

State of Arkansas

2025-2029 Consolidated Plan & 2025 Action Plan

11/01/23

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive citizen input on the 2025 – 2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Update

**Five-Year
Consolidated Plan
2025 - 2029**

**Annual Action Plan Program
Year
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

The Arkansas 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan & 2025 Annual Action Plan affirms the goals and objectives of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, which relate to major commitments and priorities of the four agencies.

Through the development of the Consolidated Plan, it was determined that there were three overarching objectives guiding the proposed activities that include:

- **Provide Decent Housing**
- **Provide a Suitable Living Environment**
- **Expand Economic Opportunity**

The main priorities and objectives within the 2025 AAP include:

- **Housing Priority Need**
- **Community Development Priority Need**
- **Economic Development Priority Need**
- **Homeless Services Priority Need**
- **HOPWA Services Priority Need**

The Consolidated Plan addresses the following community needs:

- **Housing**
- **Economic Development**
- **Public Services – community, social, human, and health**
- **Public Facilities and Public Infrastructure**

CDBG Program Overview

Where Does the Money Come From?



Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are funded through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)



Jacksonport, AR.

Photo courtesy of Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism

CDBG Program Overview

How are Funds Allocated?

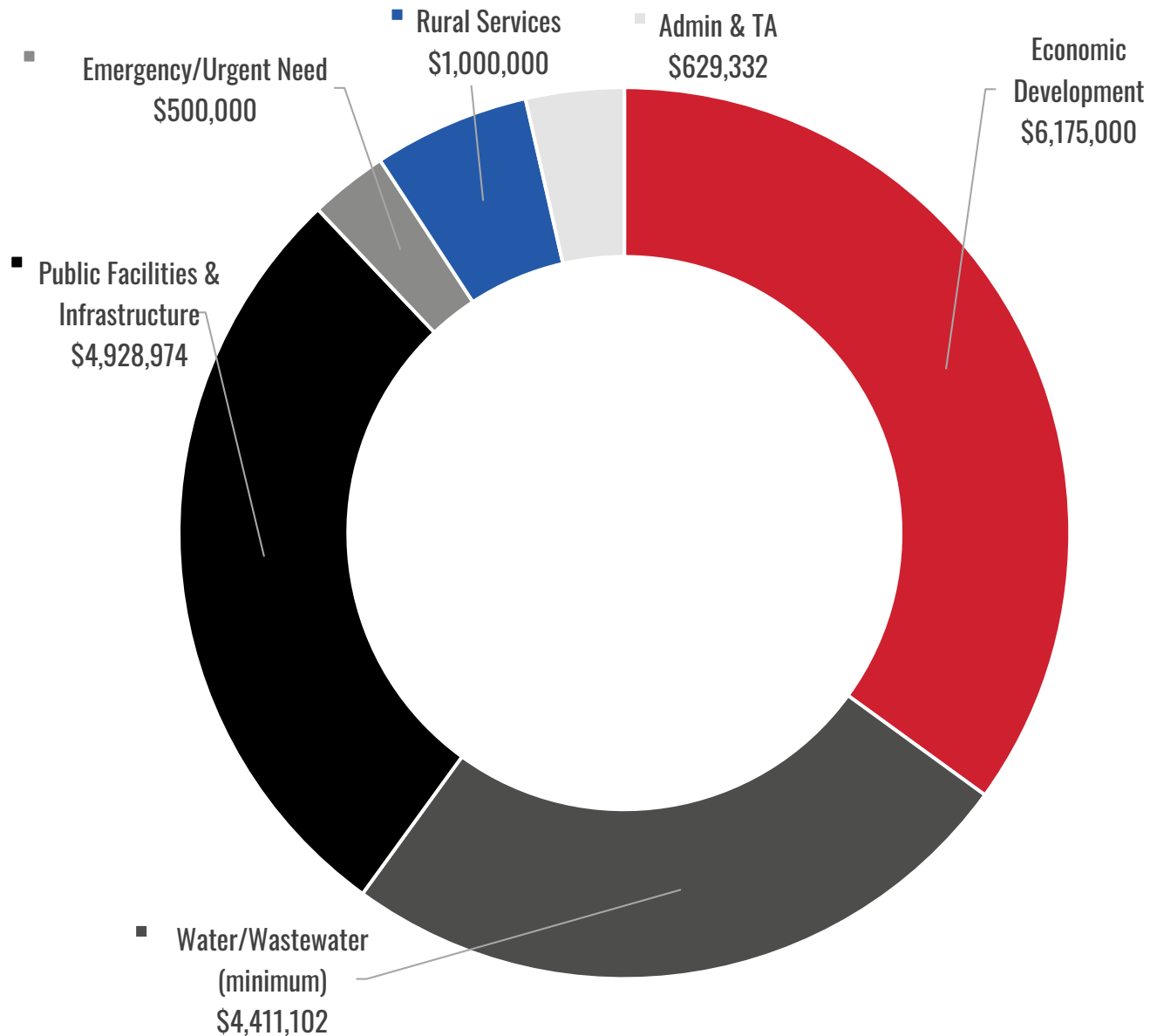
- Created by the Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA) of 1974, as amended.
- Congress appropriates funds annually
- States and “entitlement cities and counties” receive their portion of the appropriations through annual allocations determined by statutory formula
- All Arkansas counties and all cities in Arkansas other than the fourteen “entitlement cities” are eligible for ACEDP grants.
- Entitlement cities receive their own CDBG funding directly from HUD.

