

WHAT WE DO

At Douglas-Cherokee, we envision a future without poverty in which individuals and families from all walks of life prosper in thriving, safe, and healthy communities. Our mission is to provide resources, tools, and opportunities that help low-income families and individuals of all ages achieve personal, economic and social stability.

Douglas-Cherokee delivers social services to residents across 30 counties in Tennessee and 2 in Kentucky. We provide services and programs which include a wide range of individual contracts funded through federal, state, and local resources. Our experienced and dedicated employees work in cooperation with local, state, and national resources to provide services in a timely manner and cost-effective basis to those in need.

DCEA helps provide support and early childhood care through Head Start and Early Head Start and elderly assistance through Senior Nutrition/Meals on Wheels and Affordable Housing. Educational support and advisement provided to school-age students through 21st Century Learning Centers, Lottery for Education Programs, and TRIO programs including, Educational Opportunity Centers, Talent Search, and Upward Bound. Families and individuals are also assisted with energy assistance, nutritional services, and other social services.



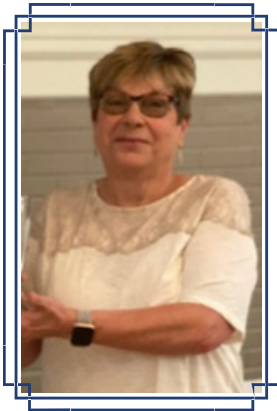
OUR MISSION

Providing resources, tools and opportunities that help low-income families and individuals achieve personal, economic, and social stability.

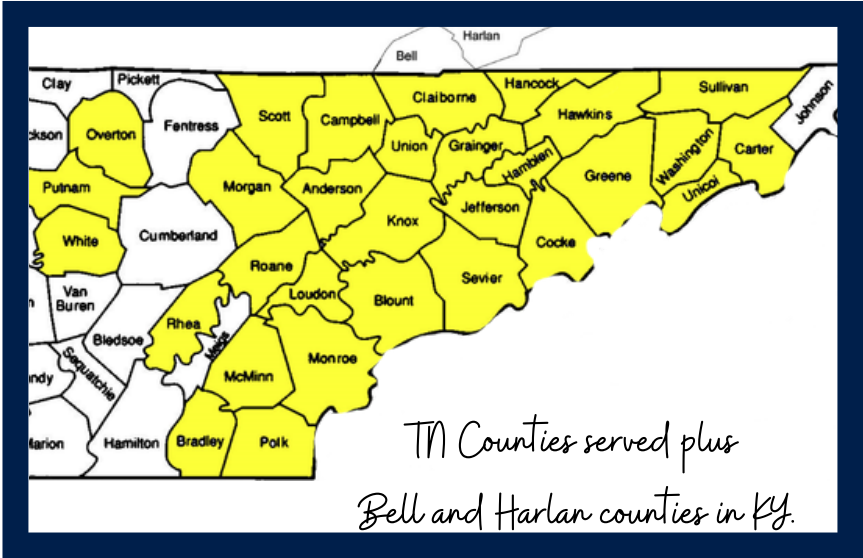




Megan Barnard
Executive Director



Rene Tabor
Board Chair



DOUGLAS-CHEROKEE ECONOMIC AUTHORITY, INC.

2026 Services Directory



534 East 1st North St.
Morristown, TN
(423) 587-4500
www.douglascherokee.org

Affordable Housing

Anna Mendoza, Director

The Affordable Housing Program manages 1,377 units of affordable rental housing for low-income seniors and families. Rents are structured so that tenants pay no more than 30% of their monthly income for housing costs at most locations.

Apartment complexes are located in these counties:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| • Anderson | • Knox | • Rhea |
| • Bradley | • Loudon | • Roane |
| • Carter | • McMinn | • Scott |
| • Grainger | • Monroe | • Sevier |
| • Greene | • Morgan | • Sullivan |
| • Hamblen | • Overton | • Unicoi |
| • Hawkins | • Polk | • Washington |
| • Jefferson | • Putnam | • White |

Education Center

Tonya Purkey, Director

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Afterschool programs serve schools with high rates of poverty and/or low achieving schools as determined by the TN Department of Education.

