

OFFICE OF BUDGET 1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 402 Post Office Box 3278 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-3278

Phone: (501) 682-1941 Fax: (501) 682-1086 www.arkansas.gov/dfa

September 2, 2022

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee Arkansas Legislative Council State Capitol Building Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 37 (01) of Act 199 of 2022, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

- Arkansas Northeastern College Emergency Grant Aid to Students, Building Ventilation, Servicing/Upgrading HVAC Systems \$259,869
- Cossatot Community College Emergency Grant Aid to Students, Student Debt Consolidation \$288.441
- Ozarka College Emergency Grant Aid to Students, Upgrades to HVAC for increased ventilation and filtration \$369,169
- Southeast Arkansas College Emergency Grant Aid to Students, Lost Revenue Replacement \$477,561
- Pulaski Technical College Emergency Financial Aid to Students, \$1,603,208
- DHS County Operations Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program –
 Reallocation of Previously Approved Appropriation
- DHS Developmental Disabilities First Connections \$232,629

Pursuant to Section 37 (02) of Act 199 of 2022, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

 Arkansas Tech University – Multi-Purpose Facility to expand service to underserved populations and overall citizenry of the Arkansas River Valley \$3,200,000



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 401 Post Office Box 3278 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-3278 Phone: (501) 682-2242

Phone: (501) 682-2242 Fax: (501) 682-1029 www.arkansas.gov/dfa

UA – Monticello – Science Center HVAC Grant

\$6,000,000

UA – Pine Bluff – Student Engagement Center

\$3,000,000

- DFA Disbursing Officer Northwest Technical Institute Education Foundation – Allied Health Facility to accommodate various health programs \$5,000,000
- DFA Disbursing Officer Women and Children First Family Peace Center Construction \$9,597,000
- DFA Disbursing Officer Philander Smith College Expansion of LPN Program, CNA Program and the Panther Pantry and Fresh Market \$5,000,000
- DFA Disbursing Officer Arkansas Rural Health Partnership To address the shortage of health services in rural Arkansas \$10,000,000
- Black River Technical College Construction of a short-term housing and training facility
 \$4,622,857
- Southeast Arkansas College Student Center Building \$3,000,000
- DHS Aging, Adult & Behavioral Services to support the training and certification of teams employed by Behavioral Health Agencies in evidencebased models
- DHS Medical Services Emergency Relief for Hospitals to assist hospitals with offsetting extraordinary costs related to mitigating COVID-19 and retaining staff
 \$60,000,000

Sincerely,

Larry W. Walther Cabinet Secretary

LWW Attachment(s)

D.1

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

fi =======	as Northeasterr		-		,	Business Area Code:	0180	
Program Title:			A	merican Resc	ue Plan of 2021			
Granting Organization	: US Departr	ment of Edu	ucation			CFDA #: <u>84.425T</u>		
ffective Date of Auth	norization:		Beginning:	7/1	/2022	Ending:	6/23/202	3
Purpose of Grant / Re ANC intends to distril 2022. In the event to students in that Spril pased practices to m committed to improve systems and approal consistent with industrical facilities.	oute the entiret hat there are rong semester. onitor and supping the indoor ches, purchasing	y of the fu emaining f Funds a press coror air quality ng portable	nds identified founds carried over warded toward navirus in accon for in-person e air filtration	or emergency er into the Sp d the Institution rdance with p instruction by units (such	financial aid gra ring semester, / on's portion (\$1 ublic health guid inspection, to as HEPA air fil	ants to students (\$1. ANC will redistribute 29,934) will be use dance. As a result of esting and maintenaters), servicing or	29,935) in the those remaining to implement the pandeminance of current upgrading HV/	ng funds t evidenc c, ANC h ventilation
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Func. Area: <u>CCOL</u> Funds Center: D66		ernal Order	Fund Code: /WBS Element:	213ARPA			m. Approved: _ Continuation:	
	435	Sept. 100 Sept. 1				8		- V.
				(S.1) H. (1)	Program Fui	nding Amount		
Regular Salaries								
Extra Help								
Personal Services Ma	tching							
Operating Expenses								
Conference & Travel	Expenses							
Professional Fees								
Capital Outlay								
Data Processing								
Grants and Aid (CI: (14)							129,93
Other: Indoor Air Qu	ality (CI 46)							129,93
Other:								
Total			\$					259,86
Anticipated Duration Positions to be est				7/12/2023		DFA IGS State Techn Items requested for info compliance with Technol IGS State Technology P	ormation technolog ology Plans as subn lanning.	,
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Approved by:	1	1	n ₋	bert Brech	9/2/2022			
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MPK 8/31/2022

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.2

Agency:	Cossatot (Community	College of	the University of	f Arkansas		Business Area (Code: <u>0677</u>	
Program Title):			Am	erican Reso	cue Plan Act of 20)21		
Granting Org	anization:	US Depart	ment of Ec	lucation			CFDA #: <u>84.425</u>	iΤ	
Effective Date	e of Authori	zation:		Beginning:	7	/14/2022	Ending:	7/13/20	023
Purpose of G	rant / Reaso	on for addit	ion or char	nge (include attac	hments as n	ecessary to provide	thorough informat	ion):	
		Д	Attached pl	ease note the co	over letter v	vith budget detail	explanation.		
			Aı	merican Rescu	e Plan Act	t Program Fund	ina		
Func. Area		_		Fund Code: r/WBS Element:		_		Direct Funding: Comm. Approved:	
Funds Center	: D74	Int	ernal Orde	r/WBS Element:			_ _	Continuation:	
						Program Fu	unding Amount		
Regular Salar	ies								
Extra Help									
Personal Serv	vices Matchi	ng							
Operating Ex	penses								
Conference &	Travel Exp	enses							
Professional	Fees								
Capital Outla	y								
Data Process	ing								
Grants and A	id (CI: 04)								288,441
Other:									
Other:									
Total				\$					288,441
Anticipated D	uration of F	ederal Fun	ds:	7.	/13/2023				
·							Items requested fo		gy must be in mitted to DFA
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State funds authorized b			eplace fed	eral funds whe	n such fur	nds expire, unles	s appropriated l	by the General A	ssembly and
Approved by									
	-		8 15/22	Robe	ert Brech	9/2/2022			
Cabinet Secret	ary/Agency D	irector	Date	Office	of Budget	Date	Office of	of Personnel Mgmt	Date

CH 8/16/22



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COSSATOT

183 COLLEGE DRIVE/ DE QUEEN, AR 71832/870-584-4471/ www.uA Cossatot.edu

August 15, 2022

Larry W. Walther, Secretary
Department of Finance and Administration
Office of the Secretary
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 401
Little Rock, AR 72203-3278

RE: P425T220225 UA Cossatot SSARP Absolute Priority 4 Grant

Dear Secretary Walther:

Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas has been fortunate to have been approved to receive funding from the Supplemental Support under the American Rescue Plan (SSARP) Program grant application (ALN 84.425T) for the fiscal year (FY) 2023. Hereby we submit a budget narrative for expenditure of both the student and institutional portions of these funds during FY2023, pending approval of any no-cost extensions submitted to the US Department of Education.

Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas respectfully requests review of appropriation from the American Rescue Plan Act to provide for COVID-19 related expenses for student aid and capital outlay expenses as allowed by federal regulations.

The total funding to be disbursed or reimbursed from the Supplemental Support under the American Rescue Plan (SSARP) for Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas is \$288,441. At this time, the college is seeking to obtain this funding to enact the following requests.

• Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Cossatot Community College intends to distribute emergency grants to students during the Fall, Spring, and Summer, semesters of the 2022-2023 academic year from American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. During each semester, students with PELL grant eligibility will be granted priority and will receive a higher grant amount than those that are non-pell eligible. Grant awards provided during the fall and spring semesters at this time are as follows:

UA Cossatot embraces diversity and is committed to improving the lives of those in our region by providing quality education, outstanding service, and relevant industry training.

- \$1000 for students who have exceptional need such as Pell eligible and are enrolled Full-Time.
- \$750 for students who have exceptional need such as Pell Grant funds and are enrolled Part-Time.
- \$750 for students who have need but are not eligible for Pell Grants and are enrolled Full-Time.
- \$500 for students who have need but are not eligible for Pell and are enrolled Part-Time

These guidelines will be applied to All students. Students enrolled in non-credit courses will be awarded a flat \$500 pending approval of completion of the online certification of exceptional needs.

Students will be required to complete an online certification of COVID need to receive an award. Total funding for emergency grants to students totals \$144,220.

Student Debt Consolidation – Institutional Funds

UA Cossatot intends to use the remaining \$144,220 portion of the Institutional Funds to help alleviate student debt within the college. This will apply to all students that have struggled financially to pay off their outstanding balances due to unforeseen circumstances that may have arrived because of COVID. We hope that by alleviating this debt, we will be allowing students to continue their education goals or pursue their intended careers as planned.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this supplemental appropriation request and spending plan. Please feel free to reach out to Charlotte Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration by email at cjohnson@cccua.edu with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Steve Cole Chancellor

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

Agency: Oza	rka College					Business Area Code	e: <u>0687</u>	
rogram Title:		Sup	pplemental Supp	ort Under	the American Reso	cue Plan (SSARP)		
Granting Organiza	tion: US Dept of	Education				CFDA #: 84.425T		
iffective Date of A	Authorization:		Beginning:	7/	/14/2022	Ending:	6/30/202	3
Amendment to att	tached detail plan	only. The	SSARP Grant wi	ill be used	to support continu	thorough information) ued enrollment and crease ventilation a	re-enrollment	by providing
Func. Area: TC0 -unds Center: D7			Fund Code:	287ARPA	: Program Fundi	Steering Con	Direct Funding: nm. Approved: Continuation:	
	. , E x ,				Program Fu	nding Amount		
Regular Salaries					i rogium ru	namy rimeant		
Extra Help								
Personal Services	Matching							
Operating Expens								
Conference & Tra								
								10.000
Professional Fees								19,000
Capital Outlay								165,584
Data Processing			-					
Grants and Aid (C	1: 04)						_	184,585
Other:								
Other:								
Total			\$					369,169
Anticipated Durat	ion of Fodoral Fun	da	07	//12/2022				1
Anticipated Durat	ion of Federal Fund	19.	07	7/13/2023		DFA IGS State Techn Items requested for info compliance with Technology P	ormation technolog blogy Plans as sub	
Positions to be Org	established: (list		ion separately) Position				* unclassif	ied positions on
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State funds will authorized by the Approved by		eplace fed	eral funds whe	en such fur	nds expire, unless	s appropriated by	the General A	ssembly an
1	Jan	8/31/2022	Robe	ert Brech	9/2/2022			
Cabinet Secretary/		Date	Office	of Budget	Date	Office of P	ersonnel Mgmt	Date

MPK 9-1-22

Date 7



August 31, 2022

Larry W. Walther, Secretary
Department of Finance and Administration
Office of the Secretary
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 401
Little Rock, AR 72203-3278

Dear Secretary Walther:

Ozarka College respectfully requests review of appropriation from the American Rescue Plan Act authorized in Section 37 of Act 199 of 2022 to support continued enrollment and reenrollment by providing emergency grant aid to students and Covid-19 mitigation by upgrading HVAC systems to increase ventilation and filtration. The total budgeted cost of these purchases is \$369,169.

The total funding to be disbursed or reimbursed from the Education Stabilization Fund (American Rescue Plan) for Ozarka College is \$369,169.

Please find attached the forms and documentation to support this request.

Sincerely,

Richard Dawe, Ph.D.

President

Ozarka College

American Rescue Plan Act – Supplemental Support Under the American Rescue Plan (SSARP)

Total SSARP Grant - \$369,169

Purpose: To provide emergency grant aid to students and mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

Ozarka College will expend the \$369,169 of the strengthening institutions portion of the American Rescue Plan Act to defray expenses associated with the coronavirus and ensure the continuation of learning in the following manner:

Grants and Aid to Students – FY2023 Fall Semester Grants and Aid to Students – FY 2023 Spring Semester	92,293 92,292
Total Grants & Aid to Students	\$ 184,585
Professional Fees – HVAC Upgrades Total Professional Fees	\$\frac{19,000}{19,000}
Operating Expense – HVAC Upgrades Total Operating Expenses	165,584 \$ 165,584
Total SSARP Grant	\$ 369,169

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.4

Program Title:			Ed	ucation Stabiliz	ation Fund-	ARPA Supplem	nental Institutiona	l,		
Granting Organization	on:	US Departn	nent of Edu	cation			CFDA #: 84.425	ьт		
Effective Date of Au	ıthoriz	zation:		Beginning:	7/1	3/2022	Ending:		6/30/20	23
Purpose of Grant / I Supplemental Supp	Reaso ort un	on for addition	on or chang erican Resc	e (include attach ue Plan. See a	nments as neco	essary to provid t Narrative.	e thorough informa	tion):		
Func. Area: <u>TCO</u> l Funds Center: <u>D78</u>		- Inte		nerican Rescu Fund Code: WBS Element:	291ARPA	Program Fun		Comm. A	Funding: oproved: nuation:	
						Program	Funding Amount			
Regular Salaries										
Extra Help										
Personal Services M	latchi	ng								
Operating Expenses	S									
Conference & Trave	el Exp	enses								
Professional Fees										
Capital Outlay										
Data Processing										
Grants and Aid (CI:	04)									
Other: Student A	wards	3								238,781
Other:Lost Revenue	e Rein	nbursement								238,780
Total				\$						477,561
Anticipated Duratio	n of F	Federal Fund	ds: _	7,	/12/2023		DFA IGS State Items requested f compliance with T IGS State Technol	or information	on technologians as sub	Date gy must be in mitted to DFA
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State funds will nauthorized by the			eplace fede	eral funds whe	en such func	ls expire, unl	ess appropriated	by the G	eneral A	ssembly an
Annual lad bull										
Approved by:					ert Brech	9/2/2022				

Budget Narrative

PR/Award number: P425T220444

Recipient Name: Arkansas Department of Higher Education, The

SEARK College Administration

Authorized Funding: \$477,561

Budget Period: 07/13/2022 - 07/12/2023

Performance Period 07/13/2022 - 07/13/2023

Proposed Use of Funds:

Providing direct emergency grants to students: \$238,781

The college will provide emergency financial aid grants for Fall 2022. Additional grants will be made in spring 2023 with remaining funds available.

The guidance accompanying the American Rescue Plan Act funds states that when making emergency financial aid grants to students, institutions receiving these funds are to prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances when awarding emergency financial aid grants to students. Beyond Pell eligibility, other types of exceptional need could include students who may be eligible for other federal or state need-based aid or have faced significant unexpected expenses either for themselves or that would affect their financial circumstances, such as loss of employment, reduced income, or food or housing insecurity. Consistent with the requirement that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need the maximum amount of emergency assistance that is provided

by this grant at this time is as follows:

- \$1,000 for undergraduate students who have exceptional need such as full Pell eligible or extraordinary financial circumstances.
- \$750 for undergraduate students who are eligible for some Pell Grant funds, but not the full award.
- \$500 for undergraduate or graduate students who have need but are not eligible for Pell Grants.

There is an application process for students to request funding from this grant. The Southeast Arkansas College application process asks students to identify how the grant funds will be used. These grant funds may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance, and for costs that have arisen due to coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or childcare.

Replacing Lost revenue due to reduced enrollments: \$238,780

The College has experienced continued lost revenue due to reduced enrollment in the amount of \$737,542. The \$238,780 funding will be used to replace lost revenues for college services and operations.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

				SECTION 3.	/ UF ACI	199 UF 2022				
Agency:	University	of Arkansas	s Pulaski T	echnical College			Business Area	Code:	0693	
Program Title:			Sup	plemental Supp	ort under tl	he American Resc	ue Plan Act of 2	021		
Granting Orga	nization:	US Depart	ment of Ed	ucation		· · · · · · · · ·	CFDA #:84.42	5T		
Effective Date	of Authori	zation:		Beginning: 7/13/2022 Ending: 6/30/2023						<u>3</u>
Purpose of Gra See attached c					hments as r	necessary to provide	thorough informa	ation):		
			Ar	nerican Rescu	e Plan Ac	t Program Fundi	ing			
Func. Area: unds Center:		Inte	ernal Order	Fund Code: /WBS Element:	293ARPA		Steering	Comm. A		X
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State funds wanthorized by			eplace fed	eral funds whe	n such fur	nds expire, unles	s appropriated	by the G	eneral A	ssembly and
Approved by:	4	9	11							
ATT		9	11/2022		ert Brech	9/2/2022				
Cabinet Secretar	ry/Agency [Director	Date	Office	of Budget	Date	Office	of Personr	nel Mgmt	Date



August 29, 2022

Mr. Larry W. Walther, Secretary
Department of Finance and Administration
Office of the Secretary
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 401
Little Rock, AR 72203-3278

RE: Appropriation Request of Supplemental Support under the American Rescue Plan Act (SSARPA) – Act 997 of 2021

Dear Secretary Walther:

The University of Arkansas - Pulaski Technical College (UA-PTC) received official notification from the U.S. Department of Education, as part of the Supplemental Support under the American Rescue Plan (SSARP) under Absolute Priority 4, that it has been allocated \$801,604 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students and \$801,604 for the Institutional Portion for a total SSARP allocation of \$1,603,208.

