



## Pressing Forward by building on Firm Foundations



Emily Partin, Co-Chair  
South Cumberland Learning and  
Development Center



Grundy County, Tennessee is located on the Southern most part of the Cumberland Plateau as it intersects the State.



# Signs of stress in Grundy?

## The poorest county in Tennessee

January 12th, 2015 | by The Tennessean | in Breaking News | Read Time: < 1 min. |



The poorest county in Tennessee is Grundy County, according to new data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.



Median Household  
Income: **\$26,856**  
(\$53,482 US; \$44,621 TN)  
Sewanee: \$73,540

Tracy City Elementary:  
**89%** economically  
disadvantaged  
**77%** TCE students are  
reading *below* grade  
level

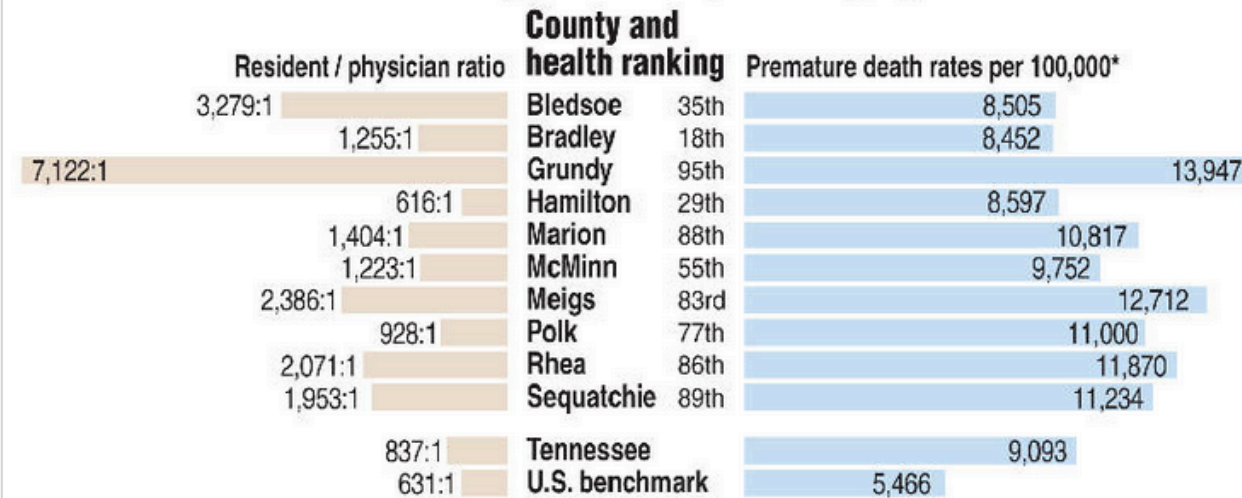
# Grundy unhealthiest county in state, study says

June 18th, 2012 | by Ben Benton | in News | Read Time: 4 mins.



## Southeast Tennessee health rankings

There are more than 7,000 people for every physician in Grundy County. That's just one of the factors that helped make Grundy dead last in a health ranking of Tennessee's 95 counties. Here's how Grundy and nine other southeast counties fared in the report along with two of the factors used to determine those rankings. For a look at all the measures used in the study, go to [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).



\*The rate of people dying before the age of 75

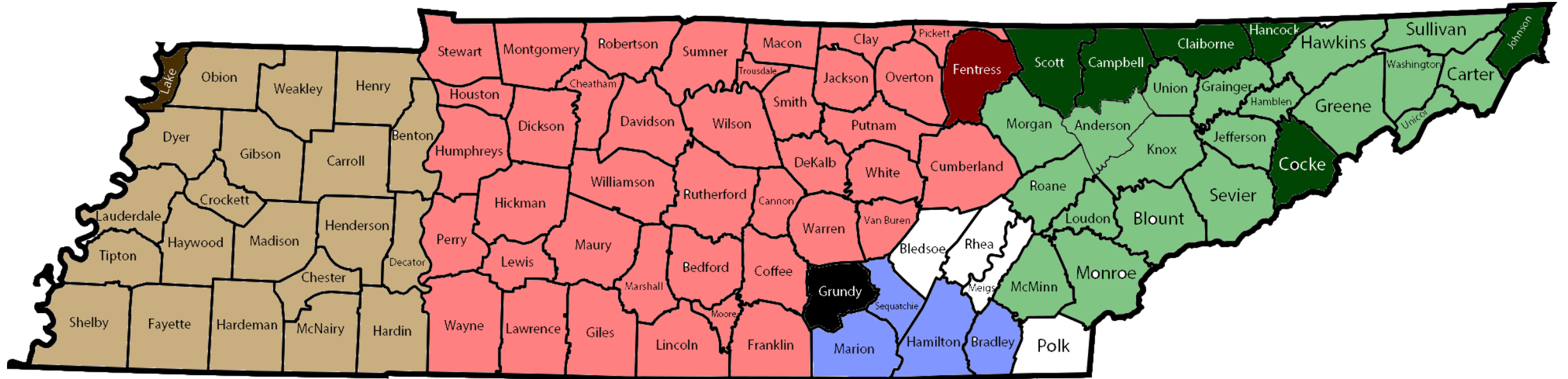
Photo by Laura McNutt /Times Free Press.