CDBG Program Overview

Meeting a National Objective

Grants funded must address one of the following national objectives of the program:

- Benefit to low and moderate income (LMI) persons
- Eliminate conditions of slum and blight
- Address an urgent need



Arkansas Community & Economic Development Grant Program (ACEDP)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
State's Program for Small Cities

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

2025 Allocation: \$17,644,408

CDBG Program Overview

Allocation of Funds

Economic Development	\$6,175,000		35%
General Assistance	\$9,340,076		53%
Water/Wastewater (minimum)		\$4,411,102	25%
Public Facilities & Infrastructure		\$4,928,974	28%
Emergency/Urgent Need	\$500,000		3%
Rural Services	\$1,000,000		6%
Admin & TA (3% + 100,000)	\$629,332		3%

*1% increase (\$163,653) from 2024

\$17,644,408

100%

Grants Process

Submission of Application

Applications are submitted to AEDC Grants Division

- Eligible applicants include all Arkansas cities and counties excluding 13 “entitlement cities”
- Funding generally provided for non-housing, residential public infrastructure & public facilities, and economic development
- Grant requests range from \$75,000 to a maximum of \$1,000,000; up to \$1 million for new water/wastewater new construction with new customers, only
- Competitively Scored (Readiness, Need, Impact, Leveraging, etc.)

These projects must receive a referral from a partner division:

- Fire Protection/Community Centers (under 3,000 in population) – Rural Services Division, AEDC
- Economic Development – Business Development Division, AEDC

Grants Process

Application Requirements

Activities submitted for funding must:

- Meet one of the national objectives
- Be an eligible CDBG activity
- Address one of the high priority goals in the CDBG Method of Distribution described in the current Consolidated Plan, AND
- Not be eligible for funding under another State CDBG funding program in the current Annual Action Plan

Application Process – General Assistance

Eligible Projects

Public Infrastructure

Residential Water and Wastewater

Drainage and Flood Control

Street & Road Improvements

Handicap Accessible Ramps and Sidewalks

Public Facilities

Senior Centers

Homeless Shelters

Childcare Centers

Accredited Public
Libraries

County Public
Health Units

Food Pantries

Youth Centers

Abused Children's
Safety Centers



Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC) Process

Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC) Process

The WWAC was implemented in 1992 and received national recognition as a unique model because of the cooperative efforts of the funding and regulatory agencies involved. Four state agencies partner in support of water and wastewater services. The WWAC provides project development guidance and recommends project financing to communities through its application process.

How often does the committee meet and for what purpose?

Representatives from the member agencies meet the first Wednesday of each month to review pre-applications for water/wastewater projects. The WWAC meetings are open to the public, and potential applicants may attend the meetings. Projects have to be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division, before the 15th of a month to make the agenda for the next meeting.

Section C. WWAC Process

Who are the partners?



Arkansas Department of
Environmental Quality



Arkansas Department
of Health



Arkansas Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Division



Arkansas Economic
Development Commission



U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Rural Development

COMMUNITIES
Unlimited

Communities
Unlimited



Section C. WWAC Process

What types of projects can be funded?

- Treatment Plants
- Distribution Lines
- Collection Lines
- Water and/or Wastewater Service Extensions
- Elevated or Ground Storage Tanks
- New Water Sources - Wells, Other Systems, etc.

Section C. WWAC Process

What has to be submitted to the Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee?

The Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee has developed guidance for what has to be included in a submittal.

How long does this process take?

Typically, the review of a project will take a month. However, if the information submitted is not complete or the agencies reviewing the information have questions, the Committee will send out a comment letter asking for additional information. Once each agency is satisfied, the Committee will provide a recommendation letter listing the potential funding sources for the project. The Committee will not dictate the source of funding that must be used.