UA-PTC is submitting this supplemental appropriation request for the expenditure of the entire SSARP allocation (\$1,603,208) to provide students with emergency financial aid grants during the Fall 2022 semester.

The expenditure request is for the sole purpose of providing emergency financial aid grants for students. Specifically, UA-PTC students will use these grants to cover expenses associated with their college attendance costs or emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. In addition, UA-PTC will prioritize grants to students with exceptional needs, such as students who receive Pell grants.

The College will model the "U.S. Department of Education's 2022-2023 Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedule" to determine appropriate award amounts while also considering the student's eligibility for Pell and enrollment status. To operationalize this model, UA-PTC is requesting authorization to use the \$801,604 (Student portion) and the \$801,604 (Institutional portion) to award emergency financial aid grants to students enrolled during the Fall of 2022. The estimated scale used to determine the grant award amount is on page 2:



Award Amount

Full-Time Pell Eligible	\$ 780
%-Time Pell Eligible	\$ 585
1/2-Time Pell Eligible	\$ 390
< 1/2-Time Pell Eligible	\$ 195

A table highlighting the projected number of students impacted over the Fall 2022 term is in Appendix A of this document package.

UA-PTC will require no other application process to remove barriers for students receiving this funding. UA-PTC will also equitably adjust the amounts given to students to award all of the SSARP funds during the Fall 2022 semester. Students will receive notifications via mail, email, and text before the funds are made available via electronic deposit or mailed. UA-PTC will continue to conduct direct outreach to student financial aid applicants to learn about potential financial aid adjustments available due to recent unemployment of a family member(s) or pandemic-related circumstances. These options support the College's student financial literacy efforts with the ultimate goal of reducing student loan debt.

We thank you for your review and consideration. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns,

Sincerely,

Ana Hunt, Ed. D Interim Chancellor

501-812-2216

ahunt@uaptc.edu



Appendix A

Projected Number of Students Served

Projected number of students to receive an emergency financial aid grant for Fall 2022

			Number of			
Fall 2022	Av	vard Amount	Students	Total Amount		
Full-Time Pell	\$	780	1408	\$	1,098,240	
3/4 Time Pell	\$	585	476	\$	278,460	
1/2 Time Pell	\$	390	532	\$	207,480	
< Than 1/2 Time Pell	\$	195	98	\$	19,028	
			2514	\$	1,603,208	

Agency:	DHS - Dh	dsion of Cou	nty Opera	tions			Business Area Code:	0710	
Program 'Title	e:			Suppleme	ntal Nutrition	Assistance Progra	am (SNAP)		
Granting Org				trition Service			CFDA #: 10.561		
Effective Date	e of Author	ization:		8eginning	:07	.01.2022	Ending:	06.30.2	2023
The DHS Divided will be translated to the transl	vision of Co nply with the sferred between the America NAP) admini to move \$:	unty Operate requirement committee rescue listrative expansion for the committee requirement of the com	ions requents of Act ittment lin Plan Act of penses to om FRP7	ests appropriat 997 of 2021 a e Items as neo f 2021 provide assist State as 151, AL2, 590	ion for any e nd all Terms ressary once es additional pendes in ca 1:00:44 Cha	expenses associate and Conditions of additional guida appropriated fur arrying out legisla	thorough information): ed with the American of the Federal Awardi nce is received from ads for the Supplementive provisions and :02 Operating Expensel.	n Rescue Pla ng Agency. grantor ago ental Nutriti administering	Appropriation ency. Section on Assistance g SNAP. This
Func. Area Funds Center		i Int		Fund Code	: FRP7151	Program Fundi 21/RH2PAR21	_	ect Funding n. Approved	
						Program fu	nding Amount		
Regular Sala	ries								
Extra Help									1
Personal Sen	vices Match	ing							
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Capital Outla	y								
Char 44 Data	a Processi	ng		Y					(150,000)
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Total		_							
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Anticipated D	curation of i	Federal Fund	ds;		9.30.2022		OFA IGS State Techno litems requested for brian		
							compliance with Technology Pla	gy Plans as suc	
Positions to Org	De establ	lished: (list	Cost	lon separateh Position	Connt		l Ga	* unclass	Line Item
Unit	Area	SubArea	Center	Number	Item	Position			Maximum *
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		used to n	eplace fed	eral funds wh	en such fun	ds expire, unless	appropriated by th	e General A	usembly and
		mor							
authorized b		mor.							
		1	522	Rob	ert Brech	9/2/2022		_	

Arkansas DHS Division of County Operations (DHS-DCO) American Rescue Plan – USDA Food and Nutrition Services SNAP State Administrative Expenditures Grant

On March 11, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This legislation provides support for American families, State governments, and communities to rebuild lives and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Section 1101(b) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides an additional \$1.15 billion of appropriated funds for SNAP administrative expenses to assist State agencies in carrying out legislative provisions and administering SNAP. These funds are available at a 100 percent reimbursement rate.

Arkansas will receive \$3,626,229.39. These funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022 and expended by December 31, 2022.

FNS' expectation is that State agencies will use these funds to achieve the President's objective with this legislation, which is to make a difference in people's everyday lives. This funding provides a unique opportunity for State agencies to make investments into their business processes, including technology, that will increase access while maintaining stewardship of Federal dollars.

DHS-DCO will use these funds in the following categories:

• Certification – Arkansas will use approximately 70% of FY 2022 SAE allocation to defray onetime costs to replace our county office in Washington County. Arkansas DHS maintains a county
office location in each county in the state to provide services to our clients. Washington County
is one of our most heavily populated counties in our state. We are losing our leased county
office space in Washington County and must be out of this space by the end of March 2022. We
have been actively searching for a suitable new location. We have identified new space with the
adequate size, parking, and proximity to public transportation that is needed. We will use
approximately \$1,902,755 (52%) to cover the cost to remodel the existing space to suit the
needs of an active county office, including private interview spaces to conduct in-person
interviews as needed for SNAP clients. Private kiosk space will be available for online applicants
to ensure privacy and ease of access. Arkansas will save interest charges of approximately
\$807,000 over the next ten years by paying this cost at the beginning of our lease, rather than
financing it into our lease rate. Approximately \$600,000 (16%) of Arkansas' allocation will be
used to cover cubicles, furniture, set up, and physical moving expenses for the new office. The
following table provides specific details on the planned use of funds:

Item	Approx. Total Cost					
Building Remodel	\$ 1,902,755					
Cubicles, furnishings	\$ 580,000	·				
Moving Expenses	\$ 20,000					

- Certification Arkansas will use approximately 9% of these funds to replace desks and chairs in our offices throughout the state that are worn out. Approximate amount equals \$345,000.
- ADP Operations: Upgrades to support IT infrastructure in county offices Approximately 21% will be spent to replace network switches, cables, laptops and scanners that support DHS-DCO operations in county offices. In addition to this, investments will be made in equipment and software to enhance and support the delivery of virtual training for staff. The following table provides specific details on the planned equipment and software order:

Item	Approx. Total Cost
Network switches and cables	\$ 200,000
Xerox Documate 6440 scanners	\$ 75,000
DHS Mobile Precision 3560 laptops	\$ 355,000
DHS Mobile Precision Workstation 3560 i7	\$ 41,685
4K Dual Display Docking Station with 60W Power	\$ 63,143
Laptop Carry Case	\$ 16,950
Dell 27" Monitor	\$ 12,600
One-time software purchases for enhanced virtual training content	\$ 6,475
Camcorder plus equipment for enhanced virtual training content	\$ 1,240
Headsets	\$ 4,590
Miscellaneous Training Equipment (microphones, green screens, ring lights)	\$ 1,791

Reviewed and Approved by SWRO FNS 11/9/2021

JEFFRY WINGATE

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 38 OF ACT 997 OF 2021

D.7

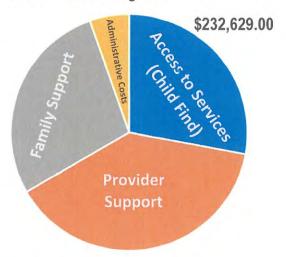
Agency:	Dept. of I	Human Serv	man Services/Developmental Disabilities Services				Business Area Code	0710	
Program Title					First	Connections			
Granting Orga	nization:	Office of S	Special Edu	cation Programs	(OSEP)		CFDA #:84.181		
Effective Date	of Author	rization:		Beginning:		7/1/2022	Ending:	1 /30/2	2023
First Connecti early interver Connections help their chil assistance sti	ons is fun ntion netw nelps famil d learn an pends an	ded by a Fe york to sendies of prograd d develop. For develop.	ederal grant ve parents am-eligible First Conne g assessmo blic about a	t under Part C of of children bid infants and tode ctions plans to sent tools, supp available service	of the Indiv orth to the dlers know spend the I porting fam as by offerin	iduals with Disa 3rd birthcay v their rights, adv DEA 2021 Supp illies by providi	de thorough information) bilities Act (IDEA) and with developmental discocate for their child and lemental ARP Award on any child enrichment rand repurposing a DHS	supports a cabilities and family, and providers baterials and	delays. Fir I know how y offering fu d education
Func. Area:	uuc			Fund Code:	EDD7161		Di	act Funding	
Funds Center:		Int	ernal Orde	r/WBS Element:		ARPAR21	Steering Com	rect Funding n. Approved	
						Program	Funding Amount		
Regular Salari	es								
Extra Help									
Personal Servi	ces Match	ing							
Operating Exp	enses		l l						117,62
Conference &		oenses							
Professional F									
Capital Outlay									
Data Processir			18						
Grants and Aid									115,000
Other:			1						(4)x=x255.
Other:									
Гotal				\$ 232,					232,629
Anticipated Du	ration of F	Federal Fund	ds:	09	/30/2022		Mingha	6	9/1/2022
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Org	Pers	Pers	Cost	ion separately) Position	Cmnt		Cla		fied positions on Line Item
Unit	Area	SubArea	Center	Number	Item	Positi	ion Title Co	de Grade	Maximum ³
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Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Additional American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Award Request

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services – First Connections Program

The First Connections (FC) program administers all State of Arkansas activities and responsibilities under Part C of IDEA to ensure appropriate early intervention services are available to all infants and toddlers from birth to thirty-six (36) months of age (and their families) that are suspected of having a developmental delay. First Connections proposes to apply its IDEA 2021 Supplemental ARP Award of \$232,629.00 toward three (3) primary objectives: Access to Services (Child Find), Provider Support, and Family Support.



PROVIDER SUPPORT - \$165,000

Workforce Investment

- ✓ Fuel Assistance Stipend for FC Providers Traveling to Home, Childcare, and Community Settings
- ✓ Updated Evaluation and Assessment Tools
- System Enhancement to Streamline Billing for FC Providers

ACCESS TO SERVICES - \$26,494

Child Find (Public Awareness/Referrals)

- Public Awareness Events and Mater als
- Repurposing DHS Van for Rural Community Outreach with WIC and Other Agencies; Van Will Serve as Private Area to Conduct Developmental Screenings and Intake
- Electronic Signature Platform to Streamline Documentation

FAMILY SUPPORT - \$36,321

Parent Education

- Child Enrichment Materials
- Early Learning and Developmental Subscriptions

ADMINISTRATIVE - \$4,814*
*ALLOWABLE INDIRECT COSTS TO DHS



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.8

Agency: Arkansas Tech University							Business Area Code: 0130			
Program Titl	e:Ameri	can Rescue	Plan Act o	of 2021 - Multi-Pu	rpose Facil	ty				
Granting Organization: US Congress							CFDA #:			
Effective Date	e of Authoriz	ation:		Beginning:	8/31,	/2022	Ending:	6/30,	/2023	
A Multi-Purpo	se Facility t	hat will exp	and health	education, work	force traini	cessary to provide t ng and communit populations and	y health monitor	ing by pr	_	
Func. Area: Funds Center:		. Into		merican Rescue Fund Code: _ r/WBS Element: _	e Plan Act FRP1300	Program Fundi	ng Steering C	Comm. Ap	Funding: oproved: nuation:	X
						Program Fu	nding Amount			
Regular Salar	ries									
Extra Help										
Personal Serv	vices Matchir	ng								
Operating Ex	penses									
Conference &	Travel Exp	enses								
Professional I	Fees									190,315
Capital Outla	у									2,574,856
Data Process	ing									
Grants and A	id (CI: 04)									
Other: Sim. L	.ab/Classroo	m Equipme	ent							434,829
Other:										•
Total				\$						3,200,000
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							DFA IGS State To Items requested for compliance with Te IGS State Technolog	informatio	n technolog lans as sub l.	mitted to DFA
Org Org	Pers	Pers	Cost	tion separately) Position	Cmnt			Class	* unclassif	ied positions only Line Item
Unit	Area	SubArea	Center	Number	Item	Position	n Title	Code	Grade	Maximum *
State funds authorized b			eplace fed	leral funds wher	n such fun	ds expire, unless	s appropriated I	y the G	eneral A	ssembly and
Approved by	200		11							
Lawes	le Tipe	10 8	131/202	Rober	t Brech	9/2/2022				
Cabinet Secret	tary/Agency [Date		of Budget	Date	Office of	of Personn	el Mgmt	Date

MPK 9/1/22

A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND COMMUNITY HEALTH MONITORING

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY MORTON HALL HEALTH CARE FACILITY

U. S. Treasury

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

Date: March 30, 2022

Program Plan(s): A Multi-Purpose Facility that will expand health education, workforce training and community health monitoring by providing opportunities to increase social mobility and overall health improvement for underserved populations and overall citizenry of the Arkansas River Valley.

Program

Use Code: 1C

Program Identifier:

Program Title: Morton Hall Health Care Facility

Total Amount of Request: \$3,365,212

Applicant Presenter: Arkansas Tech University

Location of Applicant: Russellville, Arkansas

Number of Locations Serving the Public: 1

<u>Type of Service to be rendered:</u> Health Care Education, Training and Community Health Monitoring

How Will the Recipient implement the Program: **DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Does the Recipient represent and commit that the Capital Projects will provide services or activities that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring for at least five years from the completion of the Project? **YES**

Will CPF grant funds for this program be used to cover costs incurred after March 15, 2021, but prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement? **NO**

Program Narrative/Summary

Introduction and Description of Program:

Arkansas Tech University (ATU) is a regional comprehensive university recognized across the river valley region for its service in providing entry level training for healthcare professionals. Programming ranges from short term nursing assistant certificates to a master's level education in nursing. The university is recognized across Arkansas for providing health care education and training to over 15 health care occupations. Arkansas Tech University is well-positioned to expand health care education and training at its Morton Hall site in Russellville, Arkansas.

Morton Hall is located at 1700 West C Street in Russellville, Arkansas and is strategically located next to Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center in addition to several other area health care providers, providing student convenience in clinical experiences. With its proximity to Arkansas Tech University, students can engage in all services that the university provides. Additionally, the location of the facility is ideal to serve the education, workforce training and community health monitoring needs of individuals in Russellville and the Arkansas River Valley.

The proposed renovation of Morton Hall (19,700 square feet) expands the unused square footage (9,800 square feet) consisting of interior renovation. This capital project consists of heavy demolition and renovation to expand underroof space for health care program growth. Additionally, the renovation includes mechanical, electrical, technology, and plumbing upgrades, meeting code requirements of the state of Arkansas. The renovation includes the addition of: exterior refinishing, new interior partitions, interior doorways, egress doorways, floor coverings, ceilings, lighting, casework, ramps, and handicapped accessible restrooms for ADA compliance. Minor updates of the current space in use (approximately 8,800 square feet) are also included in the project, to include: updates of windows, doors, floor covering and interior finishes supporting modernization of all interior spaces.

This capital improvement project is inclusive of a multi-purpose community structure (1,500 square feet) to be utilized for academic programming and community outreach activities.

