



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF  
**HUMAN  
SERVICES**



*Temporary Assistance  
For Needy Families*



August 16, 2021 | Families First Community Advisory Board – Executive Session

# Executive Session



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SERVICES**



*Temporary Assistance  
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August 16, 2021 | Families First Community Advisory Board

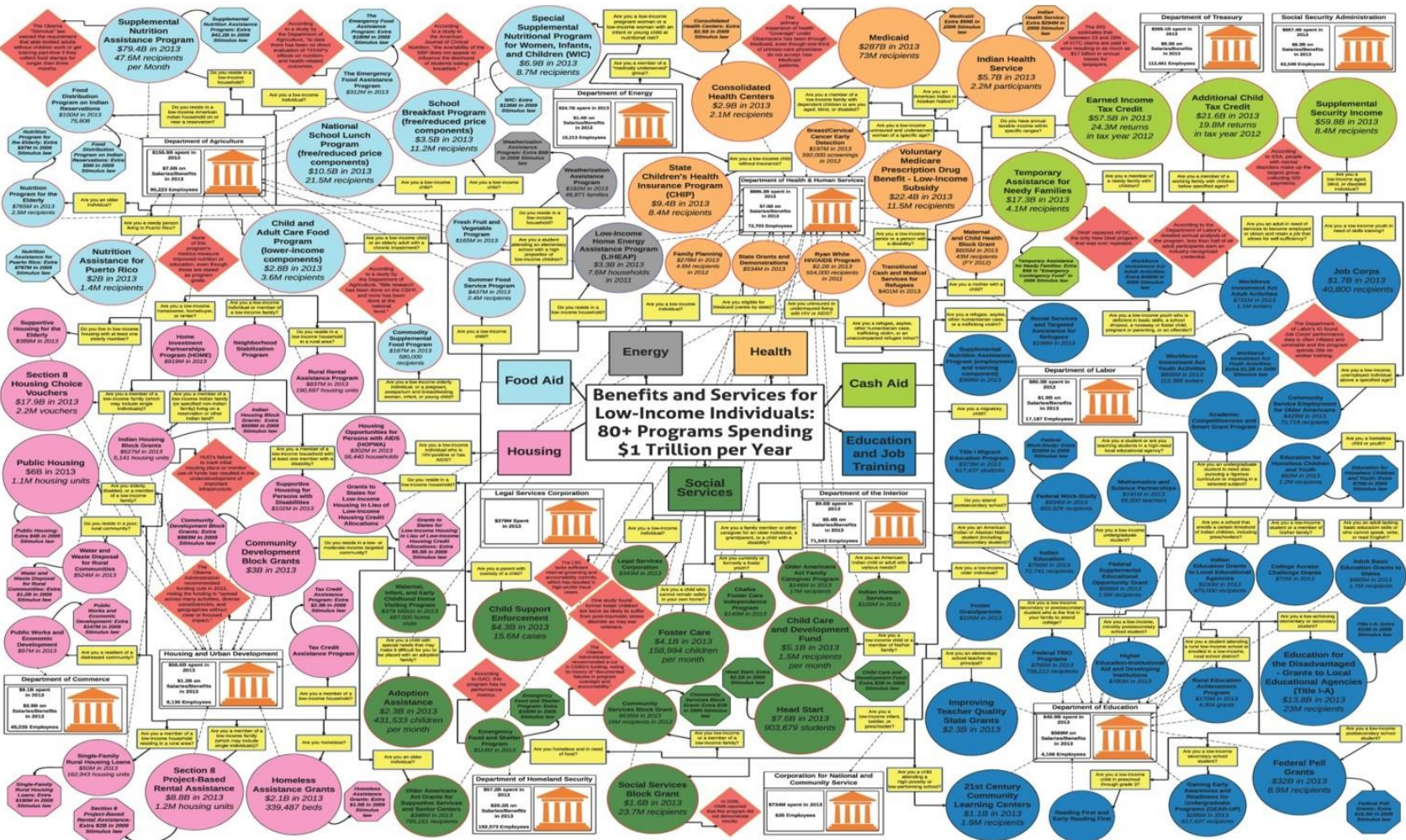
# OVERVIEW

- **Vision: Growing Capacity to Reduce Dependency**
- **TN General Assembly Working Group**
- **TANF Overview**
- **TANF Opportunity Act Overview and Roadmap**
- **Planning Grant Discussion**
- **Research Partner Discussion**





# Federal Programs



Source: House Ways and Means Committee staff, using Congressional Research Service reports and other data.

