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# Advocate

March 2019

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### Children's Advocacy Days

Spring is coming, and, more importantly, Children's Advocacy Days, March 12-13. We are looking forward to seeing you there. Gov. Bill Lee will welcome participants, giving many of us an opportunity to hear from him for the first time.

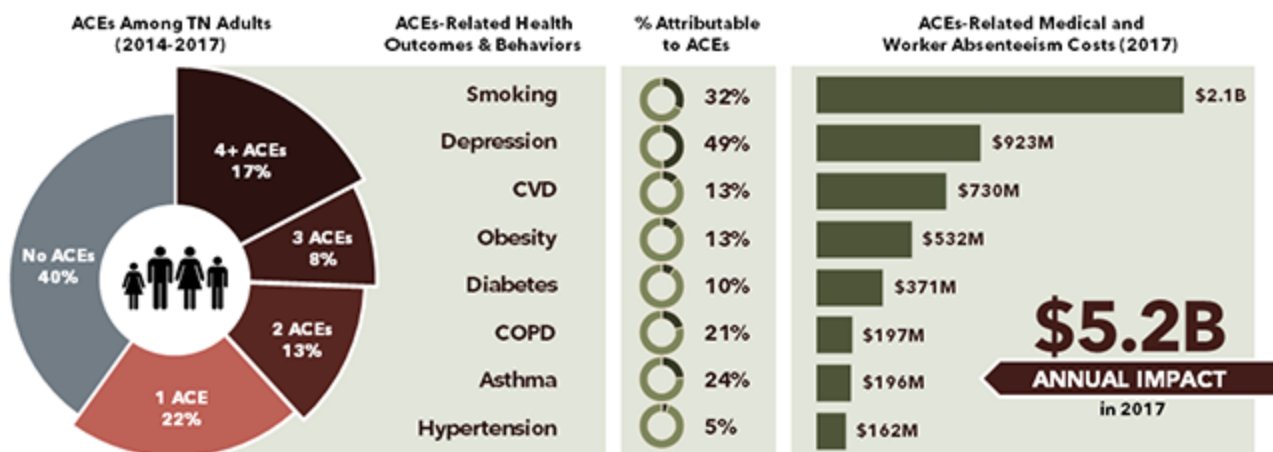
TCCY has planned a fast-paced schedule of presentations. Julie Sweetland of the [Frameworks Institute](#) and Hugh Vasquez of the [National Equity Project](#) will headline the event. Popular features, including young Spoken Word poets and updates from state child-serving departments, will return.

Register at <http://bit.ly/2Dyxj79>.

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## ACEs Cost Tennessee \$5 Billion Annually

### The \$5 Billion Annual Economic Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Tennessee



Note: Obesity-related costs include only direct medical costs.

Source: The Sycamore Institute's analysis of data from the 2014-2017 CDC BRFSS provided by the TN Department of Health, the CDC Chronic Disease Calculator, Trogon et al. 2012, CDC SAMMEC, and Ford et al. 2014

SycamoreInstituteTN.org

The original Adverse Childhood Experiences study's eye opening revelation was the impact of ACEs, not just on emotional health, but also on physical health and life expectancy. A new report by The Sycamore Institute, *The Economic Cost of ACEs in Tennessee: Medical Costs and Worker Absenteeism from Health Issues Attributed to Adverse Childhood Experiences*, tells us ACEs also have an economic cost. Analysis finds more than \$5 billion in direct medical costs and lost productivity from missed work is attributable to adult Tennesseans who experienced childhood trauma. <http://bit.ly/2SoJuxu>

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## National Nutrition Month

March is Nutrition Month. Newer research continues to link nutrition to aspects of health and living.

TCCY has identified early education as critical to childhood success. Focusing on early education includes focusing on the supports children need to learn. The role of access to healthy food in students' successful learning and behavior has long been documented. Comparing the long-term health of children who received food stamps between 1956 and 1981, when the program was scaling up, and those who did not shows the program's long term success. Adults whose families received food stamps during their childhood had a lower risk of heart disease and were more likely to have graduated from high school. They earned higher incomes, as well.

