

Regional Councils

Northeast

Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

East

Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, and Union

Southeast

Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie

Upper Cumberland

Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, and White

Mid-Cumberland

Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson

South Central

Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, and Wayne

Northwest

Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, and Weakley

Southwest

Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, and Tipton

Memphis-Shelby

Shelby

Visit TN.gov/TCCY/RegionalCoordinators to learn more



Contact Us

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TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

Mission: We lead systems improvement for all children and families through data-driven advocacy, education, and collaboration

Vision: We strive to become the premier leader in children and youth systems improvement through innovative and transformative approaches and practices



ADVOCATE

Council on Children’s Mental Health

TCA § 37-3-111

The Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH) is charged with designing a plan for a statewide system of mental health care for children. The Council, composed of a broad range of stakeholders from government, providers, advocates, families and youth, is co-chaired by the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and TCCY’s executive director. TCCY partners with TDMHSAS through System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT), to further System of Care values and principles while empowering Tennessee families to work together with child-serving agencies as a partner to guide their care.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) includes leadership from home visiting programs, state departments and other stake-holders from across the state. TCCY has administrative responsibility for the HVLA through a grant agreement with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). HVLA is co-chaired by TDH and TCCY and meets quarterly.

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman responds to questions, concerns or complaints regarding children involved with the state’s child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Referrals are accepted from anyone. A mediation approach is used to resolve disputes in the best interests of the child and the safety of the community.

Second Look Commission

TCA § 37-3-801

Administered by TCCY, the Second Look Commission (SLC) was established to review a sampling of cases involving a second or subsequent incident of severe child abuse and provide recommendations and findings to the General Assembly regarding whether or not severe child abuse responses provide adequate protection for the children of this state. The SLC is co-chaired by Senate and House members, and includes representatives from the Department of Children’s Services (DCS), law enforcement, courts, child abuse service providers and the advocacy community.

TN Young Child Wellness Council

The Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) seeks to improve the well-being of children in Tennessee by improving collaboration among child-serving agencies and programs. TNYCWC serves as the advisory committee for Tennessee’s Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. MIECHV is a grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that is received by the Tennessee Department of Health to administer Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs and support the state’s early childhood system of care.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

TCA § 37-2-601

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) brings together young adults, providers, advocates and other stakeholders from across Tennessee who work with youth aging out of state custody or transitioning from child-serving to adult-serving systems in health, mental health and substance use, employment, higher education and housing. YTAC makes recommendations to the Governor, legislators, state agencies, courts, schools, institutions of higher education and service providers to improve outcomes and successful transitions from adolescence to adulthood for young people who often do not have supportive families.

COORDINATE

Regional Councils

TCA § 37-3-106

TCCY’s nine regional councils provide statewide networking on behalf of children and families. The councils address the needs of children and families at the regional level and offer local-level feedback to the Commission. Councils are comprised of professionals who work for child and family serving agencies and organizations as well as those advocating for improving the lives of Tennessee children. Details about our regional councils can be found on the next page.

EDUCATE

kidcentraltn

kidcentraltn is a free, one-stop resource for Tennessee families to raise healthy and happy kids. Created by former Governor Haslam’s Children’s Cabinet, kidcentraltn features articles on health, education, development and more. It also includes a searchable directory for state-sponsored services for children and families. The site is maintained by the TCCY.

KIDS COUNT

TCCY gathers, analyzes and reports information on children and families in various publications, including the annual *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, tracking the status of children’s educational, socioeconomic and physical well-being. Tennessee’s KIDS COUNT Project is part of the AECF network of state-level KIDS COUNT partners. TCCY participates with the AECF in the release of reports on child well-being nationally, including the annual National KIDS COUNT Data Book.

Resource Mapping

TCA § 37-3-116

TCCY oversees resource mapping of all funds originating from and flowing through the state to help children in Tennessee be safe, healthy, educated, nurtured and supported and engaged in activities to reach their potential. A report on prior fiscal year spending is submitted to the General Assembly annually. Nearly thirty state agencies report expenditures to the project every year.

Resilient Tennessee Collaborative

Early childhood is one of the most important developmental times in the life cycle. Building strong brains from the earliest years of life is a critical strategy for preventing disease, disability and social problems across the lifespan. TCCY continues to be a leader in Tennessee’s statewide investment in supporting children and families through Building Strong Brains and continues to advocate and collaborate for early childhood well-being to prevent and mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences, while also building and supporting Positive Childhood Experiences. The Resilient Tennessee Collaborative builds on foundational work of Building Strong Brains and moves further to support local, regional and state communities through training, education, collaboration and advocacy.

ADMINISTRATE

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

TCCY provides administrative support and technical assistance to the state’s Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) task forces. Tennessee has a statewide R/ED Task Force as well as several local R/ED task forces. The task forces consist of concerned citizens and agency representatives from across the state who meet periodically to address issues regarding the racial and ethnic disparities in the youth justice system.

Youth Justice

TCA § 37-3-801(a)(1)(C)

One of TCCY’s youth justice activities is distributing state and federal funds to counties, state-level agencies and community programs to prevent delinquency or improve services for children involved with juvenile courts. TCCY also serves as the State Advisory Group responsible for implementing the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act in Tennessee. Funds administered include the federal JJDP funds and state Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grants.

The JJDP Act supports and encourages equitable treatment for all children. TCCY assures the state maintains compliance with the JJDP Act’s four core requirements:

- Deinstitutionalize status offenders;
- Remove children from adult jails;
- Separate children from adult offenders; and
- Address disproportionate contact of minority children with the juvenile justice system.

TCCY monitors all secure juvenile facilities in Tennessee to assure compliance with federal placement requirements.

Council on Youth Justice

The council brings together agencies centered around youth justice to provide opportunities for networking, education, highlighting successes and showcasing opportunities for members.