

Positively UC

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



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OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 25

This Monday, as we observe Memorial Day, we pause to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Their courage and dedication will never be forgotten.

Please note that all UCHRA and UCDD offices, along with UCHRA Public Transportation services, including Connect (I-40/I-24) and Go routes, will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

We wish everyone a safe and meaningful holiday weekend.



EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION AT AI TECHX



This week, members of the UCDD and UCHRA teams attended the AI TechX “From Lab-to-Market: Accelerating AI Innovation” conference, a statewide event focused on advancing artificial intelligence research into real-world applications that support innovation, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and economic growth across Tennessee.

The conference brought together leaders from across Tennessee to explore emerging AI technologies, innovation opportunities, and the growing impact of artificial intelligence on the future of work and community development.

The event was organized through a collaborative effort among leading universities, innovation organizations, and economic development partners from across Tennessee.



Attendance at events like AI TechX helps ensure our teams remain informed about emerging trends and innovative tools that may support future service delivery, community development, and regional growth initiatives.

SHIP-SHAPE SUCCESS: COFFEE AND A WELL-EARNED WIN



Recently, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) team gathered at Soul Craft Coffee to celebrate a major milestone: achieving 100 percent of their performance measures for the FY25-26 cycle. Having just closed out the April–March period, the team met every one of their performance goals.

While the “100%” looks impressive on paper, the real story lies in the effort required to reach it. Serving the entire 14-county Upper Cumberland region, this team frequently travels to reach those who need help most. Navigating health insurance can be overwhelming, but this group makes it look easy through their expertise and genuine care. Their success is also bolstered by a dedicated team of volunteers who help make the program possible.

Congratulations to the team on a phenomenal fiscal year. Your hard work makes a tangible difference in our community!

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER, ONE CAST AT A TIME

UCHRA Public Transportation recently partnered with a local NHC facility to treat residents to a fun-filled day of fishing and fellowship. The outing gave residents a chance to enjoy the outdoors, cast a line, and spend quality time together on the water.

A special thank you to Lloyd Williams, UCHRA Public Transportation Assistant Director, and John Carr for helping make this memorable day possible.

Lloyd helped coordinate the outing, while John provided transportation to ensure residents could safely enjoy a wonderful day of fishing, fellowship, and fun on the water.

UCHRA Public Transportation is grateful for opportunities like this to connect with our community and help create special memories for the people we serve!



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.





GET INVOLVED

Looking for additional ways to make an impact?
Check out the events below!

UCDD** Upper Cumberland Development District

Upper Cumberland Development District
1104 England Drive
Cookeville, TN 38501

Friday, May 29th
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm CDT

All donors will receive a 'United We Give' T-Shirt when they give May 16-30!
While supplies last!

BLOOD DRIVE

GIVE LOCAL, SAVE LOCAL.
with Blood Assurance

- Eat a good meal
- Avoid energy drinks
- Bring your ID
- Drink extra water

SIGN UP HERE!

www.bloodassurance.org/ucdd

1-800-962-0628

FOLLOW US FOR STORIES OF LOCAL IMPACT!

Shaquawana's new space, **The Open Door**, located in the former commodities warehouse at the end of the Cookeville UCHRA building, is almost ready to launch, but volunteers are needed to help get it across the finish line.

For more information, please reach out to Shaquawana Wester:

Email: swester@uchra.com

Call: (931) 650-0115

The OPEN Door
a space to give & gather

Heavy and/or tools needed

- Move cubby walls from the main office
- assemble a barrier to separate working space from intake
- move shelves to line the barrier wall and replace items back on
- hang brackets and poles on the walls where the shelves were
- hang peg boards in childrens area

Basic needs at any time

- Sorting by Gender and Season
- hanging more kids' clothing
- separating things for Quawanans Coats
- checking dates on food and rotating if needed
- Hanging clothing

HELP FIGHT SCAMS

Please be aware of a viral Facebook scam involving the LIHEAP program. Posts and ads claiming individuals can receive a free new roof through LIHEAP are false and misleading.

Those interested in applying for LIHEAP assistance should contact UCHRA directly for accurate information about available services and eligibility requirements.

Help us spread the word by sharing this information.