Grundy ranked **95<sup>th</sup>** out of 95 counties on County Health Ranking for *Health Outcomes (length of life and quality of life)*

Grundy men have lowest life expectancy in the state at **67** years



# Persistent Poverty in Tennessee



\*The 9 Counties in Dark Colors with White Names are in persistent poverty

\*Counties in Brown, Peach, Blue or Green are covered by regional philanthropic foundations.

\***Grund County**, in Black, is the only county that is both in Persistent Poverty and NOT covered by any major Foundation.

Though we often qualify for and receive State and Federal funding, the lack of infrastructure in rural areas makes it difficult to carry out the projects.

## APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Version 7/03

<b>1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction	<b>2. DATE SUBMITTED</b> 8/10/05	Applicant Identifier
			<b>3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE</b>	State Application Identifier
			<b>4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY</b>	Federal Identifier
<b>5. APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Legal Name:</b> Town of Tracy City			<b>Organizational Unit:</b> Department: Municipal	
<b>Organizational DUNS:</b> 143269848			Division: Government	
<b>Address:</b> Street: P O Box 277			<b>Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code)</b>	
City: Tracy City			Prefix: Mr.	First Name: Barry
County: Grundy			Middle Name	
State: TN			Last Name: Rollins	
Zip Code: 37387			Suffix:	
Country: U.S.			Email: tracycity@blomand.net	
<b>6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):</b>			Phone Number (give area code)	Fax Number (give area code)

# Tennessee Town Elects Dead Mayor

2010!!

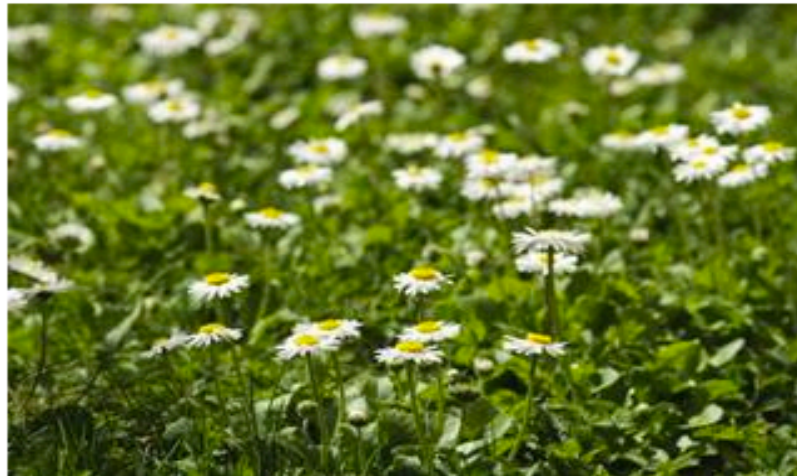
'If he were to run again next week I'd vote for him again'



By **Rob Quinn**, Newser Staff  
Posted Apr 16, 2010 4:58 AM CDT



11 comments



The defeated candidate says she is shock townspeople chose somebody pushing up the daisies instead of planting them.  
(Shutter Stock)

(**NEWSER**) – Carl Geary's campaign to become mayor of Tracy City, Tennessee, wasn't derailed when he dropped dead of heart attack in the middle of it. Geary, a councilman known for his straight-talking style, beat his rival in the small town by a margin of over 3 to 1, the *Telegraph* reports.

Business owners say the Geary vote was a protest against the current mayor's policies. "I knew he was deceased. I know that sounds stupid, but we wanted someone other than her," said one restaurant owner. "If he were to run again next week I'd vote for

him again." Officials say town councilors will now have to meet to select a mayor with a pulse.



# Never Give Up!

Pulling together local, state, and federal stakeholders to save \$500K!