# *The flaws of the* **Public Safety Net**

Lack of a shared

**V** **I** **S** **I** **O** **N**

# *The flaws of the* **Public Safety Net**



**Program-centric**

**vs.**

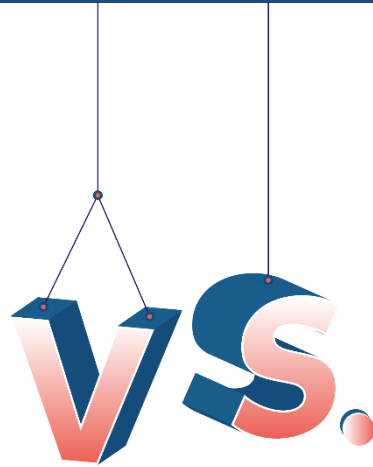


**Person-centric**

# *The flaws of the* **Public Safety Net**



**Transactional**



**Relational**



# *The flaws of the* **Public Safety Net**



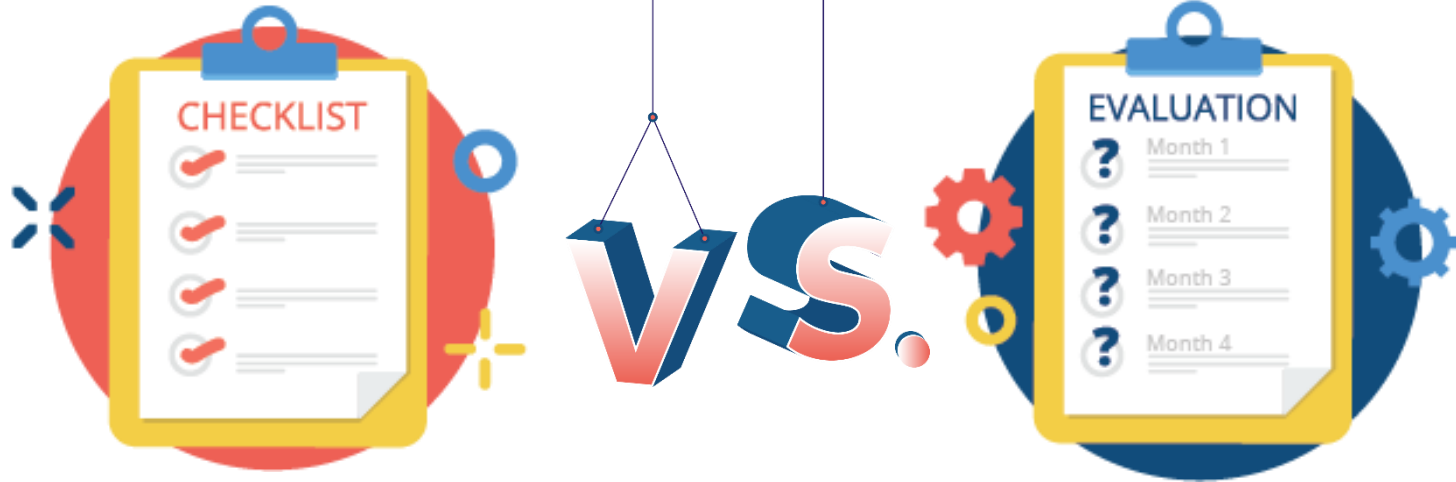
**Siloed**

**vs.**



**Cohesive &  
Coordinated**

# *The flaws of the* **Public Safety Net**



**Measuring Outputs**

**Outcomes**

# *The flaws of the* **Public Safety Net**

**Government**

**CENTRIC**

# *Tennessee's Vision for Redesigning the Safety Net*

The safety net should be a mile-marker in life's journey, not a destination unto itself.

Our shared vision is to *grow capacity to reduce dependency.*



# Re-defining Success

- Most metrics for measuring poverty either capture a Snapshot or population-level data (poverty rate, unemployment, etc.)
- We are developing a framework for moving through and out of poverty and beyond dependency
- At beginning of the TN Opportunity Pilots, we will aggregate the cohort's dependency



