

## Bright Spot Award Nomination Form

In an effort to help define what meaningful PPI is, and to better recognize the tremendous initiatives taking place across our state, we are creating a new Bright Spots Awards program.

This will be a great way to create a little “friendly competition” among the local health departments while helping to define what is meaningful PPI. Here are the steps to the process of nominating your initiative:

1.) All PPI Bright Spot Award Nominations must be submitted by July 1, 2017. One nomination form must be completed per initiative nominated.

2.) Nominations will be reviewed by a committee, comprised of individuals from local and regional health departments, as well as Central Office. Each submission will be redacted, so individual identity will not be known to the committee. They will subjectively review each submission, discuss, and award the point totals to the nominations. An average of the section reviews will be used to determine the award level earned.

3.) Awardees will be announced in the fall, 2017.

4.) Each nomination will be presented with feedback from the committee.

Award Levels:	185-200 pts: Platinum Level Award
	159-184 pts: Gold Level Award 138-
	158 pts: Silver Level Award 117-137 pts:
	Bronze Level Award
	117 pts or less: Honorable Mention Award

**County:** Franklin (SERO)

**Initiative Name:** Franklin County Inmate Reentry

**PPI Topic Area(s):** All - varies depending on the class but tobacco, nutrition/obesity, mental health, birth control, STDs, Health Department service offerings, and others have been covered.

**Primary Contact Name, Email, Phone:** Sofia Leon-Meza, Sofia.Leon-Meza@tn.gov, (931) 967.3826 Ext. 111

## Bright Spot Awards Questions

**Please explain why you think this initiative should be considered for the TDH Bright Spot Awards?**

(150 words max);(10 points available)

It targets an at risk population that is likely to be vulnerable when they leave prison and gives the community information that they can use to make better choices for their health once they leave prison. By giving them the tools and information they need to make more informed decisions about their health, they will have a higher level of self-efficacy and will be more likely to make better choices about their health and overall well-being. Also, by linking them with health department staff, they know they will have a place to turn to when or if they need help in the future.

**What is the public health problem being addressed and why is it important?**

(300 words max); (10 points available)

Tobacco, mental health, nutrition, substance abuse, and many other topics. By the end of the course all of the Big 4 topics are covered. This is important because the Big 4 are the public health problems that are causing the most damage in our state. By giving these individuals information on how to handle these issues better, they are starting fresh and will be more likely to make good decisions for themselves and their loved ones once they are released. Since many other topics are covered in addition to the Big 4, participants are getting a comprehensive health education that hits the high points of the Big 4 but also touches on other issues such as family planning that might also be of concern to a number of participants.

**What are the SMART objective goals and major purposes of this initiative? (SMART objectives are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time Bound. Ex: By May 2016, all soft drink machines in Henderson County Schools will be turned off during the school day, per school board policy.)**

(300 words max) (10 points available)

The Middle Tennessee Rural Reentry program has set these 3 goals for the program: 150 participants (50 per program) will be enrolled in the training program with a successful completion rate of at least 80%; 75% or greater of completed participants will obtain technology related employment; and reduce recidivism rate of those served to 26%. Completion of the program includes participation in the initiative from the health department.

**What is the annual budget and funding source for this initiative? If no funding is available, how have you sustained the initiative? (150 words max) (5 points available)**

There is no annual budget for the health department regarding their part in this initiative. Other than materials such as pamphlets and display boards, this initiative requires very few resources. The Middle Tennessee Rural Reentry Technology Career Training Program that this initiative is a part of is run by a Board of Directors and fully funded by the US Bureau of Justice Assistance from the Department of Justice. Much of this money goes to fund the technology aspect of the program that is a separate part of the program from what the health department does.

**Have community partners been brought to the table to help with the initiative? What are these partners bringing to the table for the initiative? (300 words max) (20 points available)**

This is one giant community partnership that the health department is a part of. Other community partners have been brought to the table to help with the initiative. A group has come in to help participants to obtain their GED, another community partner was brought in to teach parenting skills, local churches were brought in to lead faith-based classes and help participants obtain their IDs, and a local counseling service was brought in to provide addition mental health and substance abuse counseling that the health department was unable to provide. Specifically, partners include: Franklin County Health Department, TN College of Applied Technology-Pulaski (core curriculum, intro to manufacturing

& injection molding), Sewanee University of the South, Franklin County Prevention Coalition (parenting classes), Health Connect (mental health), local churches, Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (career bus), TN Mental Health & Substance abuse services, TN Lifeline – Allen Burnette & Dave Hodges, Metro Industrial, ONIN Staffing, Staffing Solutions, and companies in the area such as JSP, Zanini, M-Tec/Kasai, and TEPRO.

**What is the timing of the initiative? When does planning occur? When is/was the initiative implemented? When is the initiative evaluated? (250 words max) (5 points available)**

1-2 months. Initiative is continuously evaluated and monitored based on participant feedback and recidivism rates.

**In what way is this initiative especially innovative? How is this initiative different from programs with a similar intent? Is there a specific idea tested with this approach? Does this work reference relevant literature or relevant studies? Does the initiative achieve its stated goals? (400 words max) (50 points available)**

This initiative is especially innovative because it addresses issues with a population that can often be overlooked but is usually a captive audience with a desire to make a change. This initiative is different because it comprehensively addresses the issues that these participants are facing. From the health department aspect, they aren't just focusing on one issue such as family planning or tobacco or mental health like many programs like this do, they have looked at all of the services the health department offers and the needs of this community and are addressing all of the issues that they possibly can. The idea for this approach is that if given the proper tools, previously incarcerated individuals can make a lasting and impactful change in their lives and not reoffend. Along with the other initiatives in this program, its stated goals are achieved. In fact, the overall program has been so successful, that it has expanded to 2 additional counties and 4 other counties are requesting similar services from the Middle Tennessee Rural Reentry Program.

**Are the measures clearly listed describing what makes the program effective? Is data provided or referenced that supports the conclusion? What makes this program effective? How is the program evaluated? (350 words max) (20 points available)**

As previously stated, the program has shown it is effective by lowered recidivism rates. Recidivism rate goals have been achieved, job placement results are just under the goal, and an expected goal that wasn't stated was return on investment and savings for the county. According to the director of the program, as a result of the reduced recidivism rates and gainful employment of those who completed the program, the county saves about \$3.3 million annually.

**How can this initiative be replicated in other counties? What are some limitations or obstacles that can be expected with replication of the initiative? (300 words max) (50 points available)**

By partnering with your local jail or prison and other community groups, this initiative could be easily replicated. The particular organization that Franklin County partners with has already expanded to Coffee and Warren counties. However, many counties already have some type of relationship with them through vaccine programs or VRLAC. There are many community groups that can help provide other services such as building resumes, interview skills, vocational training, technology training, and any others that a community might have access to. One of the good things about replicating this initiative is that counties can tailor it to the needs of their population. Also, many prisons and jails already have similar programs in place so there aren't as many resources spent on starting up an initiative and counties can spend their time and resources making more robust programs to bring to this initiative.

**Is this initiative sustainable without the resources of the local health department being involved?**

(250 words max) (20 points available)

It all depends on the county. If there is already a program in place and the health department is one aspect of the program, like it is in Franklin County, there is obviously not going to be as great of a need for health department resources. However, if this is a brand new initiative, health department resources might be needed to get the program running and then taper off once the program is up and running. As stated earlier, the greatest resources that are used by the health department in this program are the people and their time. As long as there are willing community partners, this initiative is completely sustainable without relying solely on health department resources.