Healthy eating is important for brain health. It would seem obvious that as brains develop they need to be fed with nutrients as building blocks. A diet high in refined sugars contributes to [mood disorders](#). The neurotransmitter serotonin is produced in the gastrointestinal tract and is affected by "good" bacteria levels and high sugar intake.

Orszag, P.R., Bloomberg Opinion, **Verdict is In: Food Stamps Put Poor Kids on Path to Success**, <https://bloom.bg/2DzdlS>.

Selhub, E., Harvard Health Blog, **Nutritional Psychiatry: Your Brain on Food**, <http://bit.ly/2EyF65B>.

## Summer Food Program

Summer is fun. And what makes it fun for most children is the lack of school. For some children, being out of school means eating less healthy food. Children who qualify for free and reduced-price school lunch and breakfast go without during the summer. Nearly half of students in Tennessee public schools qualify for free and reduced-price lunches, but many fewer have access to assistance during the summer. The Summer Food Program was created to address that gap using local sponsors. Ideally, sponsors also provide activities that can also help prevent the loss of learning over the summer. The Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS) will accept applications from groups interested in sponsoring Summer Food Programs until May 1.

Tennessee DHS, **Summer Food Program Seeking Community Partners for 2019**, <http://bit.ly/2DxjyFF>;

Tennessee DHS, **Tennessee Summer Food Service Program**, <http://bit.ly/2Dy8qll>;

USAD Food and Nutrition Service, **Summer Food Service Program**, <http://bit.ly/2SxeETB>.

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## TCCY Legislative Guidance

**TCCY's 2019 Legislative Guidance** is now available online. A weekly update of the progress of bills deemed most important will be sent to subscribers to TCCY's legislative ListServ.

Tennessee General Assembly tool: **Find Your Legislator**: <http://bit.ly/2Qm77WM>.

The **TCCY Legislative Report** is available at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/legislat.pdf>.

Sign up to receive TCCY Tennessee **legislative updates** and the **Advocate** at <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.

Sign up to receive TCCY **federal policy information** by following the instructions at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/advocacy-policy/federal-advocacy-issues/leg-listserv.html>.

TCCY's **Budget Recommendations** are also available.

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## Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation, created in 1936, is now focused on addressing inequality. The Foundation identified five contributors to the problem: entrenched cultural narratives, failure to invest in and protect vital public goods, unfair rules of the economy, unequal access to government and persistent prejudice and discrimination. Its work in the United States includes protecting voting rights, mass incarceration reform, net neutrality, affordable housing and empowering the workforce to speak. Groups whose work fits into the purview of the Ford Foundation may submit a short form with an idea for funding.

## Update

TCCY Southwest Regional Coordinator **Rodger Jowers** was honored with the Northwest Council on Children and Youth's Lifetime Achievement Award last year at UT Martin. The two rural West Tennessee councils are a model of the cooperation supported by TCCY. Jowers, who will be retiring in June, has served TCCY more than 20 years.

Data and Communication Director **Rose Naccarato's** daughter, Sophie, was accepted to the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) national children's honor choir. Students from all over the country auditioned for the select ensemble. Sophie will perform at the ACDA conference in Kansas City.

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## Mark Your Calendar

March 1, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., **Southeast Council on Children and Youth Legislative Brunch**, Museum Center at 5 Points, 200 Inman St., E., Cleveland. Guest speakers: TN Sen. Todd Gardenhire; Michael Leach; Department of Children's Services Deputy Commissioner Joseph Combs, regional administrator for Tennessee Valley DCS; TCCY Deputy Executive Director Craig Hargrow. **Registration** at <http://bit.ly/2UrzoZe> **is required by Feb. 22**. Information: [Rosalyn.Leavell-Rice@tn.gov](mailto:Rosalyn.Leavell-Rice@tn.gov) or 423-634-6210.

March 1, 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., The Northwest Council on Children and Youth presents **Ethics: A Mosaic of Issues Social Work & Social Media; Confidentiality; LGBT Cultural Competency**, Boling University Center, Watkins Auditorium, U.T. Martin, 61 Mt. Pelia Rd. Presenter: Paula Foster, LCSW, executive director of the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare. **Registration Deadline: Feb. 19**. Information and registration: [Dana.Cobb@tn.gov](mailto:Dana.Cobb@tn.gov) or 731-571-7271.