# Selected Tennessee *Sectors*



Faith Based Organizations



Business



Philanthropic



State Agencies



CSBG Community Action Agencies & HRAs



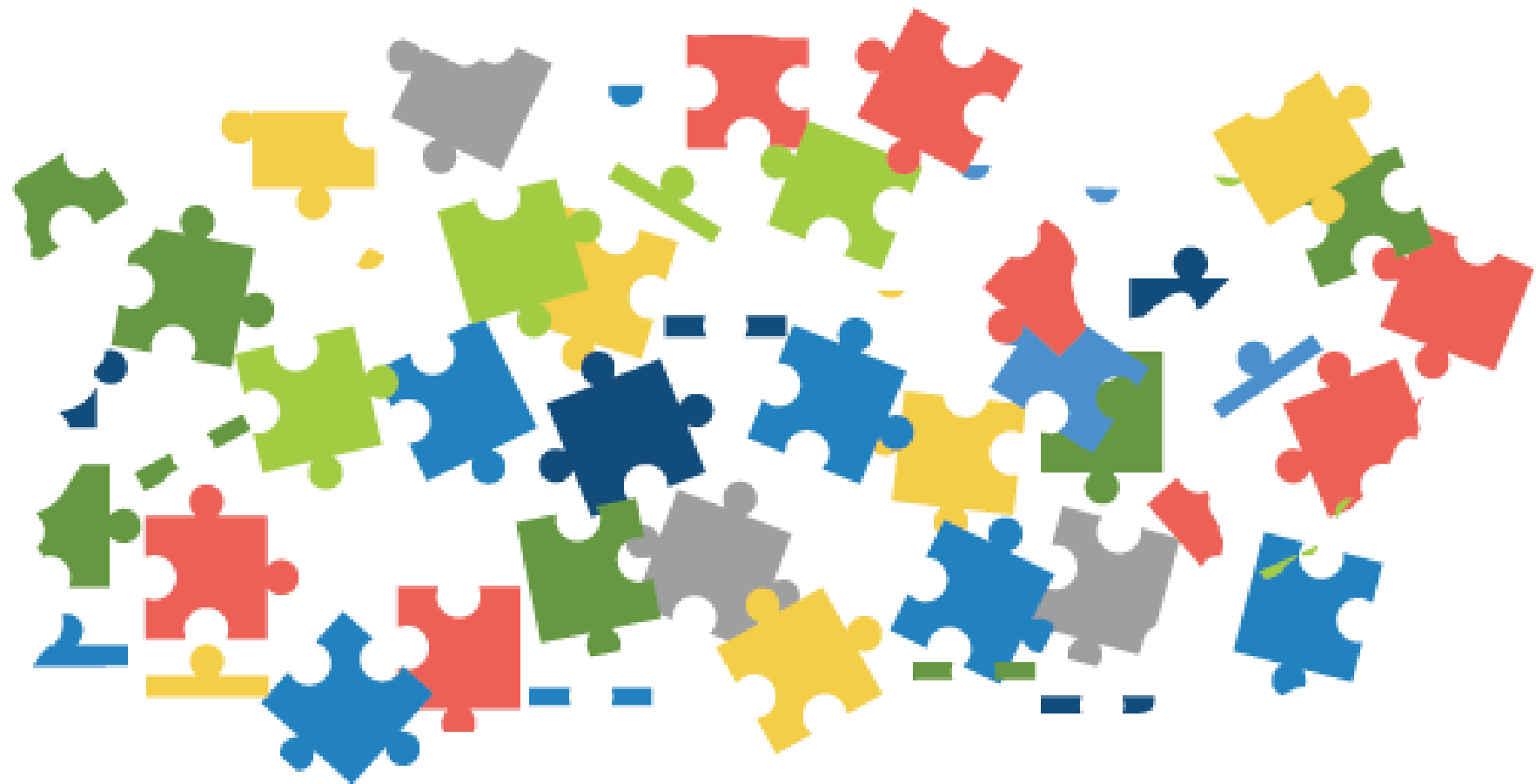
Academic

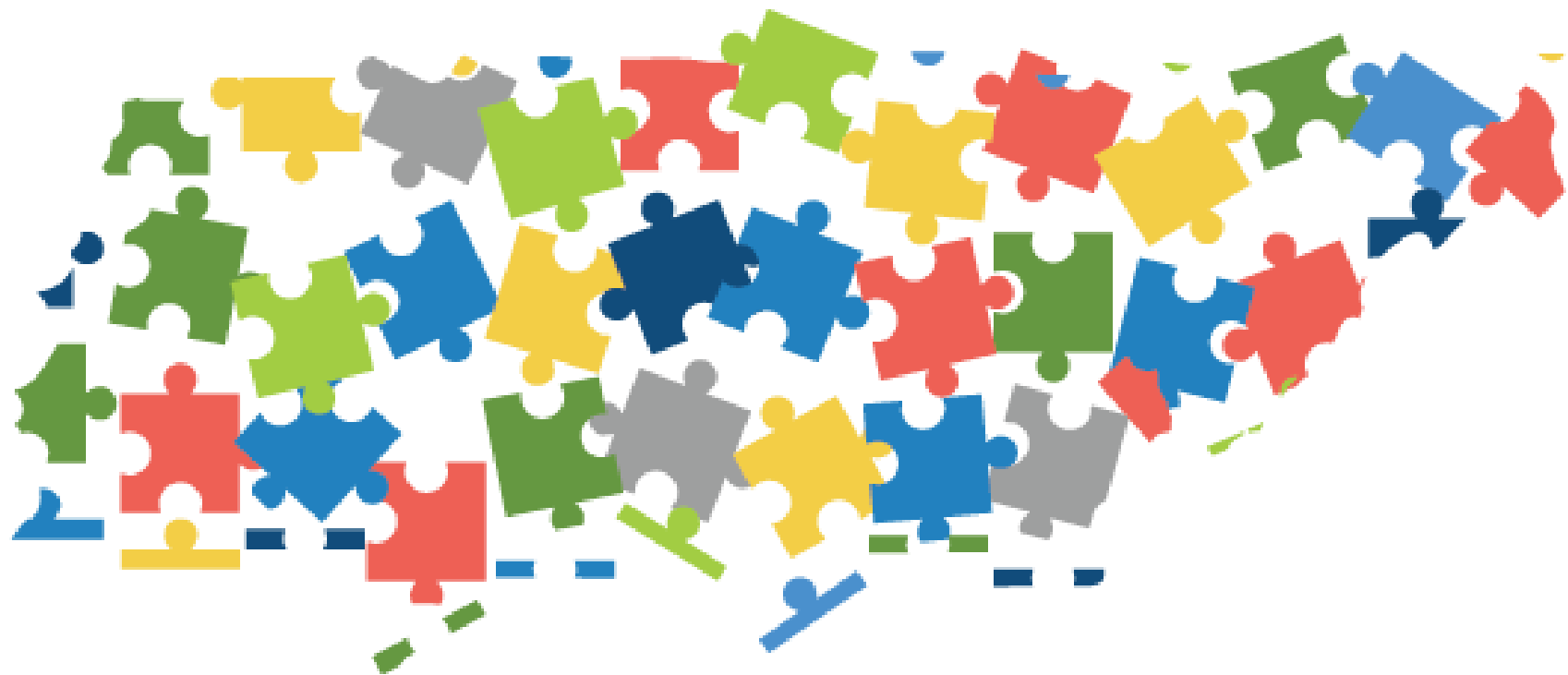


Non-governmental Organizations

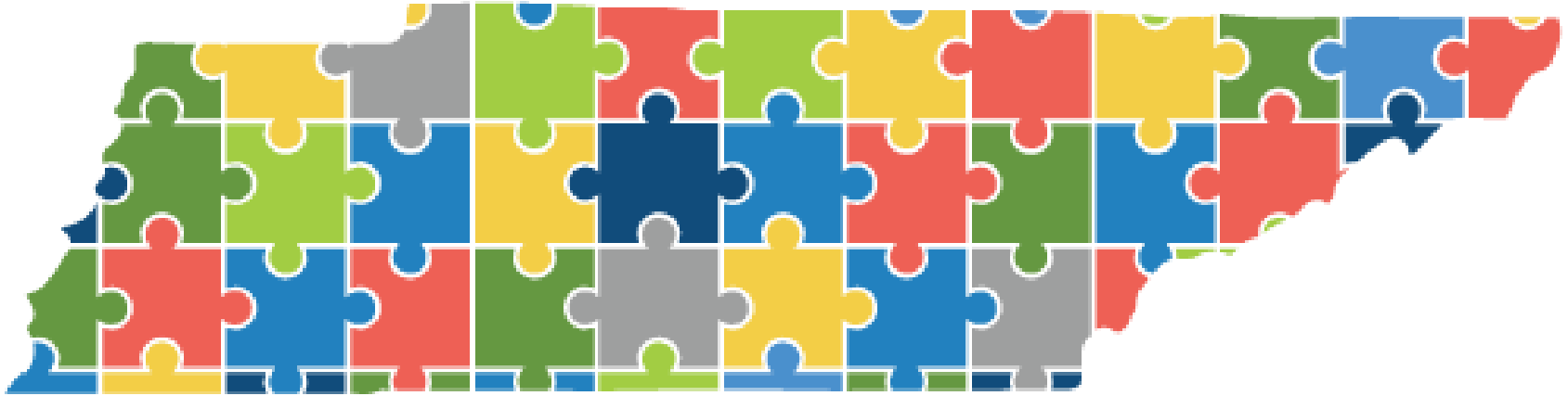








# ***A WHOLE OF TENNESSEE APPROACH***



***TO GROWING CAPACITY & REDUCING DEPENDENCY***

# TN General Assembly TANF Working Group

# Break

# TANF Program Overview



# History Of **TANF**

- Congress created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as part of a federal effort to “end welfare as we know it.”
- TANF replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) which provided cash assistance to families with children experiencing poverty since 1935.



Temporary  
Assistance  
for Needy  
Families

# TANF

**Goals:** The purpose of TANF is to reduce intergenerational dependency on public benefits by increasing self-sufficiency, education, and economic mobility of families with children.

**The four federal goals of TANF are to:**

1. Provide assistance to needy families with children so that they can live in their own homes or the homes of relatives;
2. End dependence of needy parents on government benefits through work, job preparation, and marriage;
3. Reduce out of wedlock pregnancies; and
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

# **TANF** Cash Assistance

- Assistance is limited to 60 months in an individual's lifetime.
- Individuals must participate in federally approved workforce development activities or employment for a minimum of 30 hours per week, unless exempt.
- Each state must meet two separate work participation rates: the 90% two-parent rate, which measures success in engaging two-parent households in work, job training, or educational activities; and an overall rate of 50%, which measures success in engaging all families in work, job training, or educational activities.

