

ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Division of Rural Services

ARKANSAS
INC





Rural Services provides grants to Arkansas communities under 3,000 in population. The director and staff serve as a single point of contact for any person or group interested in issues affecting rural Arkansas. Our division is customer oriented and user friendly.





RURAL SERVICES HISTORY

The Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services (formally the Department of Rural Services) and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission (ARDC) were created by the Arkansas General Assembly through Act 302 of 1991, the "Arkansas Rural Development Program Act" and began operations in 1992. Rural Services merged with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission on July 1, 2015.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Arkansas Rural Development Commission (ARDC) sets policy and long-term goals for the Division of Rural Services and decides which communities will receive grant funds.

The ARDC is made up of eleven regular voting members representing rural areas of the state. All commissioners are private citizens. Seven are appointed by the Governor from each of Arkansas' four congressional districts to serve five year terms. Two of the commissioners are appointed for two years by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the other two are appointed for two years by the Speaker of the House.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONERS

David Johnston, Chair – Searcy
James Myatt, Vice-Chair – Harrison
Davis Bell – Des Arc
John Davis – Monticello
Claude Graves – Bono
Lynn Hawkins – Lexa
Brent Keener – Waldron
Frank Lisko – Slovak
Martha McCaskill – Carlisle
Butch Prunty – Blytheville
Elizabeth Walker – Horatio

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RURAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAMS





RURAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAMS

- Rural Community Grant Program
- Rural Services Block Grant Program
- County Fair Building Grant Program
- Arkansas Game and Fish Wildlife Conservation Education Grant Program



RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM



RCGP: WHAT'S AVAILABLE

- Up to \$15,000 is available
- 50/50 Match
- DRS has \$600,000 to distribute each year
- Funds are distributed in two cycles per fiscal year in August and March.



RCGP: ELIGIBILITY

- Community population of 3,000 people or less
- Applicants must gain the approval of their local governing body.



RCGP: PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Fire stations, fire trucks
- Fire equipment, protective gear, jaws of life
- Community buildings
- Libraries
- City or community parks
- Storm Shelters
- Tornado sirens
- Baseball fields





RURAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Funding can be used for the construction or renovation of community centers and fire stations, fire trucks, protective gear and jaws of life/life saving equipment.



BLOCK: WHAT'S AVAILABLE

- Up to \$75,000 available
- 10% Match
- DRS has approximately \$1,000,000 annually



BLOCK: ELIGIBILITY

- Community population of 3,000 people or less
- At least 51% low to moderate income
- Must have a paid administrator certified by AEDC
- Cities not currently a party to a categorical grant through the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Grants Division and counties that are not currently a party to two categorical grants (AEDC and the Rural Services Block Grant) are eligible to apply.
- ***PLEASE CHECK WITH AEDC OR DRS BEFORE BEGINNING THE APPLICATION PROCESS.***

BLOCK: PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Purchase a fire truck
- Protective gear worn by fire fighters or jaws of life equipment
- Renovation or construction of a fire station
- Convert an existing building into a new community center





COUNTY FAIR BUILDING GRANT

Funds projects that directly improve the county fair association's buildings or services.



COUNTY FAIR: WHAT'S AVAILABLE

- Up to \$4,000
- 50/50 match
- Awarded in two cycles – August & March



COUNTY FAIR: ELIGIBILITY

- County population of less than 55,000 people
- County fair organizations must apply through their county judge's office



COUNTY FAIR: PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Paint and repair existing buildings
- Construct a new Exhibit Hall
- Heat/Air Units
- Build Restrooms
- Construct pens for animals in livestock barn





GAME AND FISH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION GRANT

Uses fine money accrued through hunting and fishing violations to fund conservation education programs in schools and counties.

FINE MONEY: WHAT'S AVAILABLE

- Over \$750,000 + available
- Money collected in a county can only be used in that county
- Funding availability will differ by county
- No matching requirement
- Number of award cycles varies



FINE MONEY: ELIGIBILITY

- Any school district who is implementing or operating a conservation education program
- Any conservation district who is implementing or operating a conservation program



FINE MONEY: PROJECTS

- Arkansas Youth Shooting Sports (AYSSP)
- National Archery in Schools Program (ANASP)
- Fishing in the Natural State Program (FINS)
- Project WILD
- School Yard Habitat Site Development
- Arkansas Stream Team



PROGRAMS AT-A-GLANCE

Program	Funds Available	How Often	Amount	Match	Deadline(s)
Rural Community Grant Program (RCGP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Development Fire Protection 	\$600,000 yearly	2 Cycles	\$15,000	50/50	August 8, 2019 March 5, 2020
Rural Services Block Grant Program (RSBGP)	\$1,000,000 yearly	1 Cycle	\$75,000	90/10	August 8, 2019
County Fair Building Grant	\$60,000 yearly	2 Cycles	\$4,000	50/50	August 8, 2019 March 5, 2020
Fish & Wildlife Grant Program	varies	1 Cycle	Varies	0	TBD



RURAL SERVICES

**2019 ARKANSAS RURAL
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**
SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14-16

Hot Springs Convention Center
Hot Springs, AR

For more info, contact us at:
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