributed energy resources



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## Connected Community Through Sustainable Service

Environmental education and greenspace development

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# Lessons Learned: Round 1 Pilot Project Deep Dives

# Economic Solutions Through Solar Innovation

- 50kW outdoor solar pavilion combined with a Tesla Powerwall backup system
  - Outdoor classroom opportunity
  - Basis for an approved Career Technical Education (CTE) solar tech training program
- Additional funding from Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) tax credits and Innovative Schools Model

TOTAL TVA FUNDING

**\$188K**



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# Sycamore High School

Before solar array installation



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# Sycamore High School

After solar array installation



# Tech Upgrades at City of Knoxville Recreation Centers

- The addition of Wi-Fi, computers, smart TVs, other technologies and digital training to 15 Parks and Recreation facilities
- Also offering the Knoxville Chamber's "eKnox 101" program, a regional, digital inclusion program

TOTAL TVA FUNDING

**\$70K**

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# Recent Tech Advancements



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**Wi-Fi**



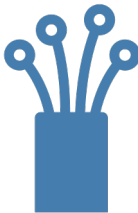
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**Public Computers  
and Printers**



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**Security Cameras**



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**KUB Fiber**

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# Current Equipment and Programs

- ✓ 30+ smart TVs
- ✓ 10 tablets
- ✓ 10 laptops
- ✓ Community Programs
  - Aprendiendo Ingles
  - eKnox101

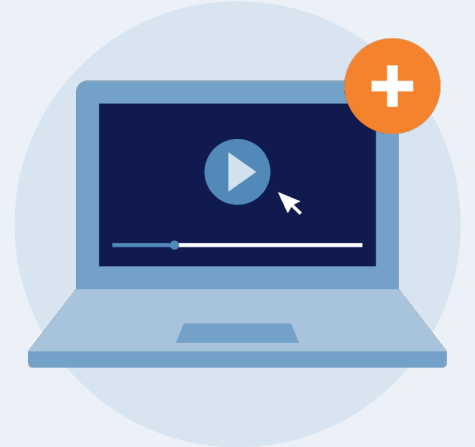




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# Future Equipment and Programs

- ✓ Additional tablets and laptops
- ✓ Inflatable screens
- ✓ Virtual reality goggles
- ✓ 3-D printer
- ✓ Podcast equipment
- ✓ Document camera
- ✓ Additional programs



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# Q&A Discussion

**TVA**

**TENNESSEE  
VALLEY  
AUTHORITY**

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# Let's Stay Connected



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## Continue the Conversation

Contact Georgia Caruthers to learn more:  
[gmcaruthers@tva.gov](mailto:gmcaruthers@tva.gov)



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## Join our Connected Communities Network

Visit the Connected Communities website and sign up to be part of the Connected Communities Network: [tva.com/connectedcommunities](http://tva.com/connectedcommunities)