# Tennessee TANF Program

# ***Tennessee TANF*** Program Overview

Tennessee uses the TANF block grant to fund several programs that support low-income families. These programs include:

- Families First Program
- Workforce Innovative and Opportunity Act
- Work Incentive Payment
- Emergency Cash Assistance
- Two-Generation (2Gen) Program
- Community Grants

# ***Families*** First

- **Families First is Tennessee's TANF workforce development program.**
- **Participants are required to actively participate in a workforce development program.**
- **Participants receive a monthly cash benefit and have access to transportation and child care vouchers for up to 5 years.**





# *Families* First

- Other supportive services are offered to active participants to support gaining employment, educational success, and employment retention.
- Incentive payments are offered to customers who complete and/or achieve educational or employment milestones (Range from \$200- \$500).
- Assistance is also available to “child only” families where the caretaker is an adult relative such as grandparents, aunts/uncles, or other siblings.



# ***Workforce Innovative &*** **Opportunity Act WIOA**

- **WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and other support services in order to succeed in the labor market.**
- **WIOA is an additional workforce development option for Families First participants.**
- **Services are accessed via the American Job Centers (AJC) either in person, through cross training, or direct referral linkage.**

# ***Work Incentive*** Payment

- The Work Incentive Payment was designed to address the fiscal cliff families often encountered when public assistance ends due to employment.
- Participants must experience an increase in wages or obtain new employment to potentially be eligible.
- The payment is determined by the maximum household grant at the time of the employment change.
- The customer will continue to have access to supportive services during this six-month period.

# **2Gen** Programs

- The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) fosters a Two-Generation (2Gen) Approach to address poverty from a whole-family centered approach that focuses equally and intentionally on services and opportunities for the child and the caregiver in their lives.
- This approach builds on four (4) components (i.e. education: early childhood and postsecondary, economic assets, health and well-being, social capital) to create a legacy of economic security that can positively impact the next generation and those to follow.
- 2G Partners offer services such as wrap around case management, homelessness, financial literacy, job readiness, community building, mental health check-ups, and many other helpful resources to put families on a path towards upward economic mobility.

# ***Community*** Grants

- **Community grants aim to make stronger partnerships within communities to serve low-income families.**
- **Programs and services are aligned with the Department's mission and meets one of the four TANF goals.**
- **Partners are well established within the communities and offer a uniqueness to addressing their community's specific needs.**
- **Grants are reimbursable.**