The Committee separates projects into Water and Wastewater and has forms and guidance documents available online at [WWAC site](#)

Pre-Application Form: [WWAC Pre-Application Form](#)

Amy Theriac, Program Outreach Coordinator
Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division
1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
Office: (501) 682-0547
AGRI.wwac@agriculture.arkansas.gov



Scoring Criteria

The Matrix below describes each selection criteria as a numerical score within the General Assistance Program. The maximum number of points available within any application is 100 points. All selection criteria will be scored in five-point increments and shall be scored on a scale.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Project Need	Project Specs	Project Readiness	Citizen Participation	Leverage	LMI Benefit	Bonus Points	TOTAL
30	10	30	15	5	5	5	100 points

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Project Need	Project Specs	Project Readiness	Cost Effectiveness	Citizen Participation	Leveraging	LMI Benefit	TOTAL
30	10	30	10	10	5	5	100 points

Application Requirements – General Assistance

- Due: October 17, 2025 (tentative)
- New applications and resubmissions; no 2nd cycle this year
- Minimum grant request \$75,000
- Maximum grant request \$500,000 (or up to \$1M for water/wastewater new construction or extension projects *where new customers are added*)
- Grant request should include all design fees and expected costs except administration
- Administrative fees will be added to grant award

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



**Referrals for Economic
Development Projects are
made by the AEDC Business
Development Division**



Economic Development Projects

Creating Jobs for LMI Persons

Utilized for providing communities with resources to assist businesses which expand the state's economic base and which create quality jobs principally benefiting low- to moderate-income (LMI) employees.

Eligible activities will generally include: grants or loans to for-profit businesses (through the applicant community) for a variety of business purposes; or public facilities (infrastructure) projects undertaken by applicant communities for economic development purposes, where a benefiting business agrees to locate or expand premised on the infrastructure improvements and agrees to create jobs for LMI persons.

Application Process

Economic Development Selection Criteria

Economic Development commitments are made year-round.

Successful applicants are invited to make formal application to AEDC, and the project is then administered by Grants Division.

Applications evaluated on (not limited to):

- Cost benefit analysis
- Financial feasibility
- Credit worthiness
- Creation or retention of jobs, 51% of which must be made available to LMI persons at the time of hire



The AEDC Division of Rural Services awards community center, fire station, fire truck, and fire equipment and life-saving fire-protective gear projects up to \$100,000 through the Rural Services Block Grant Program (RSBGP) for communities of 3,000 persons or less with 51% LMI Benefit

Contact: Becca Caldwell
(888) 787-2527



In 2024, the Grants Division awarded just under \$15 million in State CDBG funds, which primarily benefit persons of low- to moderate-income in non-entitlement small cities and communities throughout the state:

- 24 General Assistance projects totaling \$12.7 million for a variety of public facility and public infrastructure projects, including residential water and wastewater, streets and roads, senior citizen centers, youth centers, abused children advocacy centers, and disabled persons centers, benefitting over 57,000 persons.
- Five (5) Rural Services Block Grant projects totaling over \$333,0000 through a partnership with the AEDC Division of Rural Services for the renovation of community centers and expanded fire protection in communities under 3,000.
- Three (3) economic development projects totaling over \$1.8 million, which will result in the creation of 458 jobs.



Program Overview

Applications & Guidelines

- Application Guidelines
 - 2025 Deadline Oct. 17
- Application Forms
- Exhibits Package
- Scoring Criteria
- Income Eligibility Information
- Survey Methodology



Jean Noble, PCED

Director, Grants Management

(501) 682-7389

JNoble@ArkansasEDC.com

www.ArkansasEDC.com/Grants



AEDC Grants Division



Jean Noble, PCED

Director, Grants Management

jnoble@arkansasedc.com

501.682.7389



Brenda Rowell

Senior Grants Manager

browell@arkansasedc.com

501.682.7324



Joshua Markham

Grants Manager

joshua.markham@arkansasedc.com

501.682.7314



Matthew Smith

Grants Manager

d.matthew.smith@arkansasedc.com

501.534-3601



Denyce Frisco

Grants Coordinator

denyce.frisco@arkansasedc.com

501.682.7335

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Arkansas Economic Development Commission

1 Commerce Way, Suite 601
Little Rock, AR 72201

ArkansasEDC.com

501.682.1121

 @ArkansasInc

 @ArkansasEDC

 @ArkansasEDC

 @ArkansasInc1691

