



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF
**HUMAN
SERVICES**



**TANF Opportunity
Act Overview**



August 4, 2021 | Clarence H. Carter, Commissioner

TN

Department of
Human Services

OVERVIEW

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

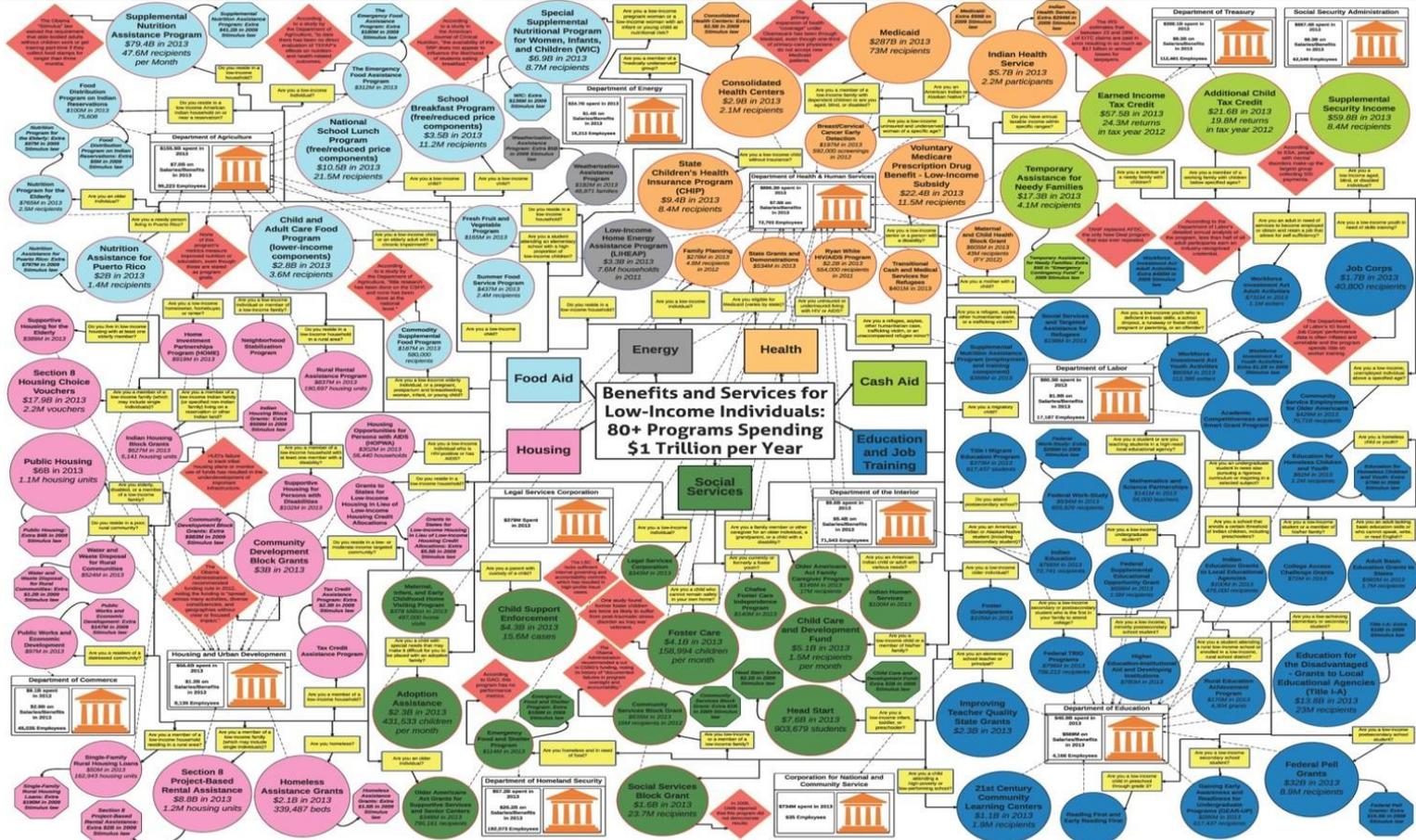


The Challenges and Opportunities in Tennessee

- **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



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.