The <u>Purpose and Program Objectives</u> of this proposed Capital Projects Fund is to renovate and expand ATU's Morton Hall. Program objectives include:

- Meet the growing healthcare workforce market demand through the addition of both a practical nursing (PN) cohort and a registered nursing (RN) cohort to be housed at Morton Hall. These additions will complement and enhance the current exemplary PN and accredited RN program that operate on the ATU Ozark Campus. The additional PN and RN cohorts enabled by this renovation and expansion will provide increased access in a centralized location in the Arkansas River Valley and will be a direct response to the documented need for more nurses to enter the profession.
- Align efforts to the work of Arkansas Tech Institute's goal of fostering and supporting coordination of workforce education training and activities through ongoing collaboration among community stakeholders and the state of Arkansas' "Ready for Life" initiative.
- Provide expanded access to the education and training needs of other allied health programs to meet growing industry demand, and encourage and facilitate collaboration among programs, including (1) Medical Assisting (MA); (2) Occupational Therapy

- Assistant (OTA); (3) EMT/Paramedic; (4) Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) (5) Medication Assistant-Certified (MA-C).
- Offer a complete stackable nursing training pathway. Note: Students will be able to
 leverage short-term credentials, such as CNA and Medication Assistant-Certified, that
 will stack into the longer-term practical nursing training. The practical nurse may then
 opt to use his/her training to further his/her education and become a Registered Nurse.
 Students may then opt to pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing and master's level
 nursing credential.
- Equip the building with a modern health simulation lab that will be used for (1) clinical simulations; (2) continuing education training; (3) a shared training and education lab for ATU students and health care professionals at Millard-Henry Clinic, St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Arkansas River Valley School Nurses, regional long-term care facilities, and other willing partner providers.
- Equip the building with a modern HyFlex classroom/training room that will be used for (1) community meeting spaces; (2) targeted continuing education for health professionals; (3) targeted health monitoring and healthy living seminars and events for high need and underserved populations; (4) occupational/job exploration and searches.
- Positively impact the health of residents across the Arkansas River Valley through increased healthcare graduates, a more skilled workforce, and on-going health and wellness monitoring and awareness events.
- Through public and private partnerships, ATU will provide community access to continuing education, training programs, short-term education and life-enhancement activities and programs including community health education events led by members of the medical community, faculty, and students.
- Provide a state-of-the-art community meeting room equipped with up-to-date technology including a computer lab that will provide access to community groups and organizations. This community space will enable organizations and groups to conduct meetings, have shared seminars, provide a space for life-enhancing programs such as a "Silver Sneakers" exercise for the elderly program. The community meeting space may also be utilized for vaccination clinics, blood drives and community health screenings. In partnership with community organizations and healthcare providers, ATU will target underserved populations for education, workforce training and community health monitoring.

Renovation and Expansion of Morton Hall

In 2009, ATU Ozark Campus acquired what is now known as Morton Hall. Morton Hall is a dated building of approximately 19,700 square feet. The building, a former nursing home, needed structural and mechanical repairs at the time it was gifted to the University over ten years ago.

Due to limited capital funding, structural and mechanical repairs have not yet been fully completed. This capital project will enable the needed renovation and expansion of the Morton Hall health care facility. This project proposes renovation of the current space (19,700 sq.ft.) with an added expansion of 1,500 square feet, resulting in a 21,200 square foot health education, training, and community space.

The Morton Hall renovation and expansion will include spaces for nursing education, OTA education, MA education, EMT/Paramedic education, CNA, and MA-C. The renovation and expansion project are inclusive of mechanical and electrical upgrades and technology infrastructure supporting a virtual/hybrid environment. In addition to the educational classroom spaces, the Morton Hall expansion will provide a community space for community health monitoring, health education/outreach activities, and continuing education/professional development.

A complete Morton Hall renovation and expansion will include the addition/implementation of a modern allied health simulation laboratory to significantly improve opportunities for student education. Because one obstacle to increasing the student enrollment in nursing programs has been limitations on clinical sites, approval by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to validate simulation as a clinical teaching modality serves as a reliable and viable solution for increasing student enrollment in nursing programs. The renovation and addition of a modern simulation laboratory at Morton Hall would impact more than 150 entry-level healthcare professionals in addition to the impact upon current community healthcare professionals. Additional on-site health care professional training experiences are currently expanding through partnerships with regional long-term care facilities for relevant credential completion programs (i.e., CAN, MA-C and MA).

Arkansas Tech University nursing simulation lab instruction is currently approved by the State Board of Nursing. Expansion of the practical nursing and registered nursing programs at Morton Hall would necessitate an additional sim lab to meet the required clinical education / lab experiences for nursing (and other health occupation education) students receiving training at Morton Hall. In addition to the clinical education experiences, the Morton Hall sim lab would provide needed collaborative professional development and training opportunities not only for ATU students but also for current health-care professionals and instructors meeting continuing education requirements.

Major Items for Morton Hall 4-Station Simulation Laboratory

- Four simulation mannequins and supplies to support a sim laboratory
- Four mid-fidelity skills mannequins
- Medication dispensing machine, software & accessories
- Long-term care style medication carts
- Hospital beds with privacy curtains and headwalls
- Vital sign machines
- IV infusion pumps
- Audio/video equipment
- Lab furniture

Modern HyFlex (Cisco) Classroom/Community Meeting Room

The Morton Hall renovation project will also contain a modern HyFlex (Cisco) virtual instruction classroom/meeting room. The HyFlex classroom enables the asynchronous / synchronous broadcasting of virtual community health and education sessions. Arkansas Tech, in partnership with the region's healthcare providers, will webcast from the Morton Hall location a variety of community topics in the betterment of healthy living.

Project Timeline and Milestones:

Morton Hall Construction and Education Expansion Timeline

- Secure funding for Morton Hall nursing expansion—September 2022
- RFP to secure project architect- October 2022
- Bid Morton Hall expansion project—January 2023
- Award bid to contractor–April 2023
- Initiate construction project—May 2023
- Complete construction project—May 2024
- Nursing education expansion and regulatory requests will be completed in Spring 2024, instructional support secured by Summer 2024, and student classes will begin August 2024.
- Community education and health monitoring will begin Fall 2024.

Program Website, Guidance Documents/Rules: The programs impacted by the expansion and renovation of Morton Hall are outlined specifically on the ATU and ATU Ozark website (ATU.EDU, ATU.EDU/Ozark). Each program website contains program objectives, accreditation information, program data, etc.

Eligibility Components: Project Designed to Directly Enable Work, Education, and Health Monitoring

Eligibility components are embedded in this proposal and are abbreviated in the section below.

Work:

ATU Morton Hall renovation project will directly enable work by increasing the number of entry-level nurses and other healthcare professionals. The non-traditional cohort of nursing students' projects to graduate 16 licensed practical nurses annually. The Morton Hall project will support 20 OTAs, 15 Medical Assistants, 15 EMTs, 48 CNAs, and 24 Medication Assistant-Certified professionals annually. This project will also support a non-traditional two-year RN program that will be initiated after the first LPN cohort.

Students and community members will increase awareness of employment opportunities via local resources including but not limited to: Ready for Life online platform, ATU Norman Career Services, and the Russellville Chamber Workforce Initiative.

This project will also positively impact the future workforce through education and recruitment of secondary students and the adult learner.

According to the recent regional planning led by the Russellville Chamber of Commerce (Building a Regional Workforce Advantage), the healthcare industry will continue to be a leading need in the river valley workforce. Regional long-term care survey data provided by the Arkansas Health Care Association shows over 150 current vacancies in Pope and surrounding service areas (Conway, Franklin, Johnson, Perry, Yell) for certified nurse assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and medical technicians. Also, health care training supports livable wages and social mobility. Regional data indicates healthcare training continues to be a growth industry.

Health occupation employment data as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor:

Occupation	Median Salary W. Ark	Growth % by 2028
Practical Nurse	\$39,140	11% Ark.
Registered Nurse	\$55,440	14% Ark.
Nurse Assistant	\$23,440	8% national
Occupational Therapy Assista	nt \$68,330	42% Ark.
EMT	\$27,750	11% national
Paramedic	\$39,560	11% national
Medical Assistant	\$29,230	26% Ark.

Education:

ATU is committed to providing access to underserved populations which may benefit from education and training leading to advancement in social mobility. Nursing careers, and other allied health careers, provide a livable wage. U.S. Census data reports indicate that 17.9% of local residents are living in poverty. According to the data from the Arkansas Department of Health, 28.6% of children in Pope County reside in a single-parent home. ATU, through its career pathways initiative, will support parents who need to upskill and train to improve their social mobility.

Annually, ATU Ozark enrolls an average of 24 students in registered nursing and 88 students in practical nursing. The Morton Hall expansion includes a cohort of 16 students on a non-traditional schedule. This schedule will support individuals who are looking to upskill or retrain for a future occupation that provides a livable wage.

In addition to serving adult learners and college students, ATU is partnering with public school districts of Russellville, Atkins, Clarksville, Danville, Dardanelle, Dover, Ozark, and Pottsville. These schools graduated 1,169 students in 2019-2020. Of those, 22% are Hispanic, 2% African American, 10% disabled, 15% with limited English proficiency, and 64% economically disadvantaged. We will target specifically the large numbers of these students enrolled in career and technical courses.

The funded project will directly educate entry-level nurses and other healthcare professionals. Additionally, the project will provide a centralized location for continuing education for current healthcare professionals. The non-traditional cohort of nursing students' projects to graduate 16 licensed practical nurses annually. The Morton Hall project will support 20 OTAs, 15 Medical Assistants, 15 EMTs, 48 CNAs, and 24 Medication Assistant-Certified professionals annually. This project will also support a non-traditional two-year RN program that will be initiated after the first LPN cohort.

Community Health Monitoring:

According to the U.S. Census, Pope County is home to a growing Hispanic population as well as a high number of citizens with household incomes under the national average. In collaboration with area health care providers and non-profit entities serving vulnerable populations within our region, ATU's Morton Hall will host regular community health screenings, community education on wrap around services, and provide a space for community health support events.

ATU and healthcare partners will sponsor "Hands-on Healthcare" events. This participation will serve as a collaborative recruiting event to encourage high school students to pursue healthcare occupations. During the spring semester, simulation experiences/job shadowing experiences will be offered to high school students who have, through their career-education activities and their student success plans, shown an interest in the health professions.

Based upon the 2021 County Health Rankings as presented by University of Wisconsin Health Institute, adult obesity indicates Pope County is trending upward with a current rate of 35%. This compares to top state performers with an obesity rate of 26%. Although Pope County residents have access to exercise opportunities (68%), senior citizens in the community have indicated a desire to access exercise facilities through programming provided by St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. St. Mary's CEO, Mr. Bob Honeycutt, has agreed to reinstate the Silver Sneakers exercise program in partnership with ATU. ATU will provide the space for this program at Morton Hall.

The Morton Hall expansion will provide ongoing access and educational resources to address this need. In addition, the Morton Hall site will provide programming to support community health monitoring and education.

Other community healthy living promotional/events and meetings will include

- Bi-annual regional school nurses' professional development/continuing education opportunities
- Requested continuing education opportunities for nursing and other allied health professionals
- Quarterly community health monitoring events
- Monthly webcast health improvement topics with Russellville Chamber of Commerce and other community partners
- Virtual occupational/job shadowing via HyFlex/Webcast to area public schools
- Occupational exercises utilizing Ready for Life Platform and area career coaches
- Access to community space as needed to include Parkinson's Support Group, Diabetes Education, AARP Driver Safety, Blood Drives, vaccination clinics and others.
- Partner with private and public care management teams to host community events to share wrap around service support for underserved populations. Regular outreach to public and private organizations serving underserved populations will be engaged regularly to share community events hosted at Morton Hall community space.

Critical Need/Needs Assessment and Justification:

2020 national census data indicated Pope, Johnson, and Yell county population growth of 2.1% from the 2010 census. The data also indicates the increase was primarily due to the minority population growth of 22.3% and a decrease in the predominant Caucasian population of 3.14%. Hispanic growth during the 10 year period jumped 21.9% for the three counties combined.

According to the recent American Community Survey, Russellville is home to a growing Hispanic population, estimated at 19% of total population in the latest census. National census data shows that this minority group has a disproportionately low rate of health insurance coverage at 10.7% as compared to the Caucasian population of 6.4%, and there is a need for community level education and engagement. In partnership with community health providers and insurance experts, ATU would host community health fairs to offer free health screenings and educational materials on insurance coverage options. Arkansas Tech University is a partner with DreamUS, the nation's largest college access and success program for Hispanic students. Over, 57% of our current DreamUS scholars are health care majors, and 56% of ATU DreamUS applicants for Fall 2022 have expressed an interest in pursuing health care degrees. ATU would utilize the Morton Hall community space to host health job fairs to allow underserved populations to meet local employers and explore the various health care certificate and degree pathways.

The poverty rate as defined by the Census Bureau for the population is 16.2% with the minority population at a 17.38% in poverty. 2019 financial aid data for Arkansas Tech Ozark Campus indicated that 70% of its enrolled students met full PELL eligibility. The Ozark Campus oversees the nurse programming which supports these students' upward social mobility. Data obtained from (JObsEQ) notes the underemployment rate of Pope County at 33.7%, which supports the need for an alternative schedule for upskilling and retraining opportunities for residents who might seek a career in a healthcare field such as nursing. Home health care services, outpatient care centers, continuing care communities, physicians' offices, and substance abuse hospitals all are projected to grow in employment needs, reinforcing the need for a Russellville health occupation training location.

Regional health care providers, department of labor statistics, and a recent study commissioned by the Russellville Chamber "Building a Regional Workforce" recognize that health care occupations rank in the top three (3) of Russellville and River Valley employment industries. Prior to the pandemic, nursing as an example (not including nursing assistants), accounted for over 746 advertisement postings. The data, the occupational professionals, and the pandemic all indicate that there is an increased substantial need to provide training in health care professions. Our regional health care providers/partners concur that access to nursing education and training is a primary concern.

The occupational snapshot as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2020 predicts the following 5-year demand for Pope, Yell, and Johnson Counties:

- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)-119
- Registered Nurse (RN)- 182
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)- 274
- Paramedic- 12
- EMT-24

COVID-19 has severely disrupted the state of health care in Arkansas and the world. The nursing profession has been stressed and stretched due to overload of patient care needs and shortage of health care workers to provide that care. In combination with workforce shortages and the disruption of Covid-19, allied health care education is a priority in the Russellville and the River Valley communities. According to a recent Russellville Chamber workforce report, the healthcare workforce will continue to be a need in the Pope County region. In consultation with members of the health care community and local stakeholders, there is a confirmed need to expand health care educational offerings at all levels to increase the workforce pipeline.

In addition, there is a need to create a centralized, accessible community health space to offer health monitoring, continuing education, and services to the underserved populations in the Pope County region. According to Mr. Bob Honeycutt, CEO of St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, prior to COVID-19, various community health trainings and events were housed at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, however, these meeting spaces did not meet safety guidelines for social distancing and were converted to patient care spaces.

Like other Arkansas communities, there is a high prevalence of chronic health conditions such as diabetes and obesity. Arkansas Tech University faculty and students will partner with health organizations across the region to enhance community health monitoring and education on disease prevention and management.

The community facet of this initiative will allow ATU students to participate in enhanced education and workforce training while serving the community. Dialogue with Ms. Annie Schanink, Supervisor of School Nurses in the Russellville School District and ATU allied health program chairs, confirmed the need for healthcare professional development and continuing education opportunities in a centralized location.

Arkansas Tech University is currently partnering with the Russellville Chamber of Commerce and industry to develop and enhance workforce education and training in the region through an Arkansas River Valley Works (ARVW) initiative, According to a June 2021 report from JobsEQ, the Arkansas River Valley has an unemployment rate of approximately 5.2%, and an underemployment rate of approximately 30%. Working with the Arkansas Division of

Workforce Services and the local workforce and adult education centers, ARVW will develop and provide wrap-around services (including career coaching) for this pipeline of participants.

Local Stakeholders Consulted for Needs Assessment:

Ben Cross, Pope County Judge, Arkansas

Richard Harris, Mayor of Russellville, Arkansas

Suzy Griffin, Vice President of Economic Development, Russellville Chamber of Commerce, Russellville, Arkansas

Rachel Bunch, Executive Director, Arkansas Health Care Association

Annie Schanink, Supervisor of School Nurses, Russellville School District, Russellville, Arkansas

Fred Teague, Director of Housing and Homeless Prevention, ARVAC and Russ Buss Cofounder, Russellville, Arkansas

Jeff Piker, Director of Restore Hope Arkansas, Russellville, Arkansas

Becky Beavers, Director of River Valley Christian Clinic, Russellville, Arkansas

Bob Honeycutt, Chief Executive Office, St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Russellville, Arkansas

Jenny Barber, Federal Programs Coordinator, Russellville School District

Vanessa Bailey, Assistant Director of Clinic Operations, Millard Henry Clinic, Russellville, Arkansas

Shelly Daily, RN Department Chair, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas

Blaine Snyder, PN Program Chair, ATU Ozark Campus, Ozark, Arkansas

Todd Birkhead, EMT/Paramedic Program Chair, ATU Ozark Campus, Ozark, Arkansas

Wendi Pool, OTA Program Chair, ATU Ozark Campus

Melinda Rhynes, Medical Assisting Program Chair, ATU Ozark Campus

Jaynie Jones, RN, LHU County Administrator, Arkansas Department of Health

Tatum Ownbey, President & Chief Executive Officer, Home Helpers Care of NWA and River Valley, Rogers, Arkansas

George Ann Peyton, Care Management Director, Home Helpers Care, Rogers, Arkansas

Other Resources Consulted:

White Paper: Contributing Factors and Solutions to the Nursing Shortage in Arkansas, Arkansas Nursing Administrators in Nursing Education (NANEP) Taskforce, 2021

Building A Regional Workforce Advantage, An Arkansas River Valley Workforce Analysis, Ted Abernathy, 2020

U.S. Census Bureau 2020. American Community Survey, <u>American Community Survey (ACS)</u> (census.gov)

Arkansas Ready for Life, https://www.readyforlife.com

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2021. www.countyhealthrankings.org

Program Administration:

ATU Office of Research/Sponsored Programs staff request a unique restricted Fund number for any external award received by the university. The Controller's Office sets up the Fund number in the university's accounting system, Banner. This process ensures award funds are separate from University Educational & General funds and may be accounted for and kept separately.

