



TENNESSEE RECONNECT

4/18/2022



TENNESSEE
Reconnect



TN's Goal:
**Equip 55% of Tennesseans with a
Degree or Credential by 2025**

871,000
credentials needed

645,000
high school graduates

**Tennessee CAN'T meet the Drive to 55
without adults**

What adult learners bring to the table



- Equally motivated to go to college for better job prospects & sense of personal accomplishment
- Self-directed, task-motivated, depth of experience

Challenges faced by college-going adults



- Finances
- Family Responsibilities
- Work demands
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Fear/self-confidence

The Tennessee Reconnect Grant



The TN Reconnect Grant covers tuition and basic fees for adults pursuing Associate degrees and technical certificates

Tennessee Reconnect's 1st year Applicants

- 41,587 Applicants/17,273 Enrolled
- 34 Average Age
- 71% Women
- 50% Annual Income <\$25,000
- 86% Plan to work while enrolled
- 56% with children
- Enrollment Status
 - 35% No college experience
 - 34% Attended in the past
 - 27% Currently enrolled

Navigate Reconnect

- High-touch, institution neutral, wrap around, support services to all adult learners
- Connecting hub in the Region for resources that support adult learners' credential completion



Tennessee Reconnect Partnerships

- For messaging and program growth: state, local, and non-profit partners
- For supporting adults with encouragement, reliable information, and first steps: Reconnect Ambassador Program
- For wraparound support and direct service: Tennessee Reconnect Success Collaborative

Questions/Discussion



THANK YOU

Jessica Gibson
Senior Director of Adult Learner Initiatives
Jessica.Gibson@tn.gov