



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd., Suite 508
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0760

Phone: (615) 741-3012

Fax: (615) 532-2443

www.tn.gov/tacir

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 21 January 2022

SUBJECT: Post-Award and Implementation Process for State Grants—Panel

Responding to a request from Chairman Yager, the Commission at its June 2021 meeting directed staff to review the post-award and implementation processes for state grants to local governments and identify any changes warranted to streamline these processes so that grants may be more effectively utilized. Issues raised by commission members at that meeting and by local officials in interviews with staff are not limited to single grant programs or state agencies. According to officials interviewed, many of these issues contribute to project delays, increase project costs for grantees, or both. Some also involve the interpretation and implementation of federal rules and requirements that, though they are not wholly under the state's control, can be sources of frustration for grantees. Clarifying the source of grant requirements—state or federal—was among the requests made by commission members at the June meeting and will be incorporated into ongoing research for the study by staff.

For today's update, panelists representing local governments and a development district will describe their experiences navigating the post-award and implementation processes of various state grant programs to identify

- issues or areas of concern that affect grantees' ability to utilize state grants and
- examples of grant programs or processes they consider to be best practices.

You will hear from four panelists:

- Dr. Mark Watson, City Manager, Oak Ridge
- Bob Rial, Mayor, Dickson County

- Bart Walls, Chief Administrative Officer, Madison County Highway Department
- Lorie Fisher, Community Development Director, South Central Tennessee Development District

For the Commission's next meeting, staff plan to invite representatives from state agencies to participate in a panel discussion of their concerns and perspectives on best practices for managing state grant programs.