

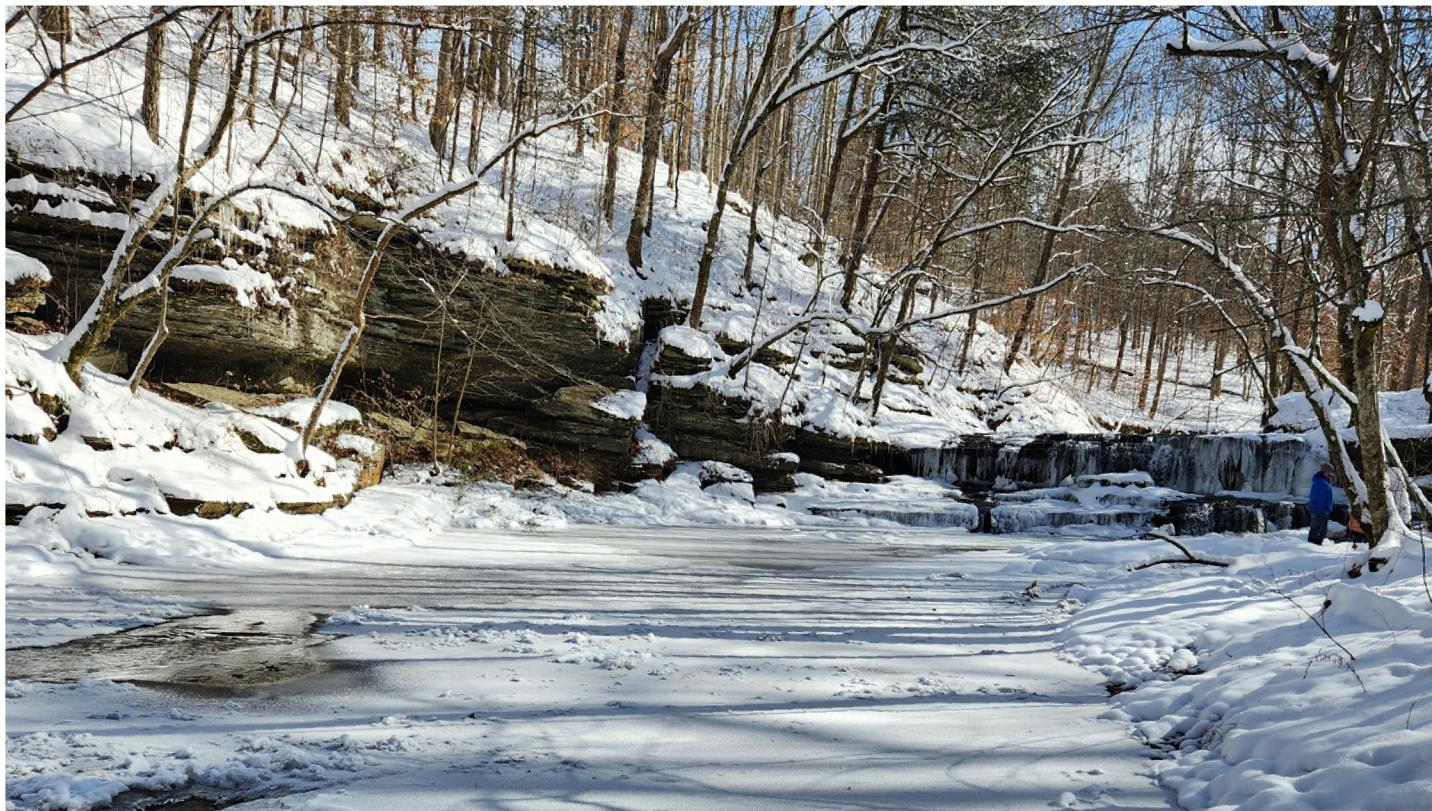
# Positively UC

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



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## UPPER CUMBERLAND BRACES FOR WINTER WEATHER

If you've checked the forecast lately, you know it seems to change about every time you refresh the weather app.

One thing is certain: winter weather is expected to make an appearance across the Upper Cumberland in the coming days, and we want everyone to stay safe and informed.

Due to forecasted conditions, UCHRA Public Transportation services will be suspended on Saturday and Monday. As always, this decision is based on keeping our passengers and staff safe—no matter what version of the forecast we're currently looking at.

Because winter weather likes to keep us guessing, any additional closures or service impacts will be shared as soon as updates become available.

Please continue to watch your email and official UCHRA communication channels for the latest information.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to:

- Stay safe and travel with caution
- Bundle up and stay warm
- Stay tuned for updates (and maybe keep your snow boots handy, just in case)

And since snow days can bring out some pretty great moments, we'd love to see yours! If you capture any winter scenes or snow-day fun, please send your photos to [connect@ucdd.org](mailto:connect@ucdd.org) so we can share them and spread a little seasonal cheer.

Thank you for your flexibility and teamwork as we navigate winter, forecast plot twists and all.



## REPRESENTING TENNESSEE AT THE NATIONAL ALICE SUMMIT

Megan Spurgeon, Empower Upper Cumberland Director, and Mark Farley, UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director, recently attended the National ALICE Summit in Miami. There, Spurgeon presented alongside colleagues across Tennessee on the work of the TANF Opportunity Act.

Together with Kaki Reynolds, Sr. Director of Economic Mobility at United Way of Greater Knoxville, and Leslie Thompson, TOPI Grant Manager at First Tennessee Development District, the Upper Cumberland team shared insights during our session: "Reimagining the Safety Net: Local Innovation Driving Statewide Change for ALICE."

This presentation highlighted how communities across Tennessee are leading

bold, locally driven efforts to reimagine the social safety net by strategically leveraging unspent TANF funds.

The Upper Cumberland is actively testing new strategies designed to support families on their journey toward economic mobility and long-term self-sufficiency, grounded in person-centered and data-informed approaches.

A sincere thank you to United Way of Northern New Jersey for convening such an impactful conference and creating space for cross-state learning and innovation.

The conversations, ideas, and collaboration happening here are exactly what's needed to move the needle for ALICE households nationwide.

## 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.





## UCDD ADVOCATES FOR TENNESSEE CHILDREN AT ROCK THE HILL 2026

On Tuesday, January 20, 2026, UCDD joined families, educators, and early childhood advocates from across Tennessee at the Rock the Hill 2026 event, powered by TQEE.

Everyone came together at the State Capitol to make their voices heard and encourage lawmakers to invest in young children and the families who support them.

Key priorities included making child care and preschool more accessible and affordable, expanding paid family leave, supporting infant and maternal health and mental

health services, offering more K-3 tutoring and enrichment programs, and strengthening economic supports for working families.

Throughout the day, UCDD helped families deliver their messages to legislators at the Cordell Hull Building and joined in fun, kid-friendly activities.

It was a powerful day of advocacy, connection, and a reminder that when we come together, we can make a difference for children and families across Tennessee.



This month, Jessica Roberson has been visiting senior centers in Macon, Pickett, Overton, and Cannon counties, as well as the Monterey Activity Center, to share information about the services offered through the AAAD at UCDD. During each visit, she provided literature, led Medicare bingo games with donated prizes, and engaged participants in completing the Aging Well survey. These visits are part of UCDD's ongoing outreach efforts to connect with seniors, provide valuable resources, and gather feedback to better support the community.