# Program Success

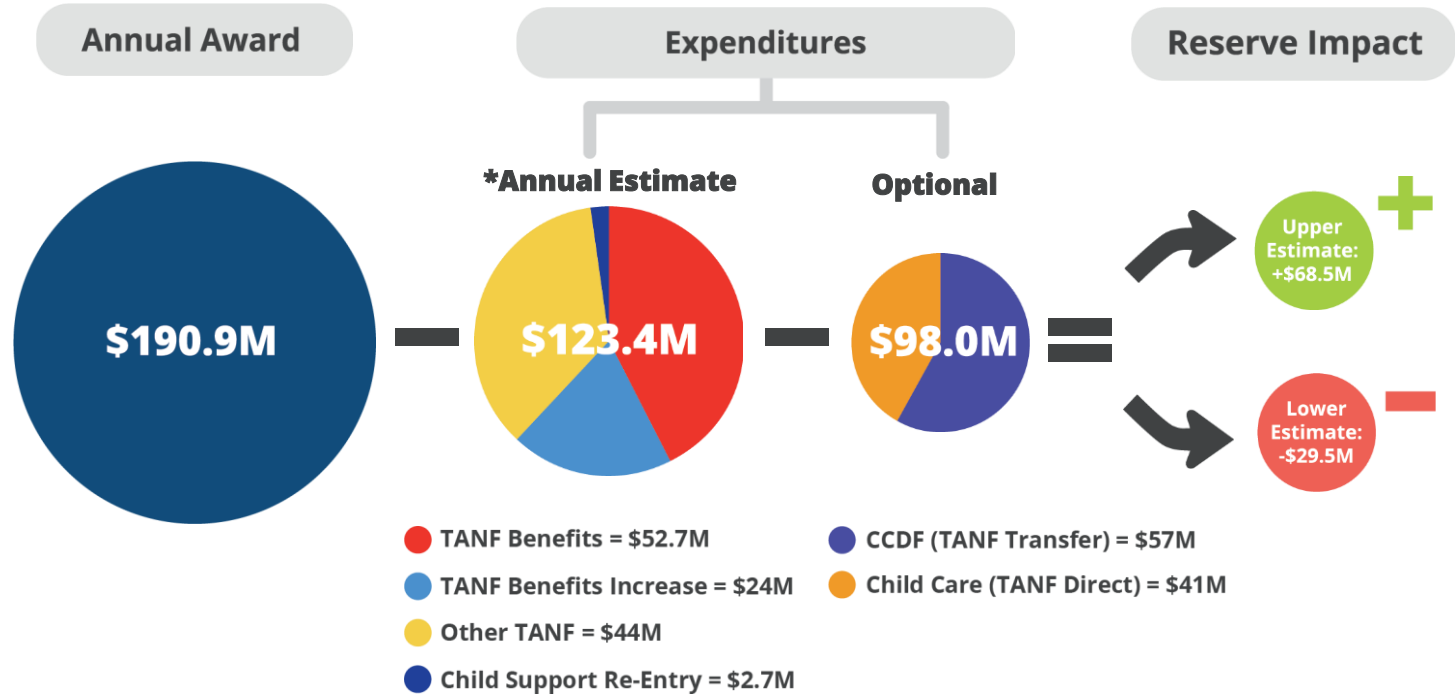
# *Program* In Action



# TOA Background and Roadmap

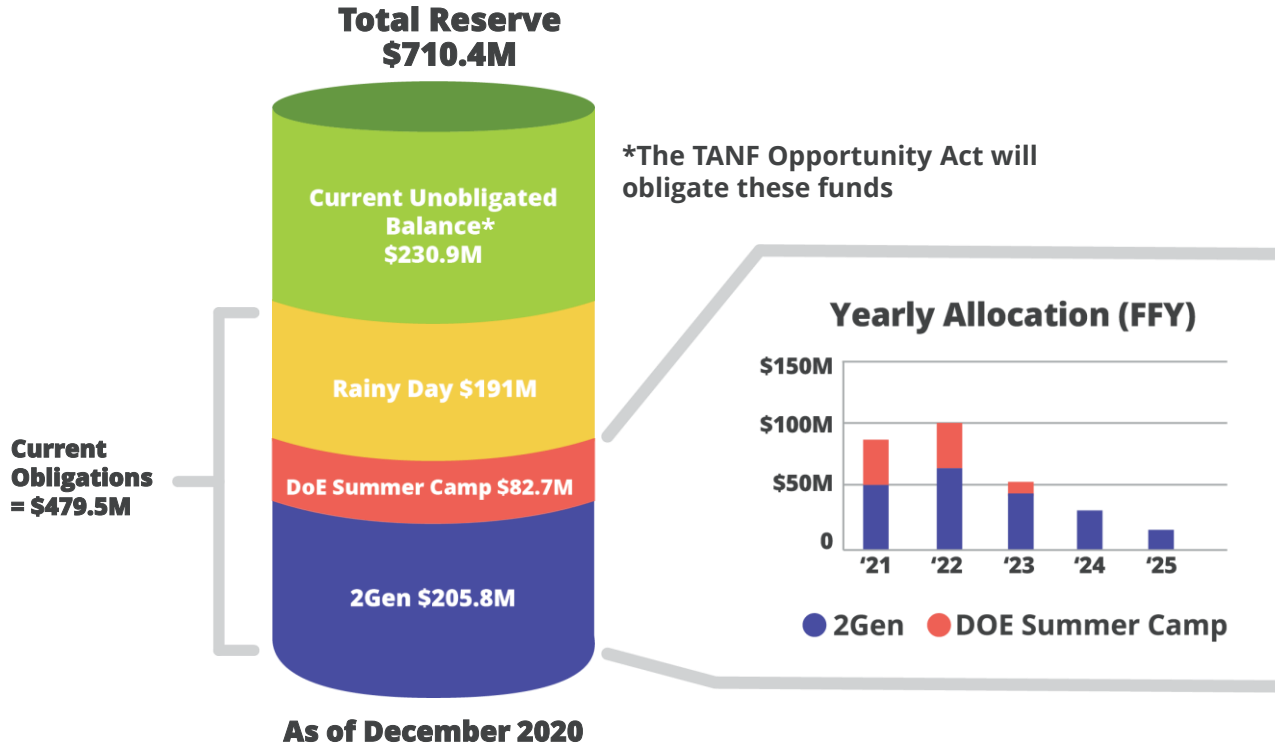


# TANF Annual Award & Reductions









\*Based on maximum estimates for TANF enrollment

# TANF Reserve Obligations



# TANF *Opportunity* Act

	<b>Program Partners</b>	The procurement of third-party vendors to provide technical assistance, research and program evaluation, and other needed supportive services for the Tennessee Opportunity Act (TOA).
	<b>Advisory Board</b>	The establishment and ongoing convening of the Families First Community Advisory Board.
	<b>Planning Grants</b>	The creation and administration of Planning Grants, which will prepare communities to submit proposals to be selected for the TN Opportunity Pilot Program.
	<b>Pilots</b>	The creation, administration, and monitoring of the Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Program, which will include 6 pilots statewide to be selected by the Advisory Board and 1 pilot operated by TDHS.
	<b>Sector-Based Conversations</b>	The convening of various stakeholders through Sector-Based Conversations to engage a broad range of partners to communicate the vision for using TOA as a catalyst to redesign the safety net and encourage partnership opportunities aligned with TOA.
	<b>Community Grants</b>	The administration of the Families First Community Grants program.