Afterschool programs funded through 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants are located at 10 sites in Grainger, Hamblen, and Union counties. The centers provide afterschool tutoring, counseling, physical fitness, and academic enrichment activities for underachieving students enrolled in the targeted schools.

Afterschool programs funded through the Lottery for Education program provide tutoring, counseling, academic enrichment, and physical fitness activities for underachievers in 6 sites in Grainger, Hamblen, and Union counties. All afterschool programs in Hamblen County provide individualized English Language Learner instruction.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Curt Amos, Director

Head Start/Early Head Start targets children and families meeting federal poverty guidelines. Head Start/Early Head Start assists families and children to become socially competent and gain developmentally appropriate skills required for successful entry into public school and academic and social success. Early Head Start provides quality care and an early foundation for learning for children from birth to three years of age and for pregnant women. Head Start provides comprehensive early childhood education for three to four year old children. Children with disabilities are fully included into the regular classroom, with services provided by the local school system. All program services focus on parent, family, and community engagement.

Counties Served: Blount, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, Sevier, and Union

Community Services Programs

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Nutrition Program provides home-delivered meals to homebound seniors. The meals provide one-third of the recommended daily allowance of nutrients for older adults. Eligibility is based on the need for the service, but the majority of clients meet federal poverty guidelines. Delivery personnel provide check-in services and distribute nutrition education information.

Counties served are Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, and Sevier.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTERS

The Neighborhood Service Centers, located in Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, and Sevier counties, provide emergency services on a limited basis. Services include vouchers for help with rent or mortgage payments, evictions, and utility disconnects; health and housing services, nutrition services; and distribution of food through the USDA Commodities Program. The centers also provide case management/bundled services known as Partners for Success. Eligibility for Community Services Block Grant-funded services is limited to those with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty level.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP provides assistance to income eligible households with higher energy costs. Clients may apply once during our fiscal year, between October and September, to receive a one-time payment to their energy bill. Applications are taken year-round for a payment that will come later. Crisis, or emergency aid, is on a first-come, first-served basis, available for households with poverty level income, a disconnect notice, or less than 30-day supply of fuel/wood. 70% of funds are spent on the regular LIHEAP program and 30% are reserved for clients in crisis. The program serves clients in Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, and Sevier counties.

TN STRONG FAMILIES

TN Strong Families provides diapers, wipes, and creams to families in need. The program is open to expectant mothers in all surrounding counties. Diapers are administered through the Hamblen County Neighborhood Service Center.

Trio Programs

David Alvis, Director

TALENT SEARCH

Talent Search assists low-income, potential first-generation college students (neither parent has a 4-year degree) enrolled in middle and high schools in Tennessee (Campbell, Claiborne, Scott) and Kentucky (Harlan, Bell) to prepare for postsecondary education. Services include tutoring, career and postsecondary exploration, assistance with admissions, and financial aid counseling.

UPWARD BOUND

Two Upward Bound programs assist low-income, potential first-generation college students (neither parent has a 4-year degree) enrolled in high schools in Grainger, Hawkins, Morgan, and Scott counties to prepare for postsecondary education. Services include Saturday classes during the school year and a six-week summer residential program at Carson-Newman University, tutoring, career and postsecondary exploration, assistance with admissions, and financial aid counseling. UB's focus is on academics including math, English, science, and a foreign language.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS (EOC)

EOC assists low-income, potential first-generation (neither parent has a 4-year college degree) to complete a high school diploma or earn a GED/HiSet; explore careers requiring postsecondary education; apply for admissions; complete financial aid applications; and enroll in postsecondary education or training. EOC serves adults aged 19 and older in Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Hancock, Jefferson, and Hawkins counties.



Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. strives to promote a culture that encourages, supports, and celebrates diversity, equity, and inclusivity. We respect and appreciate the background and experiences of our clients, employees, volunteers, partners, and the residents of the communities we serve. We believe that with hope and adequate resources and opportunities, everyone can reach their fullest potential.



Find us on:
facebook®