

TENNESSEE COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION

DAVID CONNOR  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TCCA News

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## Economic Development Education Grants Announced

Matt Kisber, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced a grant to the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service (IPS) which will allow the organization to award \$30,000 in Three-Star scholarships for city and county elected officials. The scholarships, overseen by the UT IPS and ECD, will be used for continued economic development education and 28 rural Tennessee counties and cities will be eligible to apply.

Grant recipients will receive the opportunity to participate in one or more of three training options provided by the UT IPS:

- The Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course, which focuses on fundamental concepts, tools and best practices needed to be successful in today's economic development environment;
- The County Officials Certificate Training Program and Municipal Elected Officials Academy, nationally recognized training programs that provide specialized technical, administrative and managerial training to county government and municipal elected officials; and
- The Pioneer Academy, a joint city/county training program that educates attendees on economic development, planning and zoning, and retail economic development.

The Three-Star Scholarship Grants will accept applications from 28 rural Tennessee counties who have been determined to be undeserved in elected official training by the UT IPS Fiscal Year 2009 Training Data Report and by Economic Status of Tennessee as of July 1, 2009. To see a list of these counties and to find out more information about applying for these scholarships, go to the ECD website, <http://news.tennesseeanytme.org/node/4498>. For more information on applying for a Three-Star Scholarship Grant, please contact Beth Phillips, (865) 974-0268 or [beth.phillips@tennessee.edu](mailto:beth.phillips@tennessee.edu). All scholarships will be awarded no later than June 30, 2010.

The next offering of the Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course is May 3-7, 2010, in Nashville. This comprehensive course, accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), focuses on the fundamental concepts, tools and practices needed to be successful in today's complex economic environment. Registration is limited. For more information and to register, please visit [www.ips.tennessee.edu/tbedc/](http://www.ips.tennessee.edu/tbedc/) or contact Kim Arms, (865) 974-6621 or [kim.arms@tennessee.edu](mailto:kim.arms@tennessee.edu).

## Impact of Upcoming Census on County Officials' Salaries

As county officials begin to plan and prepare their budgets for the upcoming year, they should account for a possible change in the county's population class for calculating county officials' salaries. The county's population will be certified on or before April 2011, and will apply retroactively. The population that is certified in April 2011 is the population of record as of April 2010. If a county's change in population changes the class for calculating county officials' salaries, the new population classification will be effective as of April 2010. This will change the minimum salary for the officials as of April 2010. More details about this issue and how it affects your county were provided in the February CTAS Newsletter which should be available through their website. If you think your county may be impacted, you may wish to contact your CTAS consultant now to begin planning for this expense.

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## State Tax Collections Update

The Department of Finance and Administration reports that Tennessee sales tax collections continue to be a concern for the state's general fund. Negative growth in sales tax collections continued in January, with overall January revenues coming in at \$947.4 million, which is \$16.1 million less than the state budgeted.

"January is the 20th consecutive month in which sales taxes have recorded negative growth", Finance and Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz said. "January collections represent December holiday sales, which brought reports of positive growth at the national level, so it's very disappointing that we didn't have a similar experience in Tennessee."



The general fund was under collected by \$5.2 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$10.9 million. Sales tax collections were \$20.4 million less than the estimate for January. The January growth rate was negative 1.86%. For six months revenues are under collected by \$159.0 million. The year-to-date growth rate for six months was negative 5.72%.

For the full report on state tax collections, go to: <http://www.tn.gov/finance/newsrel/201001JanRevenues.shtml>

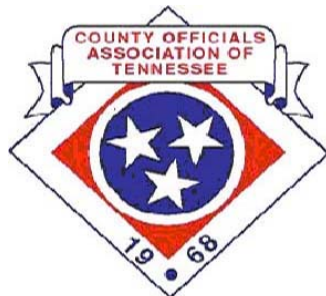
## National County Health Rankings

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute have released comprehensive national county health rankings. This is a first of its kind collection of 50 reports – one for each state-- that evaluates the overall health of each county. When you drill down into the data, you get figures on everything from car accident rates, hospice use, high school graduation rates and liquor store density. The health ranking for your county and the data used to establish the ranking can be found here: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>



## County Government Day Reminder

If you've not already registered for the upcoming COAT / TCSA County Government Day conference scheduled for March 23-24, 2010, at the Sheraton Downtown Nashville, I encourage you to do so this week. Our TCCA general membership meeting is slated to begin at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23 in Ballroom I of the Sheraton. Be sure and go by the registration desk to check in and pick up an agenda. Governor Bredesen has committed to speak at the conference wide breakfast Wednesday morning. Lt. Gov. Ramsey and Speaker of the House Williams have also been invited. This year we have been invited by the Constitutional Officers to come by their offices anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday to meet them and their staff. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity while you have the chance. We look forward to seeing you in Nashville next month.



**NOTE:** As this newsletter comes out monthly and is focused on issues of general application, we are not including specific information about legislation or actions of the General Assembly. If you are not already signed up to receive a more frequent legislative bulletin from our association, please e-mail us at [tcsa.himes@tncounties.org](mailto:tcsa.himes@tncounties.org).