ATU additionally utilizes Priority Software for post-award fiscal management and reporting. Banner feeds over to this cloud-based grant software, and Research/Sponsored Programs staff code grant entries and run financial reports.

Research/Sponsored Programs staff ensure compliance for each external award by adhering to 2 CFR Part 200, State law, university policy, and award requirements. Staff ensure expenditures are allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Staff will ensure funds are reconciled monthly and invoiced/reported for as appropriate in compliance with the award agreement.

Access to view award budgets is restricted to the Principal Investigator/Program Director and their administrative team, as is authorization to enter requisitions. The Office of Procurement ensures requisitions comply within Arkansas State guidelines and electronically route to the appropriate positions for approval (chair, dean, vice president if necessary). Research/Sponsored Programs staff issue approval as well to ensure compliance. Once fully approved the requisition converted into a purchase order by Procurement. Once goods or services are rendered, an invoice is received for payment by the Controller's Office. The Principal Investigator/Program Director signs the purchase order indicating goods or services are rendered. The Office of Research/Sponsored Programs approves the invoice, and both are sent back to the Controller's Office, where a check is issued and mailed to the vendor.

Any credit card transactions are logged by the individuals who are in possession of the card and must have all transactions approved by their supervisor. Copies of credit card transaction logs and receipts are sent to the Office of Procurement and Office of Research/Sponsored Programs for review, and the Controller's Office for payment.

ATU utilizes the Federal Demonstration Partnership templates for any cost-reimbursement subawards. An audit questionnaire is required of any sub awardees in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, for subrecipient monitoring.

Effort reporting is required for all paid grant employees working on federal or pass-through grants.

Once an award is complete, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs communicates with the Principal Investigator/Program Director and ensures both any financial reporting and programmatic reporting is completed in assurance with award close-out procedures.

Arkansas Tech University will continue to engage with the community, public and private healthcare providers, and area non-profit support agencies within the River Valley Region and the State of Arkansas to foster community outreach on health care education, training, and community health monitoring. ATU also has existing memorandums of understanding with a network of providers and partnerships throughout the state that will represent broad based community outreach that is an integral part of the Morton Hall Allied Health Care program. The ATU Morton Hall building will also educate and reach out to the community through presentations designed to educate, inform, prevent, and build awareness regarding the opportunities for education, training, and community health monitoring. The Morton Hall building will also provide needed access to a community space to house health information fairs, community health screening, continuing education classrooms and health related education and job fairs.

Program Budget:

Projected Cost of Construction:

Original Request: 2,239,005

AE Fees: \$190,315

Inflation Construction Escalation: \$335,851

Projected Adjusted Cost of Construction Total: \$2,765,171

Projected Cost of Simulation Laboratory / Classroom Equipment: \$525,692

Projected Cost of HyFlex Training Room: \$74,349

TOTAL: \$3,365,212

PROGRAM BUDGET

Program Administrative Costs

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
2a. Administering the CPF funds (by the Recipient)						
2b. Technical assistance to potential subrecipients						
2c. Complying with grant administration and audit requirement						
2d. Community Engagement						
2e.						
2f.						
2g.						

2. Total Program Administrative Costs (not to exceed amounts listed in source of funding) *	*	*	*	*	*	*
Project Costs						
3a. Recipient Project Costs		\$841,303	\$1,682,606	\$841,303		
3b. Subgrant Project Costs	NA					
3a.vi						
3a.vii.						
3a. viii.						
3a.ix.						
3 Total Project Costs		\$841,303	\$1,682,606	\$841,303		

* Arkansas Tech University plans to pay for program administration costs through general revenues budgeted toward sponsored program administration functions.

ATU Administration Contacts:

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Bruce Sikes Chancellor Arkansas Tech University, Ozark Campus bsikes1@atu.edu 479 207 0178

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.9

Agency:	University	of Arkansa	s at Monti	cello			Business Area	Code:	0155	
Program Title:				American Res	scue Plan/UAN	1 Science Cen	ter HVAC CPF			
Granting Organ	nization:	US Treasu	iry				CFDA #:			
Effective Date	of Authori	zation:		Beginning:	8/31	/2022	Ending		6/30/2	023
Purpose of Gra				nge (include attaci	nments as nece	ssary to provide	e thorough informa	ation):		
Func. Area: funds Center:	UNIV New	Int		merican Rescu Fund Code: r/WBS Element:	FRP1550	2 - 1 Aug		Comm. A	Funding: pproved: inuation:	X
						Program F	unding Amount			
Regular Salarie	s									
xtra Help										
Personal Service	es Matchi	ng								
Operating Expe	enses									
Conference & T	ravel Exp	enses								
Professional Fe										
Capital Outlay										
ata Processin	a									
Grants and Aid	7 1 0 10 10 10									
JAM Science C									-	6,000,000
Other:										2,000,000
otal				\$						6,000,000
Anticipated Dur	ation of F	ederal Fund	is:	12.	31/2026					
				tion separately)			DFA IGS State T Items requested for compliance with To IGS State Technology	or information	n technologi lans as subi	
Org	Pers	Pers	Cost	Position	Cmnt	A-1		Class		Line Item
Unit	Area	SubArea	Center	Number	Item	Positio	n Title	Code	Grade	Maximum

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by	y:	2
Road		
Cabinet Secre	etary	Agency Director

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Use Code 1G Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects

Use Code 1C Questionnaire

Program	Identifier:
---------	-------------

Program Title: Science Center HVAC Grant Proposal

How will the Recipient implement the Program? (picklist below)

Does the Recipient represent and commit that the Capital Projects will provide services or activities that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring for at least five years from the completion of the project?

Yes ⊠ No □

Will CPF grant funds for this program be used to cover costs incurred after March 15, 2021, but prior to execution of the Grant Agreement?

Yes □ No ⊠

• If yes, you must provide the information requested under the Pre-Award Cost Annex

Program Narrative:

Program Summary:

The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) is an open-access, accredited, four-year public university in the state's southeast corner. UAM's mission as an open-access institution is to provide educational opportunities for students who might not otherwise have the chance to attain a post-secondary education. Our campus is unique because we also have two Colleges of Technology that serve students from adult education (GED) to technical certificates needed for students to enter the workforce immediately upon completion. Under UAM's program offerings, a student can enter the university to earn a GED through a master's degree. According to the 2021 IPEDS report, 36% of UAM's student population identified as a minority, including 28% of our students identifying as African American. The same report states that 62% of our undergraduate students received PELL grants compared to our peer average of 55%. UAM is located in the Arkansas Delta region, and many of our students come from the area. It is one of the poorest regions in the country.

UAM is seeking capital funding to upgrade the HVAC systems in the Science Center, which was constructed in the 1960's and has not received significant upgrades since it opened. This facility

is home to courses that nearly every student on the main campus is required to take and poses substantial challenges in terms of the spread of Covid-19 on our campus and the community. Due to serving many general education courses, the large class sizes, and the lack of air circulation, this facility is more conducive to viral spread.

Implementing this project is vital to our students, who tend to perform much better in the classroom with their faculty members. Retention statistics from the last several years and qualitative feedback from faculty validate our concerns about our students' success in the classroom. Some students manage virtual courses just fine, but UAM has a large population who struggle when instruction shifts to remote learning due to various factors. The biggest concern is students becoming infected with Covid-19 or becoming in direct contact with a classmate or instructor. Once a student pivots to remote learning, the challenges begin with finding access to stable internet service. Some classwork, particularly science lab classes, is challenging to conduct virtually.

Our area of the state does not have reliable broadband service, so access to course materials can be difficult. While UAM has strong Wi-Fi and created opportunities for students to use internet service from the building's parking lot, they will need transportation to get to campus irregularly. These barriers are significant for many students who may lack those resources. This is an issue for our students and our faculty and staff, who must work remotely if quarantined. UAM's ability to teach students in person helps ensure students are retained and make progress toward graduation.

Drew Memorial Hospital serves Monticello and the surrounding communities in southeast Arkansas. During a recent meeting, they expressed the financial hardship of paying for travel nurses due to their inability to hire locally. UAM and Drew Memorial have recently partnered with the hospital offering to pay the tuition of nursing students for four years if they commit to working for the hospital upon graduation. The success of our local hospital is vital to our community since there is already a lack of healthcare access in our region of the state. The ability for UAM to provide an educated workforce in a high-need area hinges on us providing the education. Whether nursing majors or pursuing pre-medicine, they will take classes in the Science Center. It is our job to give them the best possible opportunities for success to serve our community and our state in the medical profession.

The Science Center's current environment contains recirculation units that do not incorporate fresh air into the breathing zone. Filtration on these units is extremely poor due to their design. The building is also negatively pressurized, leading to increased infiltration of humid air from the outside and poor indoor air quality. All of the air handling equipment in the building is approximately sixty years old, well beyond its useful life, and inefficient. For a facility such as this, the building lacks proper lab pressurization controls for occupant safety. Additionally, the exterior envelope will need to be addressed, including unconditioned crawl space, to achieve appropriate indoor air quality.

This project will allow UAM to install all new HVAC equipment to generate better circulation throughout the facility with a fresh air system. One thing contributing to the spread of Covid-19 is the recycling of air in the facility, which creates a situation that can infect multiple people in an enclosed environment such as a classroom, laboratory, or office. This is particularly the case in a lab setting due to the inability to social distance while using the equipment. Due to the lack of investment in the facility, there will be significant upgrades to bring everything up to code and install the new mechanical and plumbing systems necessary. All new air handling equipment will be installed with MERV 13 filtration. The project will upgrade the building from a two-pipe hydronic system, which only allows for heating or cooling of the facility and not the simultaneous operation of both. This allows for proper dehumidification and better control of space temperatures. Proper lab pressurization controls will also be installed to ensure all building occupants will be safe in their respective learning environments. Mitigating the number of students, faculty, and staff exposed keeps everyone safe at work or in the classroom, so learning is uninterrupted.

If this project is approved for funding, we anticipate the project beginning in May 2024 and getting completed in approximately eighteen months. Most of the work would have to take place over the summer and when students were not in the facility. This timeline also reflects the reality of global supply chain challenges that have constrained timelines since the onset of the worldwide pandemic. This projected timeframe would provide enough time for UAM to move the project through all the necessary approvals and procurement processes while also giving time for equipment to be delivered to the site.

The first milestone would be to get the project approved by the Board of Trustees and the Arkansas General Assembly's Legislative Council. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees meets five times a year, while the Legislative Council will convene monthly when the legislature is not in session. Once the project is approved, we can begin work on selecting design professionals and a contractor to be again supported by the Board and Legislative Council. Getting both parties under contract will take several months, along with the design being finalized so the contractor can provide pricing. After the price has been finalized, UAM will release the contractor to begin procuring materials and prepare for the job to start as soon as classes are completed.

This facility was selected for this application due to the need for upgraded HVAC systems and the large population the facility serves. Under the guidance we have reviewed, it appears to UAM that the Science Center is a candidate for funding out of this appropriation. Updating mechanical systems in this building to provide a safer environment would give UAM the best outcome compared to other facilities on campus.

Our highest priority is providing the faculty, staff, and students with a safer place to work and learn. When the institution began working through this process, the Science Center was at the top of the list for improvements. This facility houses general education courses and students majoring in nursing, forestry, agriculture, pre-med, and other fields of study. Investing in this

facility would provide a high return on investment based on our student population.

Eligibility:

Work:

Implementing this project will directly enable nursing and pre-medicine students to fill jobs in critical fields. The nursing component is of immense importance to Monticello and the surrounding communities because our local, regional hospital direly needs full-time nurses. The cost of paying travel nurses to fill gaps in current jobs is straining their budgets, so our partnership in providing skilled nurses ready to go to work is vital for the region.

While our nursing students take many classes and labs in the building, we also have an extremely high acceptance rate for students applying to medical and dental schools. These professionals often graduate and move back to our community to live and provide services to residents enabling access to quality medical care.

Education:

The HVAC upgrade in the Science Center would significantly enable educational opportunities for a significant percentage of students on our campus. This facility serves most of the undergraduate students on our campus for general education requirements and students majoring in healthcare-related fields due to the science courses and labs they are required to take. Our ability to create a safe environment with better air quality and circulation would enable us to keep more students and faculty in the classroom, which makes better outcomes.

We have now had several years of quantitative and qualitative data regarding remote learning on our campus that shows our students perform much better face-to-face. Replicating science labs in an online environment for students forced to quarantine is not conducive to their progression. We aim to get students through their courses in the first attempt to reduce the cost of retaking courses and getting behind schedule for graduation.

Health Monitoring:

This project will enable health monitoring at UAM because we will determine how well this facility will assist in mitigating spread compared to other facilities on campus that will not have the same standard of air circulation. At UAM, we record and monitor faculty, staff, and students who test positive for Covid-19 and contact trace to identify direct contacts. It would be interesting for our campus to track how many students identified as direct contacts in the Science Center become infected. While numerous factors determine infection, such as immunity from recovery, vaccination status, and others, we still want to limit exposure and risk in each facility.

Critical Need:

Upgrading the HVAC systems in the Science Center would directly address a critical need in our community by providing a safer environment for students to learn and a safer place for faculty and staff to work. The faculty in this facility does an excellent job of preparing students and getting students ready for the medical profession. By keeping everyone healthy, they can deliver the type of instruction needed for these students to succeed and serve our community in areas of desperate need.

One of the direct impediments to work would be that the curriculum for a student pursuing a career in the medical profession is challenging. It takes dedicated faculty and students to seek this career route and successfully complete the required courses. These students cannot afford to become hampered by contracting Covid-19 and have to leave the classroom setting. While the best-case scenario is a quick recovery and the student keeping up with work remotely, there is always a chance of a prolonged battle with the illness. In this instance, a student can fall behind so far that they cannot pass the course and might have to retake classes, which adds to the expense of going to school and prolongs their ability to get a job and begin their career in the medical field. Due to our local medical providers' nursing shortages, we must provide them with as many potential employees as possible.

Many of these impediments could be remediated by this project by providing high-quality air in the facility, which has been shown to assist in reducing the spread of Covid-19. As previously stated, the current environment in the facility merely recycles existing air which could be filled with the virus that spreads throughout the classroom, office, or lab facility. By adding ventilation and fresh air to the facility, we will significantly reduce the spread of viruses, enabling everyone to learn in a safe space. Many of our students come from first-generation households and providing them with the best opportunity to be successful is our goal. The data on our campus proves this is best done in a face-to-face setting with faculty mentoring students, providing critical feedback, and developing relationships.

As a smaller regional university in Southeast Arkansas, UAM does not have the resources to provide the needed upgrades referenced in this proposal. The cost of upgrading the HVAC system is more than we can afford, especially during declining enrollment for most higher education institutions. As the largest employer in our region and the largest provider of a skilled workforce, we must upgrade this facility. Our region needs access to quality education in a safe environment, and UAM is doing everything possible to provide this. However, a lack of access to general improvement funds continues to exacerbate the amount of deferred maintenance that is needed across campus.

As stated earlier, the critical need is the ability to provide an environment where the spread of Covid-19 is mitigated in a way that keeps our students in class. Retention data proves in our case that face-to-face instruction is the best method for overall student success. We also believe our

students' social and emotional well-being improves when they interact with their peers on campus. Overall, the UAM campus has more than \$90 million in deferred maintenance, with much of that considered a critical need. Unfortunately, we can only address some of that need at any given time, and declining enrollment has strained resources and the institution's investment ability.

Recent feedback from our local regional hospital about the need for full-time nurses makes the success of this program vitally crucial to our service area. Drew Memorial Hospital and many other healthcare providers rely on our graduates to work in our area of the state. These healthcare employees serve a region of the state that needs more care access to improve outcomes. This program will help ensure the success of UAM students but particularly those in the healthcare industry. As an institution of higher education, our goal is to serve our students and community. While not everyone in our community will attend college at UAM, they will be served by a UAM graduate in their local dental office, medical clinic, or hospital.