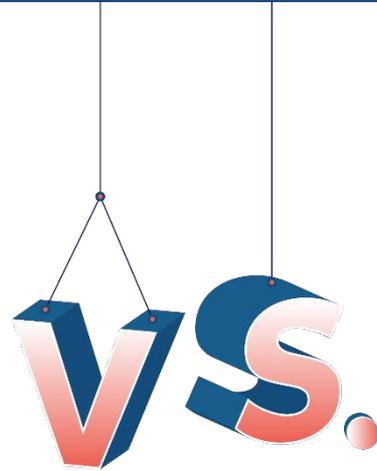


Person-centric

The flaws of the **Public Safety Net**



Transactional



Relational

The flaws of the **Public Safety Net**



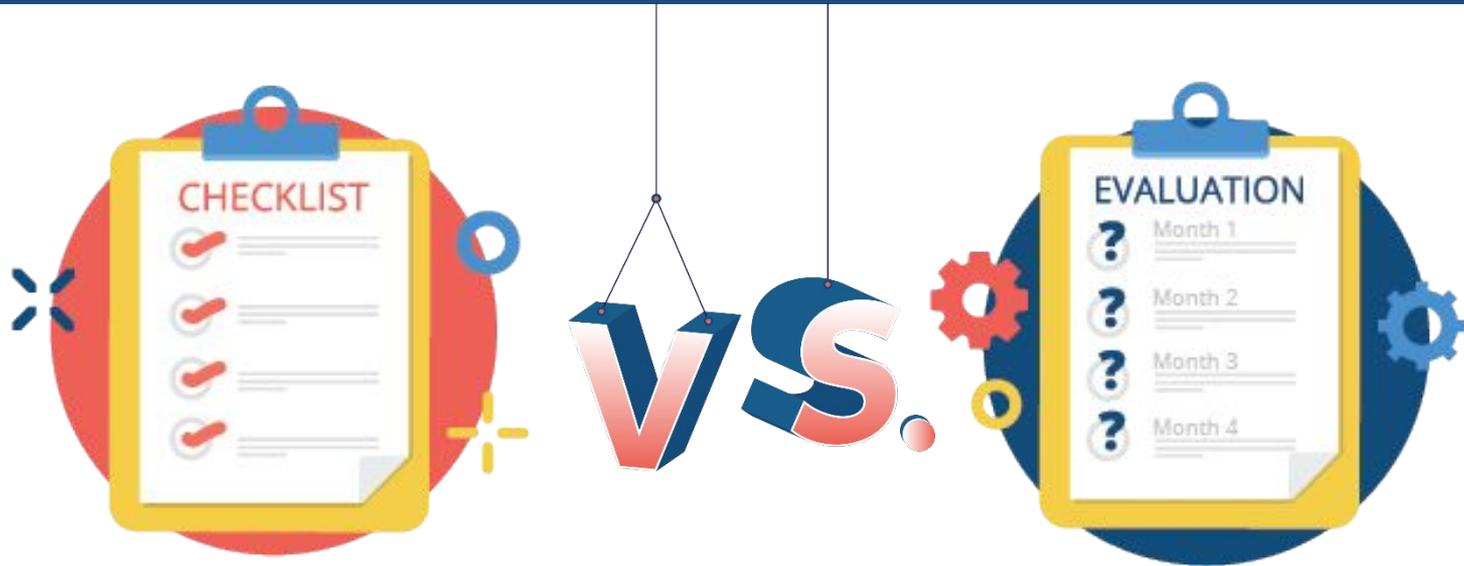
Siloed

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 pilots, we will aggregate the cohort's dependency



