

# Prevent and mitigate ACEs in Tennessee

Increase funding of ACEs innovation grants to further existing efforts, particularly in rural/distressed counties.

In FY20, \$2.1 million supported ACEs Community Innovation Grants. The ongoing approach of ensuring equitable distribution of funds across Tennessee's diverse communities dovetails with Governor Lee's focus on rural communities.

**ACEs innovation grants have been used for programming in:**

- government agencies
- criminal justice and legal system
- health care services
- philanthropy
- child welfare/youth justice
- mental health and substance abuse services
- human services
- faith-based initiatives
- education and early care
- higher education
- raising awareness

## ACEs in Tennessee

**Adverse Childhood Experiences create toxic stress, which disrupts healthy brain development leading to increased rates of mental and physical health challenges**

**39% of Tennessee adults report two or more ACEs.<sup>1</sup>**

Positive Childhood Experiences (PCE) can serve as a buffer to toxic stress caused by ACEs. A study on PCEs demonstrated better adult mental health and relational outcomes, even when ACEs were experienced.



## THE COST OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

**Tennessee spends \$5.2 billion in direct medical costs and lost productivity due to ACEs.<sup>2</sup>**

**ACE prevention programs provide a return of \$6.30 for every \$1 spent.<sup>3</sup>**

Create and sustain statewide and/or regional infrastructure to provide technical assistance to help communities become trauma-informed and promote resilience.

Provide recurring funding to establish three Program Coordinator positions and the operational costs associated with these positions to support and expand the Building Strong Brains TN statewide strategies and assist counties and communities across the state to align services and resources to address Adverse Childhood Experiences.

COVID has highlighted the increased need to prevent and mitigate the lifelong impact of childhood adversity and to help communities across Tennessee work together to align services and improve their safety, health, and prosperity.