UAM has considered the equity aspect of the Science Center proposal as one that provides the most significant impact for the highest volume of students on campus. Most students will take courses and labs in this facility during their career at UAM. This allows many students to benefit from better air quality and more assurance that the virus is being mitigated so they can stay safe. Everyone deals with Covid-19 differently, and we must consider that while assisting them in achieving their goals. This also helps them in their effort to pass courses that direct them on their way to a degree where they can get the job they desire.

Our faculty in the Science Center has done tremendous work over the last decade or more. We have a near 100% acceptance rate to medical school, dental school, and professional programs. These future healthcare providers are getting the foundation they need at UAM to compete for limited spots in the next phase of their journey. Not only do we graduate nurses that work for our local healthcare providers, but many also become nurse practitioners to add another level of service to the community and region. The value of this facility cannot be overstated due to the mission the institution and these students serve. This week the Bachelors of Science in Nursing program obtained a 100% passage rate on the state nursing licensure examination.

Program Administration

UAM's approach to compliance with award requirements will understand what is expected before initiating the program. UAM has received funds for capital improvements in the past, with various reporting requirements handled by Finance and Administration. Finance and Administration will oversee the project from start to finish while adhering to all federal, state, and UA System guidelines. When the project is approved at the federal level, UAM will begin gaining the necessary approvals, which will require much work on the front end. Once the project is approved, a request for proposals will be issued for design services. A committee will be formed that will score each proposal to submit to the UA Board of Trustees for subsequent approval. Once Legislative Council approves the contract for design services, UAM can begin

working on the plans, which will assist us in soliciting contractors. Due to working on a university campus, the work must be planned and executed in a way that does not disturb students' normal course of business. All factors will be taken into consideration to plan and execute the project in the most efficient manner possible. Once the project has begun, it will be monitored by the design professional and UAM. Reports on capital projects are required by the Board of Trustees as well.

Program Budget

Detailed Capital Project Funds - \$6,987,500					
Detailed Description	Cost	Funding Source			
Renovation - walls, floors	\$400,000	Capital Funds Project			
Renovation- electrical	\$1,350,000	Capital Funds Project			
HVAC- New HVAC unit, duct work, labor	\$4,250.000	Capital Funds Project			
HVAC- New HVAC unit, duct work, labor	\$500,000	Other Funding Sources			
Total Construction Costs	\$6,500,000				
Total Design Fees	\$487,000	Other Funding Sources			
Total	\$987,500	Other Funding Sources			
Total	\$6,000,000	Capital Funds Project			

PROGRAM BUDGET								
	Program Administrative Costs							
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
2a. Administering the CPF funds (by the Recipient)								
2b. Technical assistance to potential subrecipients								
2c. Complying with grant administration and audit requirements								
2d. Community Engagement								
2e.								
2f.								
2g.								

Duoinat	Costs			
 Froject	Cosis		1	
		\$3,231,000	\$2,775,000	
	·			
		\$3,231,000	\$2,775,000	
	Project	Project Costs	\$3,231,000	\$3,231,000 \$2,775,000

PRE-AWARD COST ANNEX

This annex is only required if you answered "Yes" to question 5 of the Program Questionnaire. Complete the table below for the program costs incurred after March 15, 2021, but prior to the execution of the grant agreement ("Pre-Award Costs").

Does the applicant provide reasonable assurance that the intended source of funds for the Pr	e-
Award Costs was the CPF Grant?	

Yes	No □

Submit an attachment describing each project that includes Pre-Award project costs. Also describe the current source of funding for the project and how the CPF funding was contemplated to be used in coordination with current sources of funding.

PRE-AWARD COSTS	Amount (\$s)
3a. Recipient Project Costs (Total)	
3a.ii. Pre-project development, including data-	
gathering, feasibility studies, community	
engagement and public feedback processes, equity	
assessments and planning, and needs assessments.	
3a.iii. Personnel Costs	

3a.iv. Repair, rehabilitation, construction, and improvement, of facilities	
3a.v. Acquisition of real property, leases, and related	

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.10

Agency: University	of Arkansas	at Pine Blu	uff			Business Are	a Code:	0160	
Program Title:			American Re	scue Plan -	Student Eng	gagement Center			
Granting Organization:	US Congres	SS				CFDA #:			
Effective Date of Author	ization:		Beginning:	8/3	31/2022	Endin	g:	6/30/20	23
Purpose of Grant / Reas Please see attached info		on or chang	ge (include attach	nments as ne	cessary to pro	ovide thorough infor	mation):		
Func. Area: <u>UNIV</u> Funds Center:	Inte		Fund Code: /WBS Element:		Program F	20.00.00	ng Comm. A	Funding: pproved: inuation:	X
	ENT IS				Progra	am Funding Amoun	t		-38
Regular Salaries									
Extra Help									
Personal Services Match	ning								-
Operating Expenses			- 1111						
Conference & Travel Ex	penses		0-		and annexa				
Professional Fees									
Capital Outlay	110-110								
Data Processing									
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)									
Other: Student Engage	ment Center								3,000,000
Other:									
Total			\$						3,000,000
Anticipated Duration of						DFA IGS Stat Items requeste compliance with IGS State Tech	d for information Technology F	on technolog Plans as subi g.	mitted to DFA
Org Pers	Pers	Cost	Position	Cmnt		All Parks	Class	* unclassif	ed positions only
Unit Area	SubArea	Center	Number	Item	Po	osition Title	Code	Grade	
State funds will not to authorized by the Government Approved by: Cabinet Secretary/Agency	ernor. Us <i>farde</i> n		DZ Rob		9/2/202 Date	2	ed by the G		ssembly an

Use Code: 1C

Program Identifier: Capital Project Fund

<u>Program Title:</u>

Student Engagement Center at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Total Amount of Request: \$3 million

Applicant Presenter:
The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Location of Applicant: Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Number of Locations Serving the Public: 1

Type of Service to Be Rendered: The Student Engagement Center (SEC) will be a multi-purpose full service campus-based facility on the grounds of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, which is located at an under-resourced state university that is an Historically Black College/University (HBCU) and that is located in the fragile and underserved community in the Arkansas Delta, one of the poorest regions of the state and nation. It will serve as a hub for program delivery, student engagement, health education, community health engagement, student health and wellness assessment and counseling, workforce development, enrollment management and student success. The full activation of such a facility will serve to provide wrap-around support services that improve the various instructional, research, and service needs of students and faculty that will be provided under one roof, and in a manner that facilitates a consistent, student-centered, and appropriate process of delivery of comprehensive services to the university. Consistent with the land-grant mission of the university, the facility will be used to provide outreach service to the Arkansas Delta Region through sponsorship of community health fairs and guest speakers who can inform the community on the coronavirus and other public health issues.

How Will the Recipient implement the Program: Direct Implementation

Does the Recipient represent and commit that the Capital Projects will provide services or activities that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring for at least five years from the completion of the Project? **Yes.**

Will CPF grant funds for this program be used to cover costs incurred after March 15, 2021, but prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement? **No.**

Program Narrative

Program Summary:

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), the oldest and largest historically black university in the state, serves as a link that bridges development and educational access to minority, poor, and underserved citizens of the state. UAPB has a history of educating and serving those living at life's margins, particularly those from the Delta region, demographically one of the most disadvantaged areas in the nation. The university ranks #1 in the state of Arkansas in Addiction Studies, #2 in Best Value for School Affordability, and ranks #11 overall as one of the Top Public Schools in US News and World Reports of Colleges in the South. More than 40 Degree Programs are offered and students enjoy a 14;1 student/teacher ratio. UAPB students hail from 37 states and 20 countries from across the globe. Over the last few years, UAPB has dramatically increased its student 6-year graduation rate from 23.3 percent to 40 percent. UAPB's student success outcomes have been recognized in each of the five years of the state's productivity formula and rewarded with appropriations adding up to more than \$1 million. In addition, UAPB has worked diligently to hold down tuition and fees, while maintaining a low average net price. UAPB is also a member of the University of Arkansas System and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

The University provides a challenging student-focused and learning-centered education designed to meet the changing needs of a diverse and rapidly growing student population. In advancing efforts to address that need, the university has completed an assessment of facilities and resources that require structural or technological modernization. Among the many pressing needs in bringing the university forward into the 21st century is a multi-purpose Student Engagement Center (SEC) that combines access to health care, technology, academic support, career planning support, and recreation to meet the needs of today's student and the State of Arkansas. As such, it is critical that the UAPB construct a new Student Center to replace the current facility, which was constructed in 1951. A marvel of its time, especially among campuses of historically black institutions, the UAPB Student Union was featured in a July 1952 magazine feature story, "Dixie College Hits New High," highlighting the functionality and charm of the structure. While well maintained for more than 70 years, it does not include many of the features and characteristics of the modern 21st century student union. As a result, UAPB seeks funding to assist in developing the financial resources necessary to construct a facility that would provide common areas for public health fairs and assemblies as well as student social engagement, co-curricular learning, technological upgrades, and extracurricular activities needed to allow UAPB to remain competitive with its peer institutions and grow its educational impact throughout the state and region.

The facility will serve as a catalyst in linking students--many of whom are the first in their immediate families to attend college--who hail from the Delta and other impoverished regions of the state and nation with the type exposures necessary to prepare them to be competitive in a highly technical society.

Scholars have documented the importance of the connection between the modern-day student center or union facilities and the students' sense of community on university campuses. Other studies have also shown the strong positive impact that participation in extracurricular activities has on student retention and graduation success.

This program plan presents the project requested by UAPB to construct a \$35 million multi-purpose facility that would centralize space for student health and wellness activities, food service outlets, various other student engagement outlets, including the Student Success Center, the Career Services Center, and a Graduate and Professional School Resource Center.

The plan for the Student Center started in 2015 with the development of the UAPB Campus Masterplan, which was completed with the assistance of the planning firm of Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas and Company, a firm specializing in campus design and planning. The plan was approved by the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees. Two years later the financing plan was started with students voting to approve a student fee for the facility and the Board's approval of the fee. Now the university is ready to issue bonds to help fund the facility.

The UAPB Student Engagement Center will contribute to student success in the additional ways of developing leadership; gaining a sense of belonging; developing a wide perspective; finding provisions on campus; gathering before and after campus events; attending large events, sharing, learning, and working together; and seeing the campus at its best. The expected outcomes of the investment in the SEC include establishment of state-of-the-art student center, complete with spaces for student meetings, programming and enrichment activities at the state's only public land-grant minority serving institution; larger university student space for meetings and health fairs and health monitoring for the community, which significantly impacts the Arkansas Delta, the state of Arkansas and the region; increased co-curricular opportunities for student development and high-impact practices in student affairs; greater emphasis on student retention and graduation through making student success a focal point of campus and community visitors to the new student center; an enhanced commitment to the career preparation of students that focuses on highly-motivated and well trained students, including space for hosting corporate, government, and non-profit visitors who recruit students for the workforce; stronger collaborations and partnerships between UAPB and other education and private sector institutions and businesses in Arkansas and around the nation; the enhancement of UAPB as a destination institution; and the university rising regionally and nationally in recognition, reputation, prestige and visibility.

Description

As an institution with a rich and historic legacy of providing services to many underserved and underrepresented residents of the state, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) has significantly and positively improved social mobility for poor and minority citizens. Towards growing its level of services, UAPB has a need to remain socially relevant in comparison to its educational peers. The contruction of a new Student Engagement Center will advance the university's efforts towards the objective.

The new Student Center will house service areas that include the following:

Work:

Office of Career Services

Education:

Student Success Center

Graduate and Professional School Resource Center Undergraduate Research Office International Programs Office Service Learning Office

Health Monitoring:

Wellness Center

Infirmary

Counseling (Mental Health) Center

Multi-purpose Areas:

Major Event/Multi-purpose Meeting Room (Divided for Simultaneous Use)

Food Service Areas

Courtyard

Indoor/Outdoor Dining

Game Room

Computer Lab

Entry, Lobby, and Information/Welcome Desk

Theater (1,200-Seat)

Student Lounge/Study Areas

Timeline

The plan is to hire an architect and a contractor to plan, design, and manage the construction of the facility. Below is a general timeline for the project:

August 2022 Bond issuance planned to help pay for the Student Engagement Center

September 2022 Board of Trustees approval of the Capital Projects Fund Grant

Sept./Oct. 2022 Complete and sign contract with the building contractor

October 2022 Groundbreaking Event

October 2024 Completion of Construction (provided no serious supply chain issues)

June 2025 Community Health Education Series Begins

Eligibility:

The Student Enhancement Center (SEC) at UAPB meets all three of the eligibility criteria for the Capital Projects Funds:

- 1. The capital asset in which the project is invested is the Student Enhancement Center, and it is designed to directly enable work, education and health monitoring.
- 2. A critical need for assistance with finding work, increasing educational emphasis and supporting health monitoring—the lack of which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency—will be addressed by the construction of the Student Enhancement Center.
- 3. The work associated with the Student Enhancement Center is designed to address a critical need for health education and monitoring within the university and the surrounding local community.

Note: The activities of the Student Enhancement Center that enable work, education, and health monitoring do not form the exclusive function of purpose of the project. Other functions and purposes of the SEC are indicated below:

Work:

The Office of Career Services will have a very prominent place in the Student Engagement Center (SEC) because of the important role it has in workforce preparation. Students will obtain assistance finding internships and permanent employment through the Office of Career Services. They will also receive training and development with preparing resumes, interviewing skills, job search processes, employee onboarding, preparation for the work environment and overall plans for post-graduation success. With a staff of resident experts in career development, the Office of Career Services offers free workshops, sponsors career fairs, puts students in touch with internship and summer job opportunities, critiques application essays, and maintains an extensive job-search library and résumé referral system. All students are encouraged to engage the office through registration in their freshman year.

Moreover, the Office of Career Services will continue to host fall and spring career fairs for students to engage with representatives from business, government, education, and graduate/professional schools. However, the students and prospective employers will get to use the modern facilities of the Major Event/Multi-purpose Meeting Room in an exposition-style setting.

UAPB has the institutional capacity and a 150-year record of offering comprehensive and culturally relevant services to students and residents of the state. As a premier source of higher education services to the Arkansas Delta, UAPB is recognized as the go-to institution in providing direct support to the region. The university has a significant and acknowledged record of meeting the educational needs of poor, minority, and underserved residents. In many respects, UAPB has served as the leader in expanding social mobility and expanding the middle class in the state. The university remains a higher education leader in bridging educational gaps and linking educational services to poor and underrepresented citizens of the Arkansas Delta.

Education:

The new Student Engagement Center will provide educational opportunities for students and the general public across several diverse venues, including the Student Success Center, the Graduate and Professional School Resource Center, the Undergraduate Research Office, the Office of International Programs and Studies, the Service Learning Office, the Major Event/Multi-purpose Meeting Room and a 1,200-seat auditorium.

One of the most significant changes in higher education over the last two decades is the increasing emphasis on student success, a concept characterized by efforts to retain students while they progress through a series of courses to graduation. A major function of the new student center will be contributing to student progression to graduation through the Student Success Center. The

center, now housed across campus in Caldwell Hall, will provide help with classes, tutoring, study skills, supplemental instruction, writing and communications, and research assistance. UAPB has designed a comprehensive strategy to advance student success – one student at a time. A major factor in this strategy is the construction of a new Student Success Center that will enhance and realize the alignment of a personalized academic, financial, and social support system for all students.

Strategically locating the Student Success Center in the new multi-purpose facility will enable UAPB to build on its success in student outcomes and continue the upward trajectory that will satisfy the state's needs for a well-prepared diverse and inclusive workforce that contributes to the economic prosperity of the Arkansas Delta and the entire state.

The Graduate and Professional School Resource Center will feature offices and a computer lab that will be used to help prepare students for admission to graduate and professional schools. In addition to receiving assistance with the application process, students can receive assistance with undergraduate research opportunities, test preparation for admission to graduate degree programs, schools of law, medicine, and other professional programs. The effort will contribute to the preparation of UAPB students for admission, progression and success in graduate and professional school programs. By encouraging more students to pursue advanced degrees, UAPB seek to increase the likelihood that some of those students will return to communities in the Arkansas Delta, providing leadership and professional support for the population to access quality health care and health monitoring in those areas.

The Office of International Programs and Studies will provide support services for UAPB faculty and students, assisting them with compliance with immigration regulations; facilitating study, travel and internships abroad, promoting university partnerships and providing activities that enhance global awareness and an appreciation for diversity. UAPB is committed to increasing the number of undergraduate students who study abroad by 75 over the next five years by engaging educators and stakeholders to increase the number of U.S. students who can gain international experience through study abroad programs, internships, service learning and non-credit educational experiences.

