



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COUNTY MAYOR HARRIS AND THE SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
LAUNCH “SENIOR TECH CONNECT” TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR LONG-
TERM CARE FACILITIES TO EXPAND VIRTUAL VISITATION FOR RESIDENTS**

Shelby County, TN – Shelby County Government has announced a new program, Senior Tech Connect, to provide resources for assisted care living facilities and homes for the aged to buy digital devices, including tablets, webcams, and headphones, to create or expand virtual visitation programs. COVID-19 has forced long-term care facilities to implement strict limits on visitation. As a result, residents in some cases are unable to connect with loved ones and family members regularly. The deadline for licensed facilities to apply is September 30, 2020. Senior Tech Connect provides grants of up to \$5,000 to licensed assisted care living facilities and homes for the aged located within Shelby County. To apply, owners or qualified representatives can access the application at covid19.shelbycountyttn.gov. For additional information, facilities can contact the program manager, Cynthia Nunnally, by email at cynthia.nunnally@shelbycountyttn.gov, or by phone 901.222.9046. The deadline for licensed facilities to apply is September 30, 2020.

Mayor Lee Harris: “We have met with many groups regarding the various issues at long-term care facilities and we continue to work toward adding extra layers of protection. One of the unintended consequences of the limits on visits to long-term care facilities is that some residents are feeling the pangs of social isolation. Access to digital devices and virtual visits are not perfect substitutes for in-person visits from your daughter, son, or loved one. But, it does help residents maintain connection as we all attempt to keep safe and slow the spread.”

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Shelby County Health Department Population Health Bureau Director Cynthia Nunnally:

“Seniors are a priority risk group because of the high risk of complications with COVID-19. While social distancing is intended to protect individuals from the virus physically, the unintended consequence of social isolation may occur. To support residents’ health and quality of life, the Shelby County Health Department is thrilled to administer Senior Tech Connect.”

(End of Release)