# Advisory Board

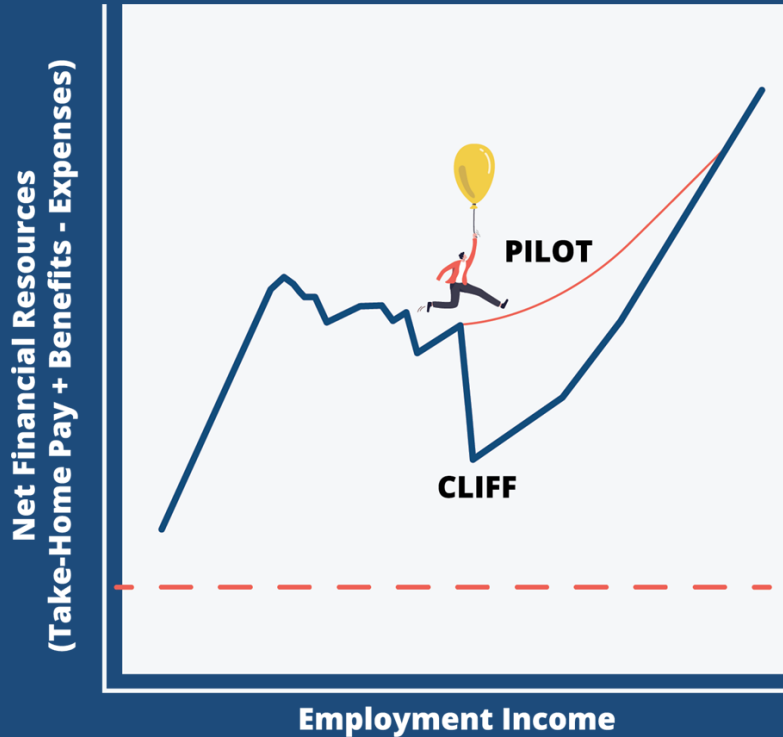
- Must meet monthly until pilots are awarded
- Advisory Board meetings to take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in 2021 (except December)
  - September 21, 2021
  - October 19, 2021
  - November 16, 2021
  - December 14, 2021
  - January 18, 2022
  - February 15, 2022
  - March 15, 2022
  - April 19, 2022
  - May 17, 2022



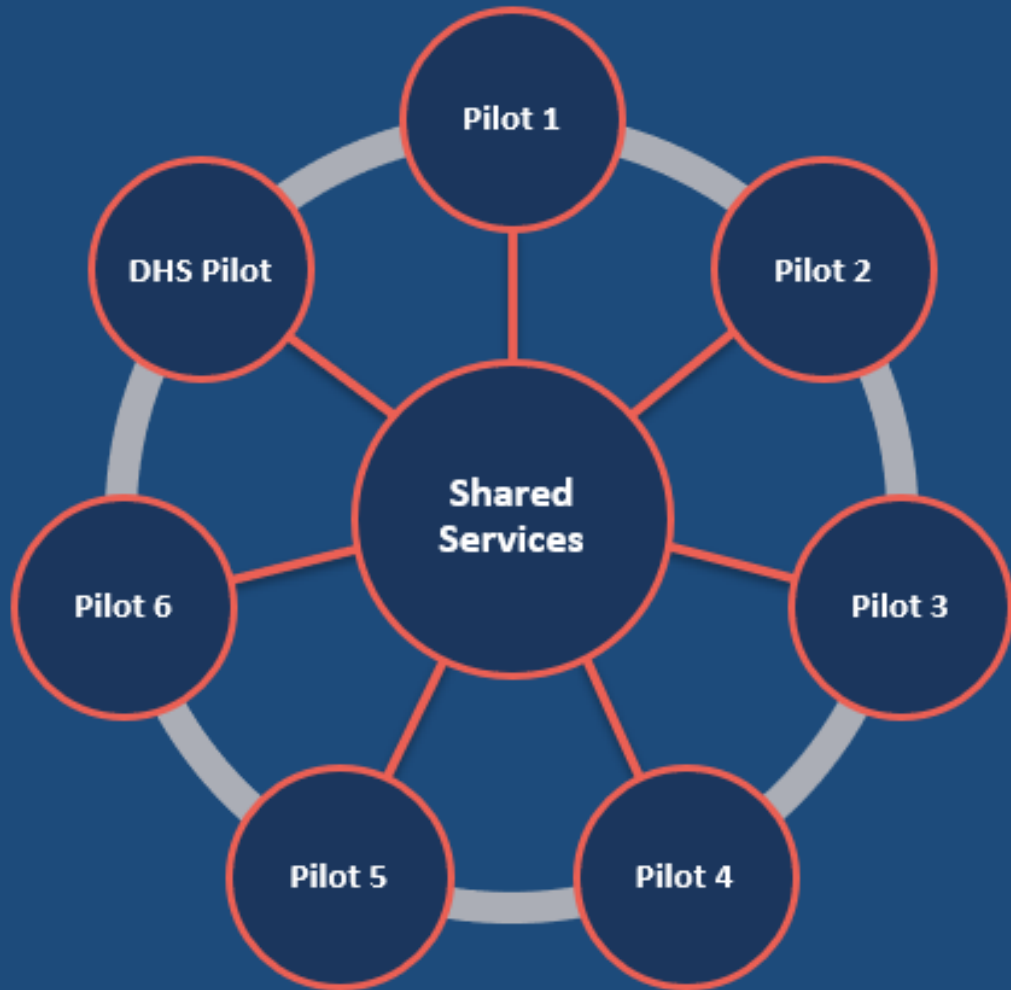
# Planning Grants

- \$5M for **up to 50** planning grants
- Advisory Board can award **up to \$500,000 per grant** no earlier than **October 1, 2021**
  - **Application period Fall 2021**
- Grants will assist communities with technical assistance, visioning, program design, budgeting, and partnership development in preparation for the TN Opportunity Pilot Program application period