February 2014





# South Cumberland Learning and Development Center

(Old Grundy County High School)



“The future home for health and wellness  
on the South Cumberland Plateau”

The South Cumberland Learning and Development Center (SCLDC), and will house a variety of services including behavioral health, medical screenings, workforce development, higher education resources, afterschool programs, and recreational activities.



We believe that integrating these resources under one roof will not only make **accessible** services that individually target mental and physical health, economic development, and social wellbeing, but will facilitate treating these domains as **interconnected**.



# Tracy City, TN makes a national report....for a good reason!

## *Promoting Meaningful Engagement for Communities With Environmental Justice Concerns*

Creating healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities is a federal government priority. Environmental justice plays a key role in an integrated effort that addresses housing, environment, transportation, and health issues together. From the beginning of the Partnership, EPA has worked closely with HUD, DOT, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to integrate environmental justice into the Partnership's work and to integrate the Partnership's principles into environmental justice efforts. The agencies developed a one-stop shopping guide for EPA, HUD, DOT, and CDC resources on sustainable communities and environmental justice.<sup>27</sup> The guide has information and links on a variety of topics to help communities with environmental justice concerns learn about their role in addressing long-standing environmental and health challenges and revitalizing neighborhoods.

This guide proved helpful in Grundy County, Tennessee, a rural region where 28 percent of residents live in poverty, including 45 percent of its children (more than twice the national average). More than four out of five children in Grundy County schools are considered economically disadvantaged, and almost half live in single-parent households. Health issues include many of the chronic conditions associated with poverty, including diabetes and obesity. The county's residents wanted to improve their health, environment, sustainability, and resilience. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice convened participants representing local, state, regional, and federal government; community leaders; academic institutions; health care organizations; and more. This effort aligns with the Appalachian Regional Commission's program



Photo courtesy of Emily C. Porritt

Figure 9: The former Grundy County High School is being redeveloped into a community education center to improve residents' health, education, and job prospects.

in Tennessee, which supports Grundy County's community-driven work to develop local solutions to complicated health and economic problems. One result of this convening was new activity, led by a team of community leaders, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations, to turn the former Grundy County High School building (Figure 9) into the South Cumberland Learning and Development Center. This center will be a hub to serve the region's residents through lifelong learning programs for adults and youth that prepare them for jobs, improve their health, and offer educational opportunities. It will also improve community connections through locally supported activities and partnerships. Connected to this effort is the revitalization of the Mountain Goat Trail, a former railroad line crossing several counties. This walking and biking trail offers not just recreation but a new way to make connections among the Cumberland Plateau communities and a catalyst for economic growth around natural areas.

<sup>27</sup> EPA. "Environmental Justice Equals Healthy, Sustainable, and Equitable Communities." <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/sustainability/index.html>. Accessed Jun. 18, 2014.

## Partnership for Sustainable Communities



FIVE YEARS OF LEARNING FROM COMMUNITIES  
AND COORDINATING FEDERAL INVESTMENTS

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

Newsroom

You are here: EPA Home » Newsroom » News Releases By Date » Obama Administration Selects Tracy City, T

News Releases By Date

Obama Administration Selects Tracy City, Tennessee to Develop Local Food Projects, Encourage Economic Expansion/ Local Foods, Local Places Initiative encourages creative economic development in 26 communities in 19 states

Release Date: 12/03/2014

Contact Information: Contact: Jason McDonald, (404)-562-9203, mcdonald.jason@epa.gov

ATLANTA--Today, on behalf of the White House Rural Council, six federal agencies joined to announce 26 communities including Tracy City, Tennessee, has been selected to participate in Local Foods, Local Places, a federal initiative providing technical support to integrate local food systems into community economic action plans. Under this effort, a team of agricultural, transportation, environmental, public health and regional economic experts

Tracy City Wins Clean Energy Grant

June 18, 2015 |

Tracy City is among the 38 communities that received word on June 15 that it has been awarded a \$125,000 grant by the Clean Tennessee Energy program. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau announced more than \$3.1.



Clean Energy used to match original ARC grant!!

LFLP award funding used to match CDBG!



Community Development Block Grant awarded to Grundy County for SCLDC in 2015!

Just received LPRF Requires 50/50 match



Newsroom

Governor Haslam

First Lady Haslam

All News

Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental

Haslam, TDEC Award More Than \$17 Million for Local Parks and Recreation

Monday, August 01, 2016 | 2:23pm

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner Bob Martineau today announced a series of grants totaling more than \$17 million to help fund parks and recreation projects in Tennessee communities.

Grundy

Town of Tracy City

121,000

Improvements to the Old Tracy School Gym now owned by the City of Tracy City





It really is amazing how well the old building has withstood years of neglect!

