OVERVIEW

• The Challenges and Opportunities
• The Flaws of Design and Operation
• The Tennessee Vision
• The TANF Opportunity Act
The Challenges and Opportunities in Tennessee

- Historic under-expenditure of TANF funds
- Resulting in a significant unexpended balance, accrued over time
- Significant public attention on unspent balance
- Creation of a legislative commission to address the issue
- Development of state legislation with bipartisan support
Federal Programs

Benefits and Services for Low-Income Individuals: 60+ Programs Spending $1 Trillion per Year

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 vision
The flaws of the Public Safety Net

Program-centric vs. Person-centric
The flaws of the Public Safety Net

Transactional vs. Relational
The flaws of the Public Safety Net

Siloed vs. Cohesive & Coordinated
The flaws of the Public Safety Net

Measuring Outputs vs. Outcomes
The flaws of the Public Safety Net

Government
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 pilots, we will aggregate the cohort’s dependency
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Partners</th>
<th>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).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Board</td>
<td>The establishment and ongoing convening of the Families First Community Advisory Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Grants</td>
<td>The creation and administration of Planning Grants, which will prepare communities to submit proposals to be selected for the TN Opportunity Pilot Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilots</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector-Based Conversations</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Grants</td>
<td>The administration of the Families First Community Grants program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 communities with technical assistance, visioning, program design, budgeting, and partnership development in preparation for the TN Opportunity Pilot Program application period
Technical assistance and support for TN Opportunity Pilots through suite of shared services

**Training & TA Partner**

- Technical assistance and support for TN Opportunity Pilots through suite of shared services
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
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