A significant and much-needed addition to the UAPB campus is a 1,200-seat auditorium for academic and co-curricular programming. The addition of the Performing Arts Theater would fill a major void on the campus for a room of this size for major theatrical performances, concerts, student events, distinguished lectures and campus-wide meetings among various audiences. Currently, the largest auditorium at UAPB has 500 seats, which is not adequate for large-scale university and community-sized productions. Occasionally, hundreds of UAPB students are turned away from assemblies for major speakers because of insufficient capacity in the university's largest auditorium or ad hoc overflow seating in the museum gallery. The theater will include adequate room backstage for performers, guests, social events, storage and green room. Moreover, the Major Event/Multipurpose Meeting Room can also be used as an occasional educational space for the campus and the community.

In addition to the activities planned for the new SEC, UAPB offers a full complement of educational programs for the students and the community. The university has a total of more than 40 programs at the bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. level and more than 1,000 part-time and full-time employees combined—all of whom will receive educational experiences and/or professional development sessions in the SEC.

Health Monitoring:

Health and wellness are among the services that will be provided through onsite services in the new Student Engagement Center. The Health and Wellness Center consists of a state-of-the-art service unit that addresses the total student. Our staff is committed to the concepts of wellness and prevention and to providing quality treatment for the physical and emotional needs of the students we serve. We encourage our students and staff to visit the Student Health Services Office not only when they are ill or injured, but also when they have questions or concerns about any health and wellness issues. UAPB stresses that good health is an essential part of a successful educational experience. Offering a variety of health-care services to students and staff, the university endeavors to provide direct on-campus support.

Wellness Services

UAPB will construct an enlarged fitness area in which it will move its fitness and recreation activities inside of the new facility, add an interior walking track, and expand the space for exercise and fitness. Fitness trainers will be available to assist students with using the exercise equipment and developing a personalized fitness plan using exercise equipment, including stationary bicycles, elliptical machines, treadmills and stationary weights connected to machines. The goal is to have more students and employees exercising to curb the rates of high blood pressure, obesity, heart disease, diabetes and arthritis and improve good health practices overall. The new facility will make it possible for the trainers to work on fitness plans with patrons at the facility. Since the COVID-19 emergency, UAPB has endeavored to focus more attention on the importance of exercise in promoting healthy habits to combat the coronavirus and other illnesses that are prevalent in underserved communities like Pine Bluff and the Arkansas Delta. The Wellness Center will monitor student health and wellness using a digital physician scale to calculate Body Mass Index (BMI). Identifying the BMI will allow the staff to assist students with setting and achieving their fitness goals. While using the cardio machines, students can monitor their heart rate by gripping the designated handlebar detectors. In addition, UAPB plans to add an automatic blood pressure kiosk to help identify students who may be at a risk for heart disease or stroke.

Medical Services

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the Student Health Services area has taken on an added significance and responsibility. Those services include COVID19 testing and vaccinations, flu testing and vaccinations, women's health services, and basic student wellness and support. During the COVID 19 public health emergency, UAPB also worked in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health, the City of Pine Bluff, Natural State Laboratories, and others to

sponsor drive-up and walk-in mass testing for the university and occasionally for the broader community. Moreover, the university worked in partnership with Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Doctor's Orders Pharmacy, and Walgreens Pharmacy to set up temporary clinics on the UAPB campus to provide vaccinations for the community. The new facility would be a natural host site for future events to provide information and education on health issues and organize health administration and monitoring activity with the support of the external health agencies and partnerships.

Using a collaborative approach toward the total student development, the mission of Student Health Services is to ensure students who use this facility maintain an optimal level of health. The center is staffed by a professional Registered Nurse, and a secretary. The university also has contracted with a part-time Medical Doctor/Advance Practice Registered Nurse and a reproductive RN Practitioner. The health services office also offers specialized student wellness education and training that looks at the total health of students. The office also sponsors Health Awareness Peer Educators (HAPE), a group of compassionate students at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff whose key focus is HIV/AIDS. The students are trained by certified teachers in HIV/AIDS education which provides information and support to assist in positive lifestyle behaviors. The peer educators communicate with peers about health concerns and related issues (obesity, personal hygiene, blood donation, etc.) and serve as a resource and role model to all people who connect with them. The peers reinforce the belief that an educated peer or person is a more balanced individual in determining his or her destiny. The university also plans to monitor student health through a messaging system in which students can email health questions and concerns to a licensed health nurse athealthservices@uapb.edu. Using on-site medical equipment, the health staff will be able to assist students with monitoring and tracking their cholesterol, glucose, heart rate, and blood pressure. Through urinalysis testing, the staff will also be able to manage a wide range of disorders, such as urinary tract infections, kidney disease and diabetes.

Counseling Services

UAPB plans to move the Counseling Center from the century-old Caldwell Hall into the new facility to increase the service level provided to students by expanding the waiting area, increasing work areas for counselors, and increasing the level of confidentiality for students who need counseling. As a result of the shocks and disruptions to campus life caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, the need for a more robust mental health counseling program has moved to the forefront. The university has had to engage students, employees, and the community with greater sensitivity to the impact that current stressors and multiple unexpected changes are having on their sense of wellbeing. In response, the university pilot-tested a virtual tele-medicine mental health program to address the increasing student need for access to counseling. The experiences we have obtained from this pilot will be helpful in working with our medical partners on plans to use the facility for community health education and monitoring.

The new facility will enable the university to increase the amount of health monitoring that exists for the university and the community. The newly proposed configuration of the waiting area combining counseling with medical care will hopefully remove some of the remaining stigma that

may be causing some inhibitions about seeking mental health counseling. Like most universities, UAPB has an established student mental health task force to monitor and support students having challenges.

Private institutions and increasingly using mental health assessments for broad-based screening to evaluate groups of students in attempts to identify "risk factors" for adjustment difficulties. These assessments help institutions identify students at risk for poor outcomes; identify students who may need monitoring or intervention; and inform decisions about needed services. The Student Counseling Center, in collaboration with the Dean of Student Life Office, will use Symplicity's Advocate System to track students who may have mental health issues or need behavioral intervention. The medical and mental health of the students with positive COVID-19 cases and other serious illnesses, are monitored daily via phone.

Critical Need/Justification:

The Student Engagement Center project at UAPB addresses a critical need for the university and the surrounding community by consolidating information resources on employment, job preparation, college achievement and successful completion, and comprehensive health and wellness services, which include health monitoring. The university lacks all of the resources needed to build this comprehensive facility for the university and community.

UAPB and the community of Pine Bluff/Jefferson County have a critical need for the new Student Engagement Center project. UAPB is a university that is located in the Arkansas Delta, one of the poorest areas of the nation, and it lacks the resources in capital outlay to provide a facility that includes employment services, education and health monitoring in a state-of-the-art facility similar to those at its peer institutions. In addition, the local community suffers from higher than average unemployment, lack of high-wage jobs, insufficient matches between job vacancies and qualified job seekers, limitations on access, opportunity, equity, and affordability in higher education; and the lack of access to health and wellness services in modern comprehensive facilities. Specifically, the current student center, which is called the L.A. Davis Student Union, was built in 1951 and it is too small to accommodate the current student body that has now more than doubled in size. It lacks many of the co-curricular spaces such as the Office of Career Services, the Student Success Center that are commonly housed in the center of college and university campuses. Career Services and Student Success are currently housed in smaller, cramped spaces in the university's historic Caldwell Hall, which was built in 1928 and lacks public parking outside of the building. The facilities for health and wellness, which are scattered across the UAPB campus, would be consolidated into the new student center in an area that allows for coordination and integration of services and activities. Currently the counseling center that provides mental health services is located in Caldwell Hall, while the infirmary is located in a single-story ground-level 70-year old building, and the fitness center is located in a worn-out portable building that's outlived its useful life and is falling into disrepair. All of these shortcomings will be remedied with the new facility that increases the amount of space for each service area, and it provides a modern 21st century facility that will accommodate the needs of the campus and the community for comprehensive

medical health care, mental health care and wellness education for the UAPB community. Additionally, the new facility will co-locate the three service areas in one building, enabling opportunities for integration and coordination as well as increased use.

UAPB will engage with students, faculty, and the broader community to maximize the use and effectiveness of the SEC. In addition, as a regional educational leader, the university will work with community, political, and educational stakeholders in expanding access and support for the center and its focus. UAPB will also work with regional educational partners to expand stakeholder support for growing educational awareness of the available resources and learning and training opportunities provided through the center. In that the community and the region will be positively impacted by the economic impact of the center, UAPB will also actively engage broader learning ventures in the community and the region.

UAPB has had on-going community engagement surrounding the development of the new center and the health care response to COVID 19 through established partnerships. Some of those partnerships and relationships include the Jefferson Regional Medical Center in which the Chancellor serves on the Board of the Directors, and JRMC has worked in partnership with the university in athletics, nursing and employment opportunities. As the site of the diagnosis of the first positive case of COVID-19 in the state of Arkansas, JRMC has also been a valuable partner in advising the university about health precautions and monitoring throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. In addition, UAPB has been involved in a growing partnership with CHI St. Vincent Hospital in Little Rock on improving the quality of health education that we provide at the university and that impacts the community. Other community partners with which the university has consulted included the Pine Bluff Leadership Roundtable and the Go Forward Pine Bluff Initiative.

The spread of the deadly coronavirus across the nation and the world has caused colleges and universities to be more concerned than ever about the health and well-being of their students. While most students appear to be healthy, they are also exposed to many new health risks from living in dormitories or close quarters with other students, through the stress of being away from home and the pressure of academic life, or through the use of drugs and alcohol. Higher education institutions, therefore, must provide health services for their students and promote awareness of the various health issues that students encounter. According to Statista, around 54 percent of surveyed students in 2021 in the U.S. agreed or strongly agreed that their health and well-being were priorities at the college or university they were currently attending. While the most common health issue among college students is a cold, campus health centers must deal with a variety of issues, including diseases and select disabilities or conditions, mental health, drugs and alcohol, and a number of other risk factors.

According to the latest available UAPB data on its undergraduates, 37 percent of the students and their families live below the poverty line. In addition, 73 percent of UAPB students were eligible to receive a Pell grant through demonstrating exceptional financial need on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Pell grant typically does not have to be repaid, which makes it highly desirable. It is awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to help eligible low-income

students pay for college costs, including tuition, fees, room and board, and other educational expenses.

90 percent of the undergraduate students enrolled at UAPB come from the counties in the Arkansas Delta, a region of the state and nation that is among the poorest.

The location of the university is in the city of Pine Bluff, where 24 percent of the population live in poverty compared to 18.9 percent of Arkansans who live below the poverty, which ranks the state in 46th Place. Pine Bluff's per capita income is \$19,240 and median household income is \$34,410. About 20 percent of the residents of Pine Bluff have a four-year college degree, while 14 percent of the residents did not complete high school.

The university has a critical need for upgrading facilities to better serve the student population. It is our responsibility to provide state of the art technological educational support services and building a framework for delivering wrap-around services to students. Despite providing high-quality educational services to 2,700 students annually, the university does not have the resources to meet this need or to significantly provide the level of support comparable to its state or regional peers. Therefore the funding requested in this proposal is critically needed to complete construction of the UAPB Student Engagement Center, which will benefit the university and the community through job preparation, education, and health monitoring.

Program Administration

The State of Arkansas has a long history of receiving and monitoring federal grants. The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration has developed a Capital Projects Fund Beneficiary Agreement that outlines the recipient's institutional, managerial, and financial capability requirements to ensure the proper planning, management, and completion of any such project which receives federal fund money. The Beneficiary agrees to comply with any reporting obligations established by the Treasury or the Department as they relate to this award, including, without limitation, the submission of quarterly project and expenditure reports, annual performance reports, and the submission of information on the Beneficiary's workforce plans and practices related to the approved proposal and subcontracted entities. As required by the State record retention requirements as set out at Ark. Code Ann § 25-18-604, the Beneficiary shall retain sufficient records to show its compliance with the terms of this agreement, as well as the compliance of all contractors or subcontractors paid from Funds under this agreement, for a period of five (5) years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report.

Likewise UAPB has long experience with grants from several federal agencies, and it is equip to assure compliance with federal and state rules on expenditures and retention of records. Moreover, UAPB is an institution that is governed by the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees and subject to a statewide coordinating board that is staffed by the state Division of Higher Education.

The university follows the State of Arkansas Procurement Law. It requires that capital projects advertise for bids for project architects for planning the development and contractors to manage the construction. These steps are conducted by the university's Office of Procurement in coordination

with the Facilities Management Department and the Budget Office—all of which are overseen by the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, who reports directly to the Chancellor of the University. The proposed project is subject to the approvals by the University of Arkansas System President, the Board of Trustees, and the state Division of Higher Education.

Program Budget

Consultants working on the SEC have estimated the total cost of the facility at \$35 million. So far, UAPB's revenue estimates have come close to achieving the full amount from a variety of sources:

University Bond	\$16,000,000*
Student Fees Collected	\$3,800,000
University Reserves	\$2,000,000
Title III Funds	\$6,200,000
Capital Projects Fund Request	\$2,000,000
Funds Still Needed	\$5,000,000
Total	\$35,000,000

^{*}Amount shown is an estimate. The bond issue would likely increase to no more than \$17 million.

Despite the significant historical relevance of UAPB to the state and nation, the university lacks the total financial investment of \$35 million needed to construct the new Student Engagement Center. Efforts to identify funding have been ongoing for more than two decades. Because of the great need for a larger state-of-the-art 21st century facility for the underserved university community in the Arkansas Delta, the university has had to look to multiple sources of revenue:

- ❖ UAPB student government led an effort to approve a student body referendum to request a fee for its construction. In 2017, the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved the student-proposed fee increase to help fund the project.
- ❖ The fees generated enough to fund a bond issue worth up to \$17 million. (Conservative estimate: \$16,000,000).
- ❖ Since the approval of the fee, the amount collected is approximately \$3,800,000.
- **Expenditure of the university reserves: \$2,000,000.**
- ❖ U.S. Department of Education Title III Program: \$6,200,000.
- ❖ UAPB is requesting \$2,000,000 from the Capital Projects Fund, while \$6-7 million is needed to complete the financing for the project.

PROGRAM BUDGET						
Program Administrative C	Costs					
		2022	2023	2024		
2a. Building, facility expansion, core construction related costs -Architectural cost -demolition and grading -construction management			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		
2b. Technical assistance to potential sub recipients -web-based & tech upgrades -Electrical and Mechanical upgrades						
2c. Complying with grant administration and audit requirement						
2d. Community Engagement						
2e. Wellness Workshops						
2f. COVID19-Flu Annual community testing						
2g.						
2. Total Program Administrative Costs (not to exceed amounts listed in source of funding) *	*	*	*	*	*	*
Project Costs						
3a. Recipient Project Costs						
3b. Subgrant Project Costs						
3a.vi						
3a.vii.						
3a.viii.						
3a.ix.						

3 Total Project Costs	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		
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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.11

Program Title:		rsing Office				Bus	siness Area Code:	0620	
				ARPA - Northwe	est Technical Ins	stitute Education F	oundation		
Granting Orga	nization:	US Treasur	у			CFE	OA #: <u>21.027</u>		
Effective Date	of Authoria	zation:		Beginning:	7/1/2	022	Ending:	6/30/20)23
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Northwest Technical Institute - \$5,000,000

The NWTI Education Foundation was incorporated February 26, 2021 to support the needs of the Northwest Technical Institute. The NWTI Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to providing and promoting education opportunities for Northwest Technical Institute, its students, and its staff. The NWTI Education Foundation, in partnership with NWTI school administrators and the NWTI Board of Directors, has identified the need for a new NWTI medical educational facility to support the growth of the school as well as to meet the growing needs of the region's medical community.

For over 45 years, Northwest Technical Institute (NWTI) has offered a wide variety of career and technical educational offerings in the Northwest Arkansas region. NWTI recognizes the need for medical training in this region and to expand offerings of short-term trainings to place students in the workforce as soon as possible. NWTI is the only career and technical school in the state. The mission of NWTI is 'changing lives through education, training and skill development'. NWTI has partnered with regional healthcare facilities, including Washington Regional Medical Center, Northwest Health Systems, Mercy Medical Center, Arkansas Children's Hospital Northwest, UAMS, and other organizations such as the Northwest Arkansas Council, Springdale Chamber of Commerce, Benton, Madison and Washington County municipalities to provide training for entry and middle skill support staff. NWTI's focus is to expand and increase our medical offerings to meet the growing need for more medical support personnel in our region.

The NWTI Education Foundation is requesting \$5 million dollars to assist with the construction of a 50,000 sq. ft. Allied Health Facility on the Northwest Technical Institute campus located in Springdale, AR. (See attachment 1). This facility would accommodate NWTI's Licensed Practical Nursing Program, Surgical Technologist Program, Certified Nursing Assistant Program, Sterile Processing, and additional allied health programs being considered for future enrollment. Currently, NWTI's Allied Health programs make up over 45% of NWTI's overall enrollment. The Allied Health Department currently utilizes six classrooms and four labs for instructional delivery. Over the past five years, Licensed Practical Nursing, Surgical Technology and Certified Nursing Assistant programs are at maximum capacity.