We want to be using these classrooms for training and post secondary education!





The old gym had sat silent for many years....



but now we have begun to use it on a limited basis with great success and excitement!!



# Farmer's Market relocates to the Old High School Campus

Farmers can place their produce at the market even if they can't be there to sell. The more produce available, the better for everyone!



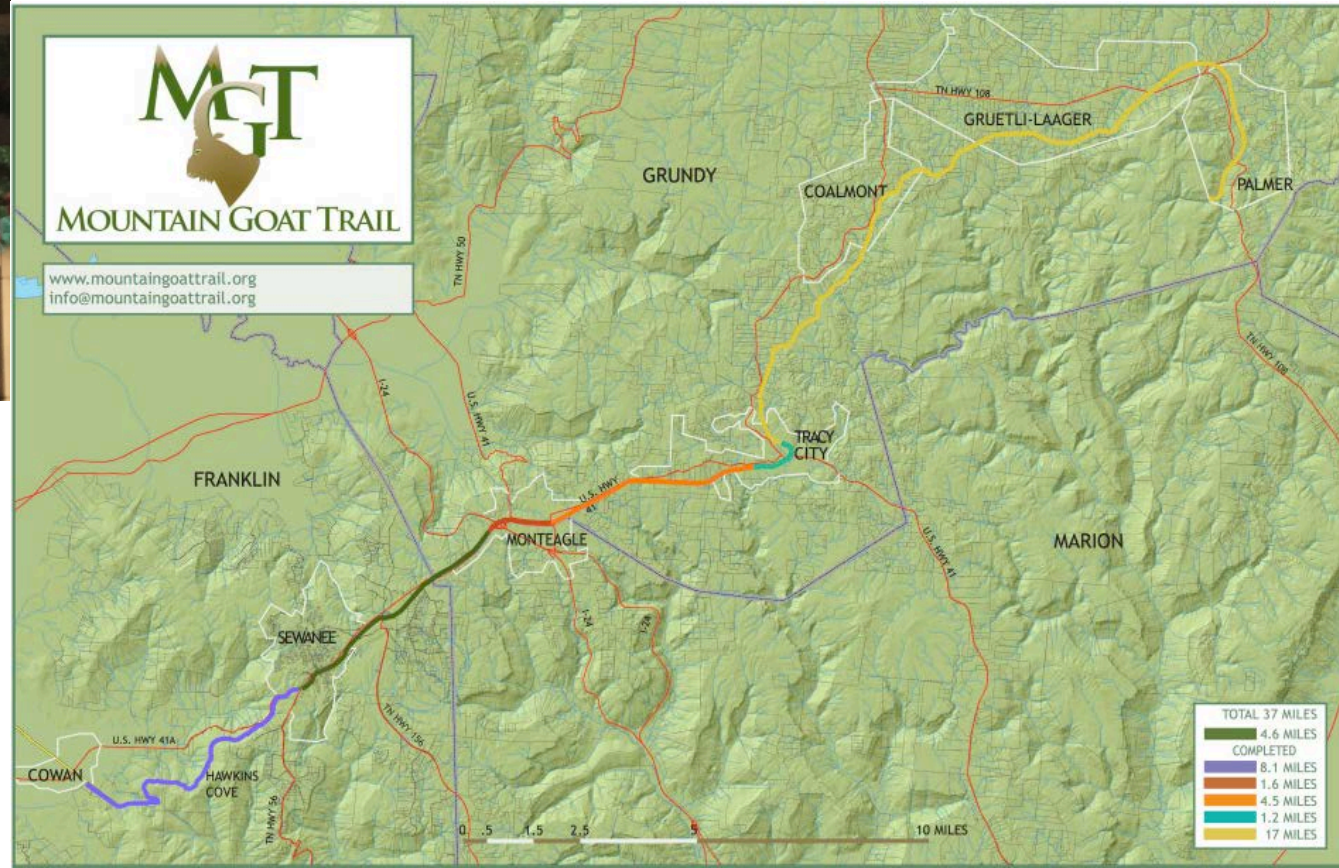
SNAP card holder getting fresh vegetables at Tracy City Farmer's Market



# Summer 2014....Governor Haslam awards \$600K for Mountain Goat Trail in Tracy City



Tracy recently applied for help through USDA Rural Development for help with the required match and received a very nice grant!





What do we want??

***Really nothing more than anyone else would want...***

*We want healthy adults raising healthy kids.*

We want a safe community offering  
living wage jobs that allow our young people  
the chance to stay and raise their family on the Plateau.