# TN Opportunity Pilots



- **\$175M across 7 pilot programs** (6 pilots to be selected by the TANF Advisory board, with 2 in each grand division; 1 pilot to be operated by TDHS)
- Demonstrating effectiveness of growing capacity to reduce dependency
- Encouraging collaboration and collective impact to provide comprehensive supports and wraparound services to families
- Selected by **May 1, 2022**
- **\$25M per pilot over 3 years**



# *Training &* **TA Partner**

- Technical assistance and support for TN Opportunity Pilots through suite of shared services
- RFP Process to select partner
  - RFP to be issued **Fall/Winter 2021**

# Program Evaluation Partner

- No earlier than **October 1, 2021**, the TANF Advisory Board must select a research partner or partners that will support the research and evaluation of the TN Opportunity Pilot Program
- Must regularly gather and present research and data to pilot program leaders and Advisory Board to aid continuous improvement; must produce regular reports and final reports
- TDHS to outline proposed scope and process for selecting partner
  - RFP to be issued **Fall/Winter 2021**





# Lunch

# TOA Research Contractor Discussion

# *Process for Selecting &* Retaining Research Contractor

- Evaluation Criteria
  - General Qualifications & Experience
  - Technical Qualifications & Experience
  - Cost Proposal.
- Scoring of proposals
- Department selection and funding of Research Contractor
- Advisory Board approves the department's retention of research contractor throughout the contract
- Contract agreement & signatures



# *Procurement Timeline* & Final Report

- Anticipated Dates:
  - RFP Issued: Fall/Winter 2021
  - Selection: Spring 2022
    - *No earlier than October 1, 2021, the department shall select and fund a research partner or partners that will support the research and evaluation of the Tennessee opportunity pilot programs.*
  - Expected Contract Start Date: Summer 2022
  - Submit Final Report: December 31, 2025
    - Findings from the Tennessee opportunity pilots and the impact and effectiveness of the increase in maximum standard grant and lifetime maximum benefits timeframe.

# *Scientific Approach &* Deliverable Summary

- Research measurement development and execution
- Randomized control trials (RCT)
- Impact and effectiveness of the increase in maximum standard grant and lifetime maximum benefits timeframe
- Building capacity and reducing dependency evaluation and findings of all pilot programs
- Ad-hoc reports, dashboards, presentations, recommendations, and the final report



# TOA Planning Grants Discussion

# *Planning* Grants

- \$5M for **up to 50** planning grants
- Advisory Board can award **up to \$500,000 per grant** no earlier than **October 1, 2021**
- Grants will assist community partners with technical assistance, visioning, program design, budgeting, and partnership development for the TN Opportunity Pilot Program proposals
- Grantees will have three (3) months to complete proposals



# *Planning* Grantees

- Grantees must be selected from each grand region and represent a mix of urban, rural, and suburban populations.
- The following four types of entities are eligible to apply for pilot planning grants:
  - A political subdivision of this state;
  - A nonprofit corporation, created pursuant to title 48;
  - A development district, created pursuant to the Development District Act of 1965, compiled in title 13, chapter 14; and
  - A human resource agency, created pursuant to the Human Resource Agency Act of 1973, compiled in title 13, chapter 26.



# *Process for* Awarding Planning Grants

- TDHS will notify the community of the upcoming application period
- Interested partners will have thirty (30) days to submit applications
- Applicants must meet the mandatory minimum requirements to be considered by the Advisory Board
- TDHS will provide evaluation criteria for the Advisory Board selection process
- Advisory Board will have four (4) weeks to review and select final grantees
- TDHS will announce grantees

# *Next Steps* and Key Dates

- Planning Grant Application Period: September 1 – September 30, 2021
- Planning Grant Application Review: Fall 2021
- Planning Grant Contract Term (90 days): Winter 2021/2022
- TN Opportunity Pilot Proposal Review: Spring 2022
- TN Opportunity Pilots Implementation: Fall 2022 – Fall 2025
- Research Partner Selected: Spring 2022

# **Reminders** and Important Info

- Next Advisory Board Meeting: **September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**
- TDHS will continue to post updated information online about the TANF Opportunity Act:
  - <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/tanf-opportunity-act.html>
- You can sign up online to join the TANF Opportunity Act contact list and receive the latest updates.
- Board members who are not state employees should complete travel reimbursement forms.

# Thank You!