This newly constructed facility in health-related fields would have five major impacts:

- Increase enrollment in current allied health programs.
- Construct updated classrooms and labs to accommodate modern technology and simulation needed to reflect real life health-care environments.
- 3. Meet the growing needs of the Northwest Arkansas health professions community.
- 4. Serve marginalized communities in partnership with Upskill NWA.
- Allow NWTI's Adult Education program to relocate back on campus and save \$87,706 paid in rent annually or allow additional classroom space to offer other courses.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.12

Program Title:	DI / I DISDU	ırsing Officer	A			Bus	iness Area Code:	0620	
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Granting Orga	anization:	US Treasur	у			CFD	A #: 21.027		
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Women & Children First - \$9,597,000

Women & Children First (WCF) is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization operating since 1978. It is the first and largest continually operating domestic violence shelter in the State of Arkansas. WCF serves victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. WCF staff answer the Statewide Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline and offer safe and secure emergency shelter and supportive services for all victims and their children. WCF provides shelter for women, men, children, and the disabled.

The proposed WCF-Family Peace Center will be a new shelter facility offering all the services needed by individuals and families seeking to end abusive situations and heal and rebuild their lives. It will include other agencies, public and private, which will co-locate on-site complementary services and programs, creating a one-stop-shop for participants seeking aid and assistance. The site, with its multiple collaborators, will provide easily accessible and safe assistance for the victims and children seeking help.

This program plan presents the project requested by WCF-Family Peace Center to construct a \$9.597 million dollar facility. This new building will be a multi-purpose community facility that, once constructed, will enable health monitoring, education, and work for a disproportionately impacted community — victims of domestic violence. The purpose of the building is to provide a wide range of critical services to its participants.

The program at WCF currently has 54 beds in their emergency shelter and houses the statewide Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline. The goal of the project is to create a new facility of 90 beds, based on the Family Justice Center concept, which has served as the national best practices model. The Family Justice Center model is being used at more than 130 operational centers across the U.S. The WCF-Family Peace Center will house its new emergency shelter and other support agencies and programs under the same roof to enable participants to travel to only one location for all the services that will allow the participant to put one's life back together. The onsite location of many service providers is particularly important to those participants who have already secured independent housing outside the shelter.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.13

Program Title		ursing Office				Bus	iness Area Code:	0620	
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Granting Orga	anization:	US Treasur	ry		1 3	CFD	OA #: 21.027		
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Philander Smith College - \$5,000,000

Philander Smith College, established in 1877, is the oldest Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in Arkansas. Our founding mission was to educate teachers and preachers for the newly freed slaves after the Civil War. Over the last 140 years we have maintained our alliance to that mission while expanding to reach the needs of that same community, as well as the broader community.

In September 2015, the College took the bold step to approve the Dr. Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health. Although it was unknown then, this was a timely move in that the pandemic of 2020 would affect the immediate and broader community that we have serviced for over 140 years. COVID-19 has impacted the underserved and minority communities at a much larger rate than the general public. The need for testing, vaccinations, mental health, and overall healthcare is at a peak. The Dr. Joycelyn Elders School for Allied and Public Health is prepared, with your assistance, to render to the underserved communities of Arkansas trained health care workers and access to health care from a trusted community partner.

Philander Smith College, with support from many of our community partners, has already began the process of responding to the pandemic. We have laid a firm academic foundation regarding our work in the Allied and Public Health space. We are prepared to expand this foundation in three areas: Licensed Practical Nursing Program (LPN), Certified Nursing Assistant Program (CNA), and the Panther Pantry and Fresh Market.

Program Objectives:

The Dr. Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health will be a multi-purpose community resource facility to address work, education, and health monitoring in the State of Arkansas. This will be accomplished with these primary objectives:

- The creation of a CNA and LPN program to educate and provide additional health care workers in the State of Arkansas.
- 2. The expansion of the Elders Community Health Clinic to increase public health monitoring for underserved communities and as a pandemic resource support site.
- 3. The expansion of the Philander Smith College Food Pantry to the community served by the Elder's initiative.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.14

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Program Title:				ARPA -	- Arkansas Rura	I Health Partner	ship		
Granting Orga	anization:	US Treasur	у				FDA #: 21.027		
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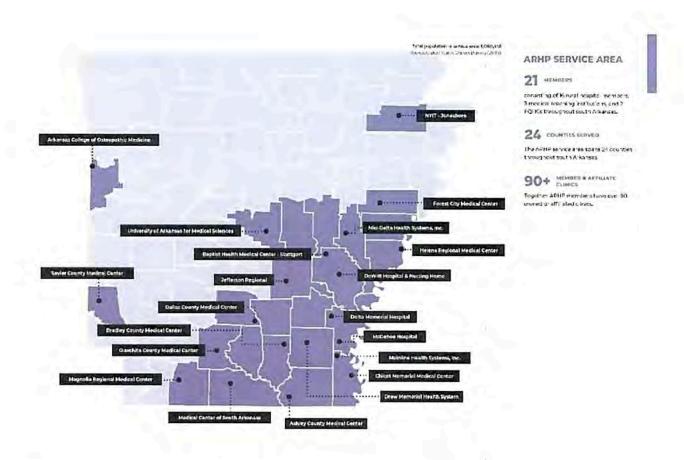
Proposal for Arkansas State Fiscal Recovery Fund Submitted by Department of Human Services Titled: Proposal to Provide \$10 million to Enhance Rural Hospital Services August 29, 2022

Summary

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals are struggling to maintain capacity to treat patients and protect the public and their staffs. The pandemic has disrupted the hospitals' and nursing facilities' abilities to maintain qualified staff at all levels within their organizations.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) proposes an additional \$10 million in funding for services to benefit rural hospitals through the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership (AHRP). This assistance will enable rural hospitals to respond to the public health emergency related to COVID-19 and its negative impacts by addressing critical needs within these facilities and strengthening their operations through initiatives that will ensure that they continue to provide needed healthcare services. These funds may be used for costs related to COVID-19 between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024, that have not been reimbursed and are incurred for any of the purposes described below.

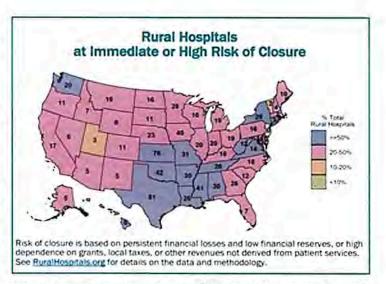
Applicant Description: Nobody understands the needs of rural hospitals like the leaders that work in rural hospitals. ARHP is a non-profit organization of 17 rural hospitals, two Federally Qualified Health Centers, and three medical schools where member rural hospitals are committed to remain autonomous for as long as they can. These hospitals understand that by partnering together and combining forces there is leverage in numbers giving them an advantage; especially when it comes to cutting operational costs, increasing access to healthcare services, improving quality of care, and addressing the needs of their patients and residents through population health initiatives, assistance services, and mental and behavioral health services and shared programs. ARHP offers its members multiple advantages; like purchasing power and discounts, contract negotiation, medical training, information technology, recruitment, and most recently, the formation of a Clinically Integrated Network. The organization works at keeping resources in rural areas and contracts with its member hospitals for services to support partnering hospitals. The organization is pursuing lowering costs for employee benefits, workers' compensation, and medical malpractice insurance, along with business office procedures. This would be done in partnership with members only or possibly partnering with a larger health system. ARHP priorities have an emphasis on finding new approaches and organizational frameworks to improve health outcomes, control costs, increase the rural workforce, and improve population health. Education, financial assistance, and an experienced, educated, and competent support system to pursue the changes needed to survive would prevent our rural hospitals from closing. ARHP administration and leadership have vast knowledge and experience as healthcare administrators. hospital financial professionals, recognized rural health experts, grant writers, fundraisers in place. The organization is ready to provide immediate support to rural hospitals across the state.



Purpose of Requested Funds: The intent of this request is to address the critical needs of Arkansas rural hospitals post COVID-19 by strengthening these organizations through initiatives that will ensure these hospitals continue to provide needed healthcare services by offering technical assistance to make in-depth health system enhancements to improve financial position and increase operational efficiencies, provide workforce recruitment, training, and retention needs, assist hospitals with integrating social services to address socio-economic challenges and enhance services, and integrating mental and behavioral health services to address the shortage of these services in rural Arkansas.

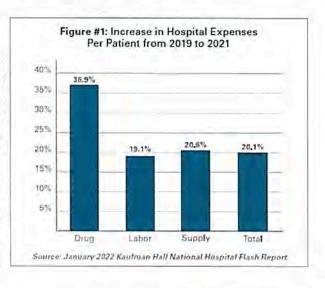
Number of Locations Served: 52 rural hospitals throughout Arkansas

Need: More than 800 rural hospitals – 40% of all rural hospitals in the country – are at risk of closing in the near future. According to the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform, 61% of the rural hospitals in Arkansas have been identified as at risk of closure. Most of these are small rural hospitals that provide not only emergency care, inpatient care, and outpatient services, but also primary care, rehabilitation, and long-term care services for their communities. Moreover, most of the hospitals are in isolated communities where loss of



the hospital could severely limit access to health care services. More than 2 million people could be directly harmed if these hospitals close, and people in all parts of the country could be affected through the impacts on workers in agriculture and other industries. These funds will be used in a long-term program to strengthen the rural hospitals, increase workforce in both numbers and quality, and improve the leadership skills that combined may prevent hospital closures and improve care in Arkansas.

According to the American Hospital Association (AHA), hospitals and health systems have faced massive financial losses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to experience staffing shortages, rising expenses, and supply chain issues. Hospitals and health systems have been efficient in keeping up with COVID-19 surges since the onset of the pandemic. Facilities have expanded treatment capacity, hired additional staff, and maintained patient access to critical services and programs, AHA said. However, as a result, hospitals have experienced billions of dollars in losses. According to AHA, more than a third of hospitals have negative operating margins.



At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed significant inequities in the availability of healthcare services and resources in rural Arkansas, as well as gaps in the availability of adequate mental and behavioral health services across the state. And the pandemic itself has exacerbated both the rural inequities and the need for additional capacity in mental and behavioral health services.

The drivers for the current overall hospital crisis are:

Cost Reimbursement. Hospitals are not being paid enough to cover the cost of delivering care to patients. Inadequate payments from both public and private health plans along with the inability of patients to pay their bills continues to be one of the concerns for hospitals.

Staffing Costs. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, hospital employment nationally is down approximately 100,000 from pre-pandemic levels. At the same time, hospital labor expenses per patient through 2021 were 19.1% higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2019. Labor costs account for more than 50% of hospitals' total expenses. Therefore, even a slight increase in these costs can have significant impacts on a hospital's total expenses and operating margins. Driving the growth in labor expenses has been an increased reliance on contract staff, especially contract nurses, who are integral members of the clinical team. In 2019, hospitals spent a median of 4.7% of their total nurse labor expenses for contract travel nurses, which skyrocketed to a median of 38.6% in January 2022. Contract staff agencies have increased the rates they bill hospitals significantly. In fact, hourly billing rates that hospitals pay staffing firms for contract employees increased 213% compared to pre-pandemic levels and led to a 62% profit margin for contract staff agencies, i.e., the difference between what the firms charge hospitals and what the firms pay the contract employees. (See Attachment A for cost analysis for Arkansas Rural Health Partnership hospitals conducted in August 2022).

Supply/Drug Costs. Drug expenses also increased dramatically, 36.9% on per patient bases, compared to pre-pandemic levels. As a share of non-labor expenses, drug expenses grew from approximately 8.2% in January 2019 to 10.6% in January 2022. Medical supply expenses grew 20.6% through the end of 2021, compared to pre-pandemic levels. When focusing on hospital departments most directly involved in care for COVID-19 patients – ICUs and respiratory care departments – medical supply expenses increased 31.5% and 22.3%, respectively, from pre-pandemic levels.

This is exacerbated in small, independent rural hospitals because:

Unlike most larger hospitals and those that are part of a larger health system that have been experiencing financial losses, independent rural hospitals have reached the point where they no longer have sufficient financial reserves available to cover their losses and no method of paying their staff or creditors.

Private health plans pay small rural hospitals less than they pay larger hospitals for the same services, and Medicare Advantage plans appear to be among the worst payers at small rural hospitals. Most small rural hospitals operate one or more rural health clinics, and the low payments for primary care services from private payers are a major cause of losses at these hospitals.

Independent rural hospitals experience high costs for supplies, equipment, and contracted services because they do not have the volume to benefit from cost savings that are offered to larger healthcare systems.

There is a higher cost to recruiting and retaining healthcare providers, administration, and leadership to rural areas. Rural communities do not offer all the amenities of larger metropolitan areas. Without the volume of this workforce in rural communities, hospitals are having to pay the cost to keep the current workforce from leaving and, at the same time, pay staffing agencies the costs to ensure retention of services.

Proposed Services and Initiatives:

- 1. Swing-bed Coordination: ARHP is proposing to increase the coordination and care of post-acute care patients across the state. This program will assist with moving patients within the statewide system to the appropriate level of care which makes the most economic sense for patients and hospitals. The proposed project will strengthen its relationship between small rural hospitals and larger hospitals by bringing a proven model from nationally recognized healthcare organizations (Allevant, developed by Mayo Clinic and Select Medical) into rural Arkansas. ARHP will focus efforts on marketing and communications for participating hospitals to assist them with communication and marketing to both larger hospitals and within their own communities. This project will improve the coordination and care of post-acute care patients across the state through the development of an online platform and hiring of a dedicated coordination team to organize and coordinate swing bed utilization between acute care and critical access hospitals. This will enhance care delivery for hospitals of every size across the state, while directly improving the financial viability of rural CAH hospitals. ARHP is currently implementing this project which is resulting in positive revenue for member Critical Access Hospitals. (\$1.5 million for three years)
- 2. On-site Healthcare Provider Simulation Training: ARHP is proposing to provide on-site simulation training to rural hospitals throughout rural Arkansas in partnership with UAMS Centers for Simulation Education to coordinate on-site COVID-response preparedness simulation training to rural hospital workers in rural hospitals in Arkansas. ARHP will work with rural hospitals throughout the proposed service area to coordinate three trainings a year at each site. By providing this training on-site, trainers/educators can work with hospital teams to assist them with facility preparation as well as procedures. Most importantly, the training can be facilitated in a team environment so participating healthcare workers can learn how to work together more effectively and efficiently in case of an emergency. (\$2.7 million for three years)
- 3. Expand Rural Clinical Nursing Training: To address the nursing shortage across the state, and especially in rural healthcare organizations, ARHP is proposing to expand its current task force to coordinate and increase the number of available nursing clinical rotations, in turn, increasing the number of rural trained nurses in the region in partnership with nursing schools throughout the state. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem as many nurses have been recruited out of the region by urban hospitals and/or travel nursing agencies that promise hefty sign-on bonuses and free housing. Nurses from the rural region are less likely to be enticed by these offers and leave the region, however rural healthcare organizations are struggling to fill vacant nursing positions. Although there are numerous nursing schools throughout the state with students from rural communities, there are too few available clinical

rotations in rural areas to increase the number of (predominantly local) nurses trained. The project will address the need for formalized collaborative efforts, locally available nurse preceptors, and the creation of additional clinical rotation thus increasing the capacity for nursing schools located in rural areas to expand their admissions and provide students that are unable to leave their rural community with an opportunity to pursue a career in nursing. (\$1 million over three years)

- 4. Integration of Mental and Behavioral Health Services: Rural hospitals are struggling with revenue while mental and behavioral health services are almost non-existent in rural Arkansas. ARHP is proposing to assist rural hospitals in transitioning empty hospital beds into mental and behavioral health inpatient and outpatient service beds and integrating telehealth services as an approach to address the shortage of mental and behavioral health providers. The COVID-19 pandemic created an even more dire need for additional mental and behavioral health services. By providing these services in the rural hospital setting, patients can receive care close to home and the hospital benefits from the revenue from these services. There is still a significant resource need to enable rural hospitals to assemble the infrastructure and resources needed to implement mental and behavioral health services. (\$2.8 million for three years)
- 5. Integration of Social Determinants of Health: ARHP is proposing to increase the capacity of identifying and addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) in small rural communities in partnership with rural hospitals in Arkansas. Identifying and addressing SDOH such as housing, education, nutrition, and access to services can have a significant influence on health outcomes. This connection is particularly important for individuals receiving behavioral or mental health services, and SDOH must be addressed to better ensure positive health outcomes as a result of the integration of mental and behavioral health services discussed above. This connection has also proven critically important in addressing the ongoing social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rural inequities exposed by the These workers will be able to assist with insurance enrollment (Medicare, pandemic. traditional Medicaid, and ARHome), prescription assistance, social needs screening, telehealth and telemonitoring support, food assistance, patient navigation services, COVID testing and vaccinations, and health events working together with member healthcare organizations and providers. These assistance services will result in cost savings to patients, revenue to healthcare providers, and healthier patients. These services have been critical during the COVID pandemic when patients were struggling to find resources. (\$2 million for three years)

Restrictions on funds:

The recipient of funds will be required to attest that these are necessary expenditures due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 and that none of these funds are used to duplicate or supplant funding from any other source of payment.