March 4-6, **Tennessee Head Start Association Spring Conference**, Music Road Resort Inn, 314 Henderson Chapel Rd, Pigeon Forge. Register: email [kbaxter6784@charter.net](mailto:kbaxter6784@charter.net), FAX: 423-942-6785 or mail to Karen Baxter, THSA, PO Box 2212, Jasper, TN 37347.

March 9, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Safe Kids Coalition of West Tennessee presents "**Child Emergency Preparedness Training**," Jackson State Community College, Ayers Auditorium, 2046 N. Parkway, Jackson. Topics include pediatric trauma, active shooter, ACEs, etc. Registration: \$50. Register: <http://bit.ly/2UiAdnj>.

March 12-13, **Children's Advocacy Days, "CAD Tennessee: Ideas Worth Sharing,"** War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. Contact: [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov). Register: <https://cad2019.eventbrite.com>.

March 25, 9 a.m. to 12 noon CDT, **Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare** pre-conference Ethics Workshop: "**Ethical Dilemmas and Substance Use Disorders: What Do You Do?**" Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, 700 Cool Springs Blvd, Franklin. 3 NASW CEUs. Information: <http://bit.ly/2Sc1Kdz>.

March 25, 1 p.m. CDT, to March 27, 12 noon, Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare 106th Annual Leadership & Networking Conference, Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, 700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin. Information: <http://bit.ly/2Sk0vJu>.

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## In the News

Paykamian, B., *Johnson City Press*, **Johnson City Schools Gives Community a Look at School Technology, Trauma Informed Care and More**, Feb. 1, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2UKml5D>.

Weathersbee, T., *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, **Blocking same-sex marriages could create poorer families, not stronger ones**, <http://bit.ly/2DG3mlw>.

Lynn, A., WJHL Channel 11, **Niswonger Just for Kids Call In Show**, <http://bit.ly/2DDVBwH>.

Rapaport, L., Reuters Health News, **Mother's Friendships May Be Good for Babies' Brains**, <https://reut.rs/2DvLYQB>.

Quinn, M., *Governing*, **Fostering Change: Inside the Federal Government's Big, Bold — and Potentially Messy — Plan for Overhauling How States Manage Child Welfare**, <http://bit.ly/2T2rFVB>.

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## Research Information

Melton, C., The Sycamore Institute, **The Economic Cost of ACEs in Tennessee: Medical Costs and Worker Absenteeism from Health Issues Attributed to Adverse Childhood Experiences**, Feb. 1, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2S3DIkT>.

Mansa, M. & Arik, H., *Tennessee Housing Development Agency*, **Issue Brief: Opioid Recovery + Affordable Housing**, February, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2E3PdAj>.

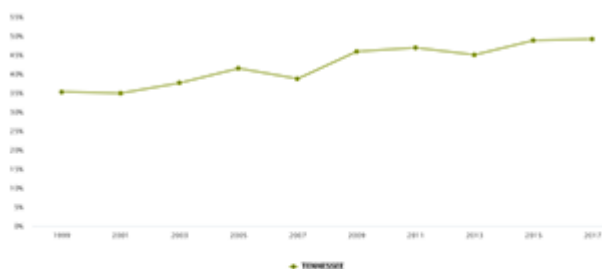
Haskins, R., and Schanzenbach, D., Institute for Research on Poverty, **Work Requirements in the Safety Net and the Challenges of Implementation**, <http://bit.ly/2DDgLEk>.

Hayes, S.L., et al., The Commonwealth Fund, **To the Point, The Fiscal Case for Medicaid Expansion**, <http://bit.ly/2SJZoTs>.

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## Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

### Free & Reduced Lunch Participation



Free/reduced-price School Lunch Participation (Percent)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

### WIC Participation



Infants And Children Receiving WIC Benefit (Percent)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://bit.ly/2DyoN85>

<http://bit.ly/2Dy8Mil>

More data on Tennessee child well-being are available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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