



Hugh McDonald
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Clint O'Neal
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Arkansas Site Development Program Application FAQs

What is the program?

The Arkansas Site Development Program is intended to provide matching funding for site development improvement activities that will enhance industrial site readiness and competitiveness for job-creating projects.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include:

- Cities, towns, and counties in Arkansas
- An economic development organization
- A chamber of commerce

What sites are eligible for consideration?

- greenfield industrial sites
- minimum of 30 acres contiguous land
- Owned or optioned by an eligible applicant (optioned land must be owned by the applicant by the time the grant agreement is executed)
- Listed on the [Arkansas Site Selection Center Database](#)

What kinds of site development projects are eligible?

- Extension and improvement of public infrastructure to the site
- Right of way acquisition necessary for the eligible project
- Easement acquisition
- Soil borings and analysis
- Construction costs for site improvements including but not limited to:
 - Drainage improvements
 - Easements
 - Dozer or dirt work
 - Grading
 - Site mitigation
 - Site rehabilitation
- Costs associated with site due diligence studies
- Other site development related activities deemed necessary by the Commission to improve a site's competitiveness

What kinds of site development projects are NOT eligible?

- Purchase of property (except right of way or easements necessary for the site development project)
- Principal and interest on any financed debt
- Lease payments
- Salaries or benefits for employees



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- Marketing or advertising
- Routine site repair and maintenance
- Expenditures incurred prior to the grant award

What are the matching fund requirements and what is considered a matching fund?

An eligible applicant must invest a match that is at least a minimum of 5% of the overall project cost estimate. The matching fund can be in the form of cash, in-kind donations, or a combination of both. Cash matching funds can be in the form of funds appropriated by the local governing body or invested by an economic development organization, nonprofit or for profit entity. In-kind matches can include professional or skilled labor donated to support the site development project activity identified in the application.

How can I apply?

Interested applicants should submit their intent to apply for the Arkansas Site Development program by August 1, 2024 using the link found [HERE](#). After the intent to apply form is submitted, applicants will receive a unique link to submit your application and supporting documentation. Applications and supporting documentation are due by September 2, 2024.

The application and list of supporting documents required can be downloaded [HERE](#).

How many sites will be selected?

The number of sites and amount of funding awarded will be determined by the program demand. Depending on the volume of eligible grant applications, applicants may not receive the entire amount of grant funding requested.

Timeline

Program Opens:	June 10, 2024
Express Intent to Apply and Receive Application Link:	June 10, 2024 through August 1, 2024
Deadline to Express Intent to Apply:	August 1, 2024
Applications Close:	September 2, 2024
Notice of Award	November 2024

What supporting documents are needed for my application?

- Arkansas Site Development Application Excel Sheet
- Project Budget (with total estimated costs, sources of funds, matching funds, and amount of funding requested)
- Any quotes or price comparisons for eligible project costs
- Notarized Affidavit for any in-kind match
- Project Timeline with Milestones
- Topography Map
- Wetlands Map
- Floodplain Map
- Zoning Map



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- Utility Map with lines and line sizes identified
- Transportation Map with roads and number of lanes identified
- Aerial photographs with site boundaries identified
- Parcel Map with all property in the site that is owned, leased, optioned, or has a right of first refusal
- Legal description of the property
- Deed of current ownership or option to purchase property, if applicable
- Copies of any due diligence studies

All supporting documents should be numbered and should clearly identify the Applicant and the type of document being submitted. For example: 1 Hope, Arkansas Project Budget.

How will my application be reviewed?

The applications will be date stamped and reviewed by the AEDC review committee in the order received. The application will be initially reviewed to determine that the application meets the eligibility requirements, is completed and signed, and that the sources and uses of the funds are sufficient to ensure the successful completion of the project. After initial eligibility is confirmed, the review committee will evaluate the project on the rubric below. The review committee will then provide each application’s score and recommendations for funding to the AEDC Executive Director.

<u>Maximum Points</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Factors to consider</u>
<u>30</u>	<u>Site Conditions</u>	<u>The applicant’s site has favorable site conditions including but not limited to adequate size, favorable slope, minimal wetlands, outside of the 100-year floodplain, industrial zoning, compatible neighboring land use, and controlled access to the site.</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>The applicant’s site has proximity and capacity for: electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, and telecommunications.</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>Transportation Infrastructure</u>	<u>The applicant’s site has proximity to paved roads, rail infrastructure, intermodal facilities, ports, or commercial airports.</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Site Due Diligence</u>	<u>The applicant’s site has undergone site due diligence studies in the last 5 years including but not limited to: geotechnical survey, environmental studies, endangered species survey, archeological survey, wetlands delineation, and soil borings.</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Current Marketing Efforts</u>	<u>The applicant’s site is actively being marketed for industrial use, the site has hosted prospects for site visits, the site is currently under consideration for an active economic development project, or both.</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>The applicant’s match is above the minimum 5% required for eligibility.</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Site Certification</u>	<u>The applicant’s site is currently a certified site or Competitive Communities Initiative (CCI) designated site.</u>
<u>100 Total Maximum Points Possible</u>		



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Who should I contact with additional questions?

Bethany Duncan, Operations Manager, Business Development, Bethany.duncan@arkansasedc.com, 501.516.5090

Steve Jones, Buildings and Sites Coordinator, sjones@arkansasedc.com, 501.682.7311

Olivia Womack, Director, Business Development, L.olivia.womack@arkansasedc.com, 501.541.5129