



ARKANSAS *Economic Development Commission* **RURAL SERVICES**

Funding Resource Guide

Community Improvement Grants

Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services

Rural Services Block Grant - The Rural Services Block Grant Program is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program and administered for the State and our agency by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Grants Division. This grant is eligible to communities of less than 3,000 in population with at least a 51% Low to Moderate income range. The maximum award is \$75,000 with a 10% match. Eligible projects include: new construction or renovation of community centers or multi-purpose use buildings for the betterment of the community, new construction or renovation of fire stations, the purchase of fire trucks, and specialized life-saving equipment such as “jaws of life” and protective clothing worn by fire fighters.

Rural Community Grant Program- Through the Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program (RCGP), the Arkansas Rural Development Commission and the Division of Rural Services strive to enhance quality of life in the state by providing incentive grants on a matching basis. The Rural Community Grant Program can assist with the improvement of local fire protection, including related emergency services and construction, along with the development and improvement of community facilities. This grant program funds projects for communities with a population less than 3,000. The maximum award is \$15,000 with 50% match.

For more information about these grant programs, visit www.arkansasedc.com/Rural-Services/division/grants for an application or contact 1-888-RURAL-AR.

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Certified Local Government Grants - City and county governments in Arkansas that participate in the AHPP's Certified Local Government (CLG) program are eligible for pass-through grants from the federal Historic Preservation Fund. AHPP must sub-grant at least 10% of its annual federal appropriation to CLGs each year. (CLG grants can also be used to assist local governments seeking to join the program.) CLG pass-through grants can be used for a variety of local historic preservation projects, including architectural surveys of historic sites or districts, preparation of nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, development of educational materials for historic property owners, and rehabilitation of local historic structures. CLG grants are often used to provide training and support to local historic district commissions. Website: <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/Programs/Funding/grants-programs>

County Courthouse Restoration Grants - The AHPP's County Courthouse Restoration Sub-grants have been used to help restore historic county courthouses in 61 of the state's 75 counties since they were created in 1989, helping to extend the lives of structures that hold vital links to community pride and local history. Participating counties donate facade easements on their historic county courthouses in return for financial assistance in rehabilitating the buildings. Grant funds come primarily from the Real Estate Transfer Tax, administered by the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council. Total amounts available to be shared among applicants annually have ranged from \$150,000 to \$1,000,000. Website: <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/Programs/Funding/grants-programs>

Historic Preservation Restoration Grants - Three Historic Preservation Restoration Grant options are available:

- **Option 1:** Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to the owners of properties that are 1) listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places and/or 2) identified as a non-contributing structure in a National Register District; if the grant project will make the property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the owner follows through with the National Register listing process.
- **Option 2:** Grants at a minimum of \$10,000 are available to the owners of properties that meet all of the following criteria: (a) listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and (b) owned by a not-for-profit organization or a municipality. No Option 2 grants will be made to individuals. Preference will be given to projects that are not eligible for other AHPP grant programs.
- **Option 3:** Grants of \$5,000 to \$9,999 are available to fund restoration projects for cemeteries listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Option 3 grants are available to non-profit organizations (501 (c) 3) and units of local government. If the cemetery is owned by any other entity, the grant may be submitted and administered by an eligible non-profit or unit of local government on behalf of the cemetery. Preference will be given to projects that are not eligible for other AHPP grants.

For more information, contact the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at (501)324-9880 or visit the AHPP website at www.arkansaspreservation.com.

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

Matching Grant – The Matching Grant Program is a reimbursable grant program. This means that the grantee will be reimbursed for half of the amount of the project cost up to the grant amount. The grantee must finance 100% of the cost of the project, which can include in-kind labor, land donations, contributions and general appropriations. The purpose of the Matching Grant Program is to build outdoor recreation facilities. Enclosed facilities cannot be constructed within the area described by the park boundary map, except as support to an outdoor facility (i.e., rest rooms or concession stands). Pavilions cannot have sides that give the effect of a closed-in building, nor can facilities constructed with LWCF or NCRGTF monies be enclosed at a later date. Website: www.outdoorgrants.com/grants

Fun Park Grant - The FUN Park Grant Program is designed to assist small incorporated cities with populations of 2,500 or less and unincorporated rural communities, sponsored by their county, to develop their first basic neighborhood park or make fundamental improvements to an existing park to provide basic recreation facilities. A \$50,000 FUN Park Grant will likely challenge the grantee's ability to stretch funds and use local resources to complete the project within the grant amount. Local funds and contributions, such as site preparations and volunteer labor, may be required to complete the park. Only ten FUN Park Grants may be funded annually. No match required. Website: www.outdoorgrants.com/grants

For information about all Outdoor Recreation Grants, contact John Beneke, Director at (501) 682-1301, www.outdoorgrants.com

USDA Rural Development

Community Programs - Grant funds and loans for essential public community facilities in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and Transportation. For more information, contact David Branscum, State Director: (501) 301-3200, or visit www.rd.usda.gov/ar.

Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) General Assistance set-aside - CDBG funds will be utilized for public facilities and public infrastructure projects. Funds are awarded for: senior centers; child care centers; public health facilities; youth centers; accredited public libraries; removal of architectural barriers from city halls or county courthouses for accessibility; residential water and wastewater; street, curb, gutter, sidewalk, or storm sewer; flood control and drainage; and, other public facility or infrastructure project determined to be a high priority, and not eligible to be funded

under another CDBG program (communities under 3,000 with at least a 51% low to moderate income level applying for a community center or for fire protection must apply for the Rural Services Block Grant).

For more information, visit www.arkansasedc.com/grants or call 1-800-ARKANSAS.

Communities Unlimited, Inc.

Water and Wastewater Loans - CU offers various types of loans - with terms up to 10 years - for small, rural community water/wastewater projects. These loans enable rural communities to make the necessary repairs and improvements needed to maintain an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water for their customers. CU's technical assistance providers serve as liaisons between CU and the communities and assist them in finding funds for their projects from CU's various loan funds.

CU also manages the **Revolving Loan Fund** (RLF) for the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). Each year the six national RCAP partner organizations provide technical and loan assistance to more than 2500 small, rural community water and wastewater systems nationwide.

For more information, visit www.communitiesu.org or contact Jerry Kopke, Arkansas State Coordinator at (479) 443-2700 ext.128.

Fire Protection Grants

Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services

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Arkansas Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils

Grants are awarded for water supply and delivery items as outlined in the Master Fire Plan. Items such as pressurized hydrants, dry hydrants, ponds, tankers, supply hose, suction hose, strainers, dump tanks, and valves are considered in the grant awards. Basically anything needed to establish a water supply point or move water from the supply point to the scene of a fire can be considered for grant funds. An initial grant is awarded to fire departments when the first Master Fire Plan is completed.

For more information, contact Charles Gangluff, Program Manager at (501)354-7900, aarcd@ipa.net or visit www.aarcd.org/organization.htm.

Arkansas Forestry Commission

- Up to \$15,000 per applicant interest-free loans for fire trucks and equipment.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance - grants to volunteer fire departments with funds used to buy tools, small equipment, and safety gear. Up to \$1,000.
- Provides Federal Excess equipment and vehicles free of charge to fire departments on a 50 year no cost lease based upon request forms.
- Provides 4-hour Wildland Fire Suppression Training Course to firemen statewide.

For more information, contact Kathryn Mahan-Hooten at 501-679-3183 or visit www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/rural-fire-program that Provide Assistance.

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management

Arkansas Hazard Mitigation Program – Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Nothing can stop disasters from occurring, but Mitigation is a way for communities to lessen the effects of disasters by reinforcing existing structures or building new ones stronger and better than before. In Arkansas, various Mitigation programs have brought millions of dollars to communities to prevent loss of lives and property.

Website: www.adem.arkansas.gov/hazard-mitigation-grants

State Homeland Security Grant Program - Based on state capabilities & the HSGP Guidance, the Arkansas HSGP supports the maintenance & enhancement of specific projects designed to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, & recover from acts of terrorism & other catastrophic events. Each asset must be readily deployable to support emergency or disaster operations through the state & nation. Projects currently supported through HSGP consist of: IED Detection & Deterrence through FBI Accredited Bomb Squads, Law Enforcement SRT/SWAT response to acts of terrorism, HazMat/WMD response to acts of terrorism, Arkansas State Fusion Center, Active Shooter Preparedness & Response, Citizen Preparedness/Citizen Corps Program (CCP) and Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS).

Website: www.adem.arkansas.gov/homeland-security-grant-program

For more information about the State Homeland Security Grant Program, please contact Kathy Wright at: 501-683-6700, Kathy.Wright@adem.arkansas.gov.

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) - A 50% reimbursable federal grant within the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA administered by ADEM. Supports Emergency Management related activities, salary and fringe, general day to day operating costs (utility bills, supplies, etc.), and public outreach/education.

Website: www.adem.arkansas.gov/emergency-management-performance-grant

For more information about EMPG, please contact Erin Sullivan at 501-683-6700 or Erin.Sullivan@adem.arkansas.gov.

Act 833 money - Act 833 funds are to be used for: Fire service training, support for the development of new fire departments, providing grant application/administration support to Arkansas fire departments, providing technical assistance to Arkansas fire departments, Certification of Arkansas fire departments in accordance with Act 833 of 1991, and carrying out administrative functions and directives from the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board.

For more information about Act 833, please contact Kendell Snyder at Kendell.Snyder@adem.arkansas.gov
Website: www.adem.arkansas.gov/fire-services/

Federal Surplus Property- Federal Surplus Property is a donation program governed by the General Services Administration (GSA). This unique program has the ability to acquire property that has been declared surplus by the federal government. It is brought in from all over the world, to the State of Arkansas, and donated to eligible organizations that include: Public Agencies, Non-Profit Health & Education, Museums, Providers to the Impoverished, and Programs for the Elderly, Veteran Organizations, Service Educational Activities, and organizations that qualify thru the Small Business Administration. Types of property include:

Furniture & Office Supplies, Tools and Building Supplies, Vehicles of all types, Maintenance Equipment, Construction Equipment, Food Service Equipment, Medical Equipment, Aircraft, Weapons (Law Enforcement Only), and & Much, Much More!

