



# TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Relations



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## ***MEMORANDUM***

**TO:** Commission Members

**FROM:** Cliff Lippard *Cliff*  
Executive Director

**DATE:** 1 December 2021

**SUBJECT:** Commission and Staff Updates

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### **Commission Update**

On October 8, 2021, Governor Bill Lee called for a review of Tennessee's education funding formula, the Basic Education Program (BEP). As you know, TACIR has long been involved with education funding in Tennessee, preparing one half of the two-part fiscal capacity calculation used to determine each local education agency's share of funding and serving on the Basic Education Review Committee (BEPRC). And as you'll recall, the Commission recommended in January of 2020 that a comprehensive review of the BEP funding components be made by the BEPRC or other designated state and local officials and other stakeholders to ensure that the BEP funding formula supports a commonly accepted basic level of education for Tennessee students. Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the governor's initiative and stand ready to provide any assistance requested.

On November 10, 2021, the Tennessee General Assembly's Judiciary and Government Joint Subcommittee of Government Operations voted to recommend the sunset and one-year wind down of the Local Government Planning Advisory Committee (LGPAC), which is housed and staffed within the Department of Economic and Community Development. The LGPAC is responsible for, among other functions, creating planning regions and reviewing and approving county growth plans and changes to those plans. Because of our statutory role in monitoring and reporting on implementation of the state's comprehensive growth planning law, the Commission has maintained an informal role supporting the work of LGPAC, providing technical expertise and serving as the de

facto custodian of growth plans and related records. Staff is discussing how the work of the LGPAC may be performed if the committee does sunset, but we have made it clear that we believe it would be inappropriate for the Commission to take on any of the formal review and approval functions of the committee. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed.

### **Staff Update**

Research Manager Michael Mount has become the first staff member to complete all four levels of the TACIR Learning Pyramid. The learning pyramid, a customized version of one developed by the Department of Human Resources (DoHR), was launched in January 2018 and focuses on four competencies: research and analysis, verbal and written communication, collaboration, and self-management. In completing the pyramid, Michael successfully completed more than 30 DoHR and TACIR developed training modules, as well as 70 hours of elective training. Please join me in congratulating Michael on being the first to reach this milestone. Michael should also be commended for his recent completion of the Tennessee Government Management Institute program, a two-week residential management institute that provides mid-level managers in state government with the opportunity for academic study, learning in practical management skills, and cross-agency networking.