



Rural Innovation

TENNESSEE TECH

TENNESSEE CENTER FOR RURAL INNOVATION (TCRI)

TENNESSEE TECH EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER

ABOUT

University

Tennessee Tech

Center Director

Michael Aikens

Center Location

Office of Research & Economic Development

Established

2017

ACTIVITIES

Technical Assistance

- Entrepreneur and small business intern program
- Rural tourism development program

Applied Research programs

- Resiliency Capacity Index (RCI)
- Interactive Asset Funneling (IAF)
- Tennessee Tourism Revenue Dashboard (TTRD)

Partnership Cultivation

SERVICE REGION

Primary

- 21 counties: 5 distressed, 8 at-risk, 8 transitional

Secondary

- Additional 54 counties: 5 distressed, 24 at-risk, 25 transitional

CONTACT

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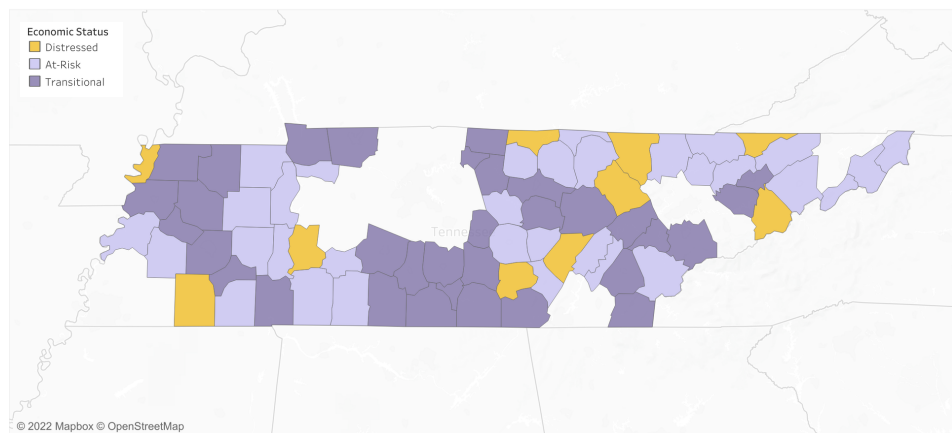
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🌐 www.tntech.edu/tcri

MISSION

Our vision is to position TCRI UC as a center of excellence in rural research, technical assistance, and strategy. Our mission is to increase the resiliency of rural Tennessee communities that are small, distressed, disaster impacted, and underserved. We embrace collaboration, inclusivity, equity, and diversity as our core values. We inspire and foster rural growth and transformation through innovation, entrepreneurship, and community and economic development. To achieve our goals and objectives, we partner with communities and regional economic ecosystems to address rural challenges and regional strategies in a way that can be replicated and scaled throughout the state, nation, and world. Our applied research produces new knowledge, data, models, tools, practices, and publications that are open, reliable, and impactful. Our technical assistance fosters job creation, builds businesses, develops tourism, and enhances the quality of life and place within rural Tennessee.

SERVICE REGION MAP



PROJECT FIT WITH EDA INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Recovery and Resilience

- Track record of increasing resiliency in rural and distressed underserved communities
- Further develop RCI and implement across service region

Equity

- Prior award 10% of TCRI clients from historically excluded groups, more than demographic makeup of service region
- Majority women-owned businesses
- Expanding efforts increase engagement and promote inclusivity/equity among historically excluded groups and small, rural, and distressed communities.