For more information, please contact Michael Harris at Mike.Harris@adem.arkansas.gov or visit www.adem.arkansas.gov/federal-surplus-property

USDA Rural Development

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program in Arkansas - This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

Website: www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/ar

For more information, please contact Stephen Lagasse at (501) 301-3265 or visit www.rd.usda.gov

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S) - Support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. Examples of the types of projects supported by FP&S include fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile firesetter interventions, media campaigns, and arson prevention and awareness programs.

For more information, please visit www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants.

County Fair Grants

Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services

AEDC Rural Services County Fair Building Grant – County fair associations located in counties with a population of less than 55,000 are eligible for up to \$4,000 per fiscal year for construction, renovation or general improvements of county fair buildings or purchase of items shown to directly improve the building or the services that the county fair association may provide.

For more information, please visit: www.arkansasedc.com/Rural-Services/division/grants/county-fair-building-grant or contact the County Fair Building Grants Manager at 1-888-RURAL-AR.

Private Resources

Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

225 East Markham Street, Suite 200 Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 376-6854 / www.wrfoundation.org

Awards grants focused on the following areas: economic development, education, and economic, racial and social justice.

Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, Inc.

200 River Market Avenue, Suite 100 Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-2233 / www.frueauff.org/index.php?fuseaction=p0007.&mod=19

Awards grants on the following areas: education, human services, and health-related causes around the country.

Tyson Foundation

P.O. Box 2020, Springdale, AR 72765

(479) 290-4000 / www.tysonfoods.com/who-we-are/giving-back/corporate-giving

Awards grants focused on the following areas: hunger relief, health and nutrition, education, community development, environment and sustainable agriculture.

Tony Hawk Foundation

1611-A S. Melrose Dr. #360 Vista, CA 92081

www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/grant-application/

Awards grants for the development of Skate Parks in low income communities.

Arkansas Community Foundation

1400 West Markham, Suite 206 Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 372-1116 / www.arcf.org/Nonprofits/ApplyforaGrant.aspx

Awards grants in various areas focused on education.

Walmart Foundation, Inc.

702 S.W. 8th Street, Dept. 8687, No. 0555, Bentonville, AR 72716

(800) 530-9925 <http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants>

Awards grants for organizations seeking funding for hunger relief and healthy eating programs; medical screening, treatment, social services or shelters; improving access to recreation, arts or cultural experiences; and tutoring or vocational training.

Arkansas Planning and Development Districts

Arkansas is divided into 8 planning and Development Districts. Each planning district covers six to twelve Arkansas counties which are bound together by common economic problems and opportunities. The planning districts provide many services including grant writing and administration for economic development projects in Arkansas. See below for contact information:

Central Arkansas Planning & Development District

Counties: Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Pulaski, Saline

Rodney Larsen, Director

902 North Center St. / P.O. Box 300

Lonoke, Arkansas 72086

Phone: 501-676-2721

Website: www.capdd.org

East Arkansas Planning & Development District

Counties: Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Lawrence, Lee, Mississippi, Phillips, Poinsett, Randolph, St. Francis

Melissa Rivers, Director

2905 King Street

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72403

Phone: 870-932-3957

Website: www.eapdd.com

Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District

Counties: Baxter, Boone, Benton, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy, Washington

Joe Willis, Director

818 Hwy 62-65 412 North

Harrison, Arkansas 72602

Phone: 870-741-5404

Website: www.nwaedd.org

Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District

Counties: Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln

Gene Higginbotham, Director

721 S. Walnut

Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Phone: 870-536-1971

Website: www.southeastarkansas.org

Southwest Arkansas Planning & Development District

Counties: Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, Union

Renee Dycus, Director

101 Business Park Dr.

Magnolia, Arkansas 71753

Phone: 870-234-4030

Website: www.facebook.com/SouthwestPlanning

West Central Arkansas Planning & Development District

Counties: Clark, Conway, Garland, Hot Spring, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Pope, Yell

Dwayne Pratt, Director

1000 Central Avenue

Hot Springs, AR 71903

Phone: 501-525-7577

Website: www.wcapdd.org

Western Arkansas Planning & Development District

Counties: Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, Sebastian

Sasha Grist, Director

1109 South 16th

Fort Smith, AR 72901

Phone: 479-785-2651

Website: www.wapdd.org

White River Planning & Development District

Counties: Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White, Woodruff

Van Thomas, Director

1652 White Dr. / P.O. Box 2396

Batesville, Arkansas 72503

Phone: 870-793-5233

Website: www.wrpdd.org

For more information, contact us:

Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services

900 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 400 | Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: (888) RURAL-AR | Fax: (501) 682-7499

RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com

www.arkansasedc.com/Rural-Services