

Developing America's Workforce

County Roles, Barriers and Solutions - County Case Studies



Hamilton County, Tennessee



2021 POPULATION: **369,135**
U.S. REGION: **SOUTH**
ARCHETYPE: **SMALLER
INDEPENDENT ECONOMIES**



*NACo Counties for Career
Success Participant*

At the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Southeast Tennessee, Hamilton County has the largest population size in the area due to its urban center and county seat, Chattanooga. A key challenge for the county is child care, with costs precluding many parents from going to work or school and low wages precluding potential providers from moving to the county. Though there are several workforce development stakeholders in the county, the lack of a coordinating entity contributes to duplication of services and disjointed referral systems.

Barriers



TRANSPORTATION



FUNDING



CHILD CARE

Solutions

CHILD CARE MICRO CENTERS

In Tennessee, licensed child care centers are permitted to have satellite locations. Workforce development planners in Hamilton County are leveraging this opportunity to open micro centers at work sites for some of the county's largest employers. Businesses often support this effort by donating space, paying for teachers' salaries or subsidizing costs for their employees.

CONSTRUCTION CAREER CENTER

In response to the growing need for construction workers, the Associated General Contractors, Chattanooga State Community College, Hamilton County Schools, City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County, the State of Tennessee, local foundations and private donors came together develop a skills training and career coaching program supporting individuals in construction. The [facility](#), built on the site of an abandoned elementary school, houses a vocational high school, adult education programming and continuing education to provide seamless transition for construction learners, regardless of career stage. The center is a true example of cross-sector collaboration, bringing together private industry, philanthropy, K-12 and post-secondary education and multiple levels of government.



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