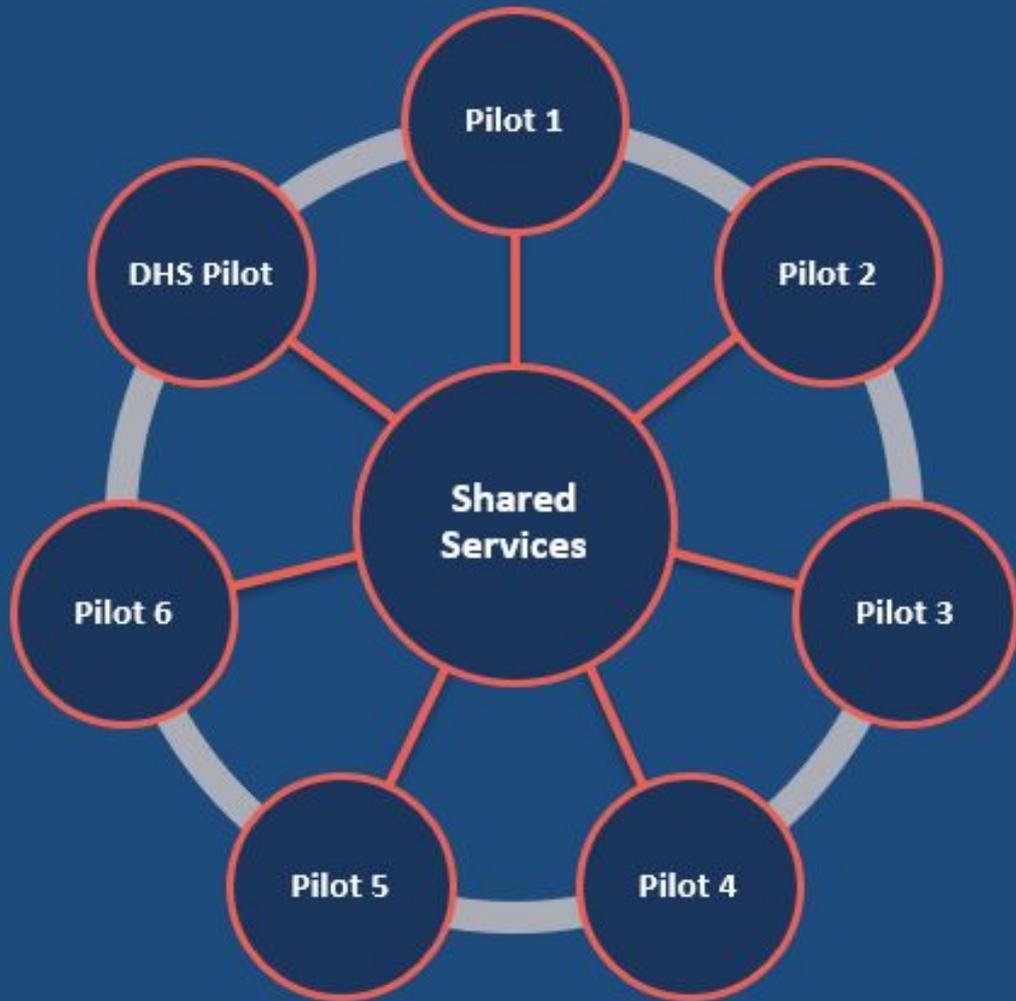
TANF *Opportunity* Act

	Program Partners	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).
	Advisory Board	The establishment and ongoing convening of the Families First Community Advisory Board.
	Planning Grants	The creation and administration of Planning Grants, which will prepare communities to submit proposals to be selected for the TN Opportunity Pilot Program.
	Pilots	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.
	Sector-Based Conversations	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.
	Community Grants	The administration of the Families First Community Grants program.



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



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

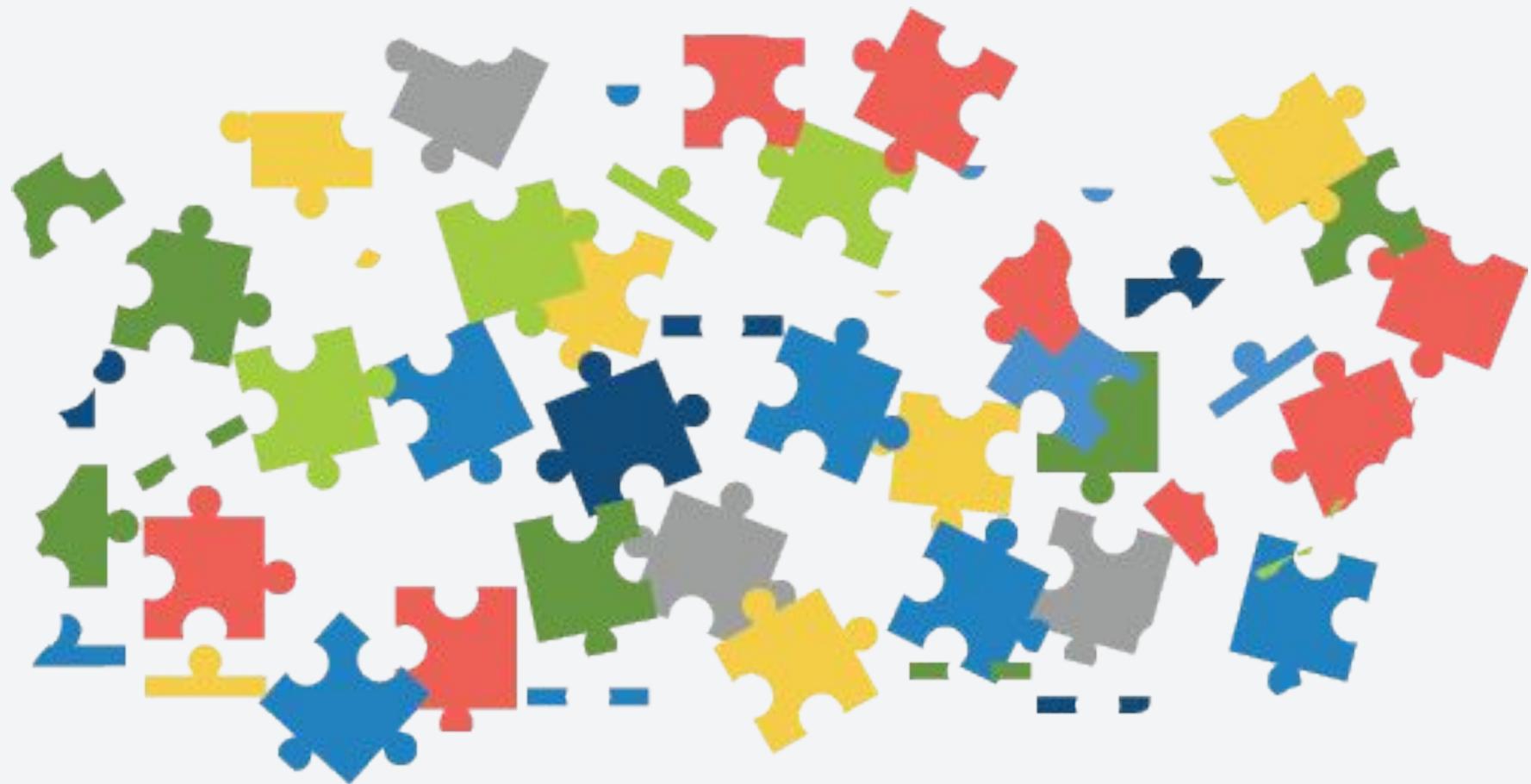


Academic



Non-governmental Organizations







A WHOLE OF TENNESSEE APPROACH



TO GROWING CAPACITY & REDUCING DEPENDENCY

Question

&

Answer