

Positively UC

A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day



AUG. 8, 2025
Vol. 6 Issue 29

EMPOWER UC TEAM ATTENDS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN COOKEVILLE



UCDD PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL COALITION TO COMBAT RURAL CHILDHOOD POVERTY

The Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) has partnered with Rural Innovation Driving Equitable Resilience (RIDER), a national coalition of rural-focused organizations working to cut childhood poverty in half.

As RIDER's backbone agency, UCDD will provide fiscal and administrative support, allowing member organizations to focus on developing programs and securing funding. RIDER is pursuing innovative strategies to create economic opportunity and improve quality of life for children and families across rural America.

"This collaboration allows us to combine resources and expertise to address childhood poverty on a larger scale," said UCDD Executive Director Mark Farley. "We are proud to support RIDER's vital work."



IN THE NEWS: UCHRA LOOKS TO HELP SENIORS WITH MINOR HOME REPAIRS

The following information was published by the Herald-Citizen on Aug. 6, 2025.

The Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency is launching a new home repair program "aimed to assist individuals 60 and over."

"We hear our senior population say they don't know who to let in their home, who they can trust [with home repairs]," said Jordan Herald, UCHRA Community Services Assistant Director, in a report to the agency's policy council Wednesday.

She said the program being undertaken by UCHRA is intended to address that issue.

"It will be a fee-based program where we're just doing basic repairs in the home," she said. UCHRA Executive Director Mark Farley added, "Because it is fee-based, because it is something that's not grant-based, there are no ongoing revenues that cover the expenses of it."

As a result, he said the program is not specifically targeted to the poor.

"We can't do free work, so it'll have to be for the population that can afford to pay for those services," he said. "We're going to start off with two individuals that have experience [with] just the light repair, the handyman-type services because that is something we realize that a lot of our seniors need assistance with."

Farley said the service will be offered initially in Putnam, White, Overton and Jackson counties, but could expand from there.

"It's something we're hoping to see expand and grow across all 14 counties as we get it solidified," he said.

He also stressed that the program is not intended to address major repair issues.

"We're not structured to where they would need to be licensed contractors," Farley said.



"We're keeping it very basic. It'll include things like yard work or gutter cleaning or maybe some very simple light switch changes, [but] nothing that would require any type of licensure."

He said the two people would be employed by UCHRA and would be operating under the agency's insurance policies.

An ad for the "home repair technician" job notes that UCHRA is looking for someone to provide "reliable, affordable home repair services for adults aged 60 and older."

Duties would include accepting calls from potential clients, providing quotes for the services requested and billing for the services once they're completed.

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.

OUR VISION

A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.

get plugged in.

Follow us on social media for the latest updates.





HEAD'S UP, UC!

IMPORTANT UPDATES AND REMINDERS

AUG. 22, 2025

2025 UCDD-UCHRA Fall Training

Where: Putnam County
Convention Center

*Offices and transportation
services will be closed.*

2025 Transportation Roadeo

Where: Putnam County
Convention Center

*Sign-up by Aug. 15 to
participate!*



**Check your staff email
for more information
about this year's theme
and opportunities to
flex your creativity!**

SEPT. 3, 2025

Senator Ken Yager's Grant Conference

Where: 276 Patton Ln.;
Harriman, TN

When: Sept. 3, from 8:30 a.m.
until 2 p.m. EST

*Registration here:
www.kenyager.com/register*

SEPT. 20, 2025

UCHRA's Final Commodities Distribution

Where: Putnam County
UCHRA office

When: Sept. 20 from 9 a.m.
until 2 p.m.

*Open to commodities clients
from any county. Sign-ups will
also be available that day.*