



TARCOG Earns National Accreditation

TARCOG has received the highest possible rating from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) in earning accreditation for its Area Agency on Aging programs.

NCQA awards the status of "Accredited – 3 Years" to organizations that demonstrate strong performance of the functions outlined in the standards for Accreditation of Case Management for Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS). According to NCQA, the review process evaluates organizations based on industry-leading best practices. Organizations that earn an NCQA seal have met or exceeded these standards and show they are a good partner to support delivering high quality care.



"This is not an easy process, and we are so proud to be recognized for our use of best practices and the high level of care that we provide to nearly 900 clients who utilize our services in DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison and Marshall counties," said TARCOG's Director of Aging Programs Sheila Dessau-Ivey. This is the third time TARCOG has received the accreditation seal.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Serving People: New Meeting Schedule for TARCOG Board

The TARCOG Board of Directors voted at its January meeting to change the frequency and time of its meetings to better accommodate the schedules of its members.

Board President Connie Spears says the meetings will now be held quarterly on the fourth Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Previously, the meetings were held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Executive Director Michelle Jordan says the change will eliminate long drives at night for some members who live up to an hour or more away from the TARCOG office. She said it will also provide an opportunity for more interaction with staff since the meeting will be held during the workday.



Pictured: TARCOG Executive Director Michelle Jordan and Board President Connie Spears at the Jan. 23 Board Meeting.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Improving Communities: 2024 Senior Expo of the Jackson County Council on Aging

More than 500 people had a chance to learn about the agencies, resources and services available to them in the area at the 2024 Senior Expo of the Jackson County Council on Aging held Friday, Jan. 26, at the Scottsboro Goose Pond Civic Center.

Chad Coleman, council director, said the event gave the aging population in Jackson County an opportunity to learn from 51 vendors about services and resources. It was also a chance to listen to live music, dance, have food and win door prizes.

A paper shredder truck to safely get rid of confidential paperwork was available in the parking lot sponsored by First Southern State Bank. Music was provided by Roy Whitaker and the Jimmy Ray's Slap Happy Hayride.

The free event lasted from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and was sponsored by One Love Hearing Concepts and Devoted Health Plans.



Pictured: TARCOG was among the 51 vendors that attended the Jackson County Council on Aging Senior Expo, held at the Scottsboro Goose Pond Civic Center, and attended by more than 500 people.



Growing Our Economy: Helping Small Businesses

What do clothes and accessories, trampolines, RV's and a 14-person pedal powered party hover have in common in the Tennessee Valley?

They're all businesses which received funding from TARCOG's Revolving Loan Fund.

Faith Curby received a \$50,000 loan in 2021 to buy Ann's Apparel and Accessories in Scottsboro.

A \$23,000 loan helped Tori Moore start Rocket City Rover in downtown Huntsville.

TARCOG's Revolving Loan Fund helps entrepreneurs start, buy, or grow a business, making an impact on the local economy.



Pictured: Faith Curby stands in front of her store, Ann's Apparel, which is currently being remodeled. She was able to buy the business with help from TARCOG's Revolving Loan Fund.

[Learn More](#)

Employee of the Month: Phoenix Robinson

Phoenix Robinson is a Principal Planner in Economic Development and Planning for TARCOG. She has been with TARCOG for four years. Let's get to know Phoenix!

What did you want to be when you grew up? As a kid, I wanted to be a veterinarian because my mom worked with animals for the first 16 years of my life as a veterinarian technician. In high school, I discovered a love for architecture and decided to pursue that.

What do you hope to accomplish within the next year? I will obtain my certification with the American Planning Association; complete half if not 75 percent of the projects on my plate; and travel to a least one place on my bucket list this year, Canada.



Pictured: TARCOG's February Employee of the Month: Phoenix Robinson.

[Learn More about Phoenix](#)

Senior Center Spotlight: Ardmore - Where staying active is fun

In a bright red "Bama" shirt, Willie Emma Billions doesn't look her age. She's 96 and loves to play the board game Aggravation. It's hard to beat her.

Earl Nichols sits to her right as a game is underway. He says he's 72.

"No, he's not, he's 92!" says his wife Deborah, who is 72, and he looks up and grins. Then Willie Emma sends Earl's playing pieces back to the beginning and moves one of hers to home.

There's something for everyone at Ardmore. In addition to the games and activities, there are places for conversations, exercise equipment, a television and a small library for reading.



Pictured: Willie Emma Billions and Earl Nichols enjoy a game of Aggravation at the Ardmore Senior Center.

[Learn More](#)

Even More News from TARCOG!

- A lost gray cat has a new home thanks to TARCOG coworkers Leslie Wright and Max Woods.

HEALTHY HEARTS EXPO
Tuesday, Feb. 6
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Mark Russell Recreation Center

Learn how to keep your heart healthy!
 Free fitness demonstrations,
 meal planning sessions and more!
 Designed for ages 50+

HuntsvilleParksandRecreation
 HUNTSVILLE Parks & Recreation

Upcoming Events

Healthy Hearts Expo

Huntsville Parks and Recreation will host a "Healthy Hearts Expo" Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mark Russell Recreation Center, 429 Taylor Road. Designed for ages 50+, the FREE expo offers fitness classes, meal planning sessions and more!



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