Process and Procedures for Payment:

Payment will be issued by the Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration (DFA) following approval of this proposal. Expenses covered under this program may not be reimbursed under any other federal or state program.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.15

Granting Organization: Effective Date of Authori	zation:		ck River Techi	nical College	Short-Term Hous	sing and Tra	aining Fac	ility
Effective Date of Authori	zation:	gress						
			ranting Organization: United States Congress					
	e rese	ffective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 8/31/2022					6/30/20	123
Purpose of Grant / Reaso Detailed plan attached.	on for addition or ch	ange (include attach	ments as nece	ssary to provid	e thorough inform	ation):		
Func. Area: Funds Center: New	Internal Or	American Rescu Fund Code: der/WBS Element:	FRP6750		Steerin	g Comm. A Cont	Funding: pproved: inuation:	XX
TINLIDE DE				Program	Funding Amount			
Regular Salaries		-			_			
Extra Help	4			-				
Personal Services Matchi	ng	1				-		
Operating Expenses Conference & Travel Exp	onene							
Professional Fees	erises							
Capital Outlay								
Data Processing								
Grants and Aid (CI: 04) Other: (CI: 05) BRTC Sh Fraining Facility	ort-Term Housing a	nd						4,622,857
Other:								
Total		\$						4,622,857
Anticipated Duration of I		6/30/	2023		DFA IGS State Items requested compliance with IGS State Techn	for information Technology P	on technolo lans as sub q.	mitted to DFA
Positions to be estable Org Pers	ished: (list each po		Cmnt	-		Class		fied positions or Line Item
Unit Area	SubArea Cente	r Number	Item	Posi	tion Title	Code	Grade	Maximum
State funds will not b authorized by the Gove		federal funds whe	en such fund	s expire, un	less appropriate	ed by the G	General A	ssembly a
Approved by:	7	na Robe	ert Brech	0/2/2022				
Cabinet Secretary/Agency	8/31/20 Director Date		of Budget	Date	Offi	ce of Personr	nel Mgmt	Date

Use Code 1C Questionnaire

Program Identifier: 1-CPF-BRTC

Program Title: Black River Technical College Short-Term Housing and Training Facility

How Will the Recipient implement the Program: **DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Does the Recipient represent and commit that the Capital Projects will provide services or activities that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring for at least five years from the completion of the Project? YES

Will CPF grant funds for this program be used to cover costs incurred after March 15, 2021, but prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement? **NO**

Program Narrative:

Program Summary:

Black River Technical College (BRTC) is a two-year college proposing the construction of a short-term housing and training facility at a cost of \$4,622,857. The multi-purpose community facility will function as a regional response center, and emergency response center during disasters, and as an overflow hospital during emergencies while addressing these critical needs of rural Northeast Arkansas. It offers a wide variety of community health monitoring and critical health services in partnership with Northeast Arkansas (NEA) hospitals, medical clinics, and health units. It also partners with the community and directly provides support services.

BRTC's short-term housing and training facility will provide a wide range of services, including but not limited to

- Provide adequate short-term housing for students and faculty during the accelerated training programs and for the BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) 13-week program;
- A location for an existing EMS partner to base its local headquarters and provide training to students and community members while addressing services east of Black River;
- A large venue to increase accelerated training for healthcare, emergency responders, and other large groups, including training during national emergencies, such as the COVID-19 public health emergency and serve as a FEMA disaster response command; and
- An additional venue to accommodate large community events, especially those which provide health care monitoring and such as vaccination clinics, health fairs, community classes such as CPR and first aid, accelerated training to large community groups.

As noted earlier, the total project cost is \$4,622,857.00, Please see below for key concepts:

- \$3,942,300 Construction costs
- \$680,557 Professional fees, soils analysis, FFE (fixtures, furniture, and equipment), and project contingency

- The entire planning, bidding, and construction process to complete this facility is expected to take no longer than 2 years, allowing the first law enforcement class to begin in January 2025 and accelerated training begin April 2025.
- A rigorous quality assurance process will be undertaken by both the CFO and the president to ensure the program funds are being spent on only eligible costs.

BRTC currently provides training for healthcare personnel and emergency responders; and their accelerated program has reduced the time needed to train nurses, respiratory therapists, EMS and other emergency responders aiding the workforce in recruiting eligible employees during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

BRTC is located next to the airport to assist with rapid transport of patients, supplies, and personnel during emergencies. It already has the healthcare, first responder, and emergency programs in place to address COVID-19 as well as having the partnership, expertise, and staff to provide accelerated emergency and health training. BRTC is within 3 miles of the projected future I-57 exit; is already perceived to be the regional response hub for health emergencies and natural disasters; and has the existing state connections and partnerships to engage the rest of Arkansas.

	PROPOSED TIMELINE
Q3 2021	RFP publication date: September 2021
	Application portal launch date: September 24, 2021
	BRTC application process begins
Q4 2021	BRTC application process continues
	BRTC application submitted
	RFP application deadline: December 27, 2021
Q1-Q2 2022	Application evaluation with consultants and DFA
Q3-Q4 2022	Submission to the U.S. Treasury
	Grant Plan and Program Plan deadline: September 24, 2022
	U.S. Treasury approval of the application
	Evaluation and approval through the Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act
	Steering Committee
	Submission to and approval by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson
	Submission and approval to Arkansas Legislative Council
	Approval and acceptance of DFA Capital Projects Fund Beneficiary
	Agreement
	Project management and oversight begins
Q1 2023	RFQ for architectural services
	Project management and oversight continues
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
Q2 2023	Architectural finalization
	Soils Analysis
	Project management and oversight continues
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
	Submission of DFA annual performance reports

Q3 2023	Drainage and earthwork begins
	Construction begins
	Beneficiary's workforce plans and practices including subcontracted
	entities submission to DFA
	Project management and oversight continues
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
Q4 2023	Construction continues
(Project management and oversight continues
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
Q1 2024	Construction continues
(Fixtures, furniture, & equipment purchases begin
	Project management and oversight continues
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
Q2 2024	Construction continues
Q2 202 1	Fixtures, furniture, & equipment purchases continue
	Project management and oversight continues
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
	Submission of DFA annual performance reports
Q3 2024	Construction nears completion
Q3 2024	Fixtures, furniture, & equipment purchases continue
	Project management and oversight continues
	Activity oversight, monitoring, and assessment begin
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
Q4 2024	Fixtures purchases complete
Q+ 202+	Furniture & equipment purchases continue
	Construction finals completion
	Project management and oversight continues
	Activity oversight, monitoring, and assessment continues
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
Q1 2025	Quality assessment of construction
Q1 2023	Furniture & equipment purchases complete
	Final evaluation
	Construction finals completion
	Project management and oversight continues
	First law enforcement class to begin
	Activity oversight, monitoring, and assessment continues
	Submission of DFA quarterly project and expenditure reports
Q2 2025	Projected project completion
Q2 2023	Project management and oversight continues
	Accelerated trainings begin
	Activity oversight, monitoring, and assessment continues
	Submission of DFA appeal performance reports
02 2025 04 2026	Submission of DFA annual performance reports Continued project activity, manifesting, aversight, and accessment
Q3 2025–Q4 2026	Continued project activity, monitoring, oversight, and assessment

Description:

The COVID-19 public health emergency caused tremendous strain on American healthcare systems and emergency personnel. BRTC strives to address workplace and community problems quickly and efficiently by currently training NEA's healthcare personnel and emergency responders. BRTC can reduce the time needed to train nurses, respiratory therapists¹, EMTs², and other emergency responders to replenish a workforce³ exhausted by the COVID-19 public health emergency⁴. As the only college-connected law enforcement training academy in Arkansas⁵, BRTC is also able to cross-train law enforcement, firefighters⁶, and healthcare workers⁷ to effectively manage first-on-the-site emergency situations.

Eligibility:

Work:

To achieve sustainable infrastructure during a post-COVID world, BRTC must be prepared to face the next healthcare crisis or natural disaster without sacrificing the community health monitoring, workforce education, and community education services currently offered. A short-term housing and training facility will allow BRTC to continue to offer students direct access to its existing career counseling program⁸. Near the end of their programs, students spend several days learning to create a resume, how to dress and act professionally, and practicing interview skills. Relevant businesses and industries are then invited to visit with students about job opportunities. This facility would be the location for these activities.

This facility would also enable BRTC to expand on the already existing community and multicounty job fairs including providing space for employers to interview candidates. These types of activities serve hundreds of community members, particularly minority and undereducated residents. BRTC's job fairs for PECO Foods and others attracts many Pacific Islander and low-income residents. The need for these services and the logistical challenges to offer them were exacerbated during the pandemic. This facility will allow BRTC, in collaboration with the Clay, Lawrence, and Randolph county chambers of commerce and the Northeast Arkansas Intermodal Authority¹⁰, a location to continue to offer a variety of business and career services mid- and post-crisis.

Finally, BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy¹¹, which graduates 2 classes of over 40 employed officers yearly since 1999, is in desperate need of a summer academy. However, because state law requires BRTC to cover all police cadet room and board, no funds exist for summer lodging. With the exodus of law enforcement personnel, experienced first responders who

¹https://www.aarc.org/aarc-membership/aarc-membership-benefits/professional-development/cn21-the-rt-job-market-is-booming-should-you-be-looking-around/

² https://www.businessinsider.com/emt-labor-shortage-could-mean-longer-911-wait-time-2021-10

³ https://www.odmp.org/search/year?year=2020

⁴ https://theconversation.com/high-rates-of-covid-19-burnout-could-lead-to-shortage-of-health-care-workers-166476

⁵ https://blackrivertech.org/academics/service-programs/leta

⁶ https://blackrivertech.org/academics/service-programs/fire-training

⁷ https://blackrivertech.org/academics/allied-health

⁸https://blackrivertech.org/brtcstudents/student-support-services/career-counselor-2

⁹https://neareport.com/2022/05/17/more-than-400-positions-available-at-local-job-fair/

https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-hosts-rn-job-fair

¹⁰ https://www.kait8.com/2019/02/16/farmers-learn-about-new-agricultural-advances-expo/

¹¹https://blackrivertech.org/academics/service-programs/leta/leta-programs/basic-police-training

work alongside EMS¹² and medical workers¹³ during emergencies are in short supply. **This facility** will be instrumental in providing a location to expand and accelerate already existing healthcare cross-training to law enforcement who are often first at the scene of an emergency¹⁴ and must handle life-threatening medical care¹⁵ before EMS is able to arrive.

Education:

It is important to note the demographics of the region within which BRTC is located and BRTC's goal is to provide a better educated workforce. BRTC is centrally located in Clay, Lawrence, and Randolph counties¹⁶, which are both rural and have low educational attainment. Only 13.4% of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to Arkansas's average of 23.8%, and 17.7% are below the poverty level compared to Arkansas's 15.2%.

Of the residents in the three counties:

- 0.1% are Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander
- 0.9% are African American
- 1.7% Hispanic
- Few minorities exist in the counties, but they are over-represented in poverty.
 - o 17.7% are below the poverty level compared to Arkansas's average of 15.2%
 - o 31.6% of African Americans are below the poverty level
 - o 30.3% of Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islanders are below the poverty level, and
 - o 20.1% Hispanics are below the poverty level
 - o Only 17.3% of white Americans are below the poverty level.
- 13.4% have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to Arkansas's 23.8% average

Healthcare workers and emergency responders have been impacted most by the COVID-19 public health emergency. To stop the hemorrhage of this essential workforce, higher education must reduce the length of training programs to replenish the pipeline of workers into these areas. The State has done its part by speeding up licensing procedures for healthcare workers. In response, BRTC has the personnel, relationships, and students to accelerate these already existing programs¹⁷. The college needs a short-term housing facility for students and specialized faculty who have lengthy travel time to participate in training. Local motels are both sub-par and unaffordable for BRTC's low-income, working students. **This facility would address the need for a short-term housing facility for students and specialized faculty**.

College-level academic programs currently available 18 to these students include

- basic police training,
- criminal justice,
- EMS and firefighter training,

¹² https://blackrivertech.org/academics/allied-health/emt-paramedic-program

¹³ https://blackrivertech.org/academics/allied-health

¹⁴ https://blackrivertech.org/workforce-corporate-and-community-training/security-firearms-first-responder-fire

¹⁵ https://blackrivertech.org/workforce-corporate-and-community-training/health-safety

¹⁶https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/randolphcountyarkansas,lawrencecountyarkansas,claycountyarkansas/PST045221

¹⁷ https://blackrivertech.org/brtcs-facility-on-the-ammc-campus-now-open

¹⁸ https://blackrivertech.org/academics

- health professions,
- health sciences,
- nursing assistant,
- paramedic,
- phlebotomy,
- practical nursing,
- registered nursing, and
- respiratory care.

Several of these programs continually have some of the highest pass rates in the state and are recognized as the best programs in the state:

- LPN Program Ranked #1 in Arkansas¹⁹ and achieves 100% pass rate²⁰;
- Nutrition and Foodservice Management Students achieve 100% pass rate²¹;
- Fire Science class achieves 100% pass rate²² and is named in the Top 10 Online Associate's in Fire Science in the U.S.²³

Adult community classes currently available include²⁴

- First Aid and CPR,
- First Responder,
- First Responder and Tactical Emerge,
- First Responder Refresher, and
- Heartsaver CPR and AED.

Each of the programs are essential to first responder and healthcare training during and after the pandemic, and when accelerated would rely on this facility to offer short-term housing²⁵ to those with too lengthy a drive home. Furthermore, this facility's two (2) classrooms and facility-wide controlled WiFi will allow for efficient access in the classroom.

Each of the program components offered in the facility are intended to assist in filling the employee pipeline and addressing workforce shortages due to COVID. During times of crisis, the 30 double-occupancy rooms may be used in shifts, thereby doubling or tripling potential occupancy. Faculty with lengthy drives would be housed in one of the 5 single occupancy instructor rooms.

Many of these programs are mandated by outside accrediting or state agencies²⁶ and must follow strict rules. These rules often specify a student/faculty ratio, number of hours to be taught, and other directives. Utilizing this facility would enable BRTC to meet these restrictions while educating students as efficiently as possible. In addition, adequate safety measures, such as key

¹⁹ https://blackrivertech.org/brtcs-lpn-program-ranked-1-in-the-state

²⁰ https://blackrivertech.org/brtcs-nursing-class-of-2021-achieve-100-pass-rate-for-licensure

https://blackrivertech.org/black-river-technical-colleges-nutrition-and-foodservice-management-students-achieve-100-pass-rate

²² https://blackrivertech.org/fire-science-hits-100-pass-rate

²³ https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-fire-science-program-ranked-in-the-top-10

²⁴ https://blackrivertech.org/workforce-corporate-and-community-training

²⁵ https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-pre-disaster-mitigation-plan/mitigation/safe-room

²⁶https://blackrivertech.org/about/accreditation

cards and a backup emergency generator, will be installed to ensure the safety of our students and faculty.

Health and Behavioral Monitoring:

BRTC currently offers a wide variety of community health monitoring and critical health services in partnership with NEA hospitals, medical clinics, and health units and has for many years. BRTC healthcare programs prepare students to work at and lead these organizations and activities²⁷, and these services will be enhanced and amplified with this short-term housing and training facility.

BRTC has offered multiple health fairs to the entire BRTC service area for many years. These 1-day health fairs include a wide variety of services such as vaccinations, immunizations, and health monitoring activities including but not limited to blood pressure readings, blood sugar testing, BMI evaluations, and mammograms²⁸. Not only do currently enrolled BRTC healthcare students run these health fairs and provide some of the services, hundreds of community members, most of them low-income and many of them minority residents, participate at no charge. **This facility will provide an additional location for existing and additional health fairs.**

BRTC also offers multiple blood drives a year²⁹. These Red Cross blood drives are open to the public and do not require an appointment. A steady stream of donors from NEA, southeast Missouri, and students participate in these events. Small blood drives with only a few beds would be held in the new facility when the large public venue is booked, as it often is.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, BRTC partnered with local health units to provide outreach for COVID-19 testing and vaccines³⁰. Due to its size relative to the health units', BRTC was the location which provided information and details to help the community access important resources. BRTC also hosted several COVID-19 vaccination clinics on campus³¹ and continues to plan for upcoming clinics. **During future emergencies, BRTC's short-term housing and training facility will enable healthcare workers from local health units to offer round-the-clock service, assessment, and training to speedily address health crises.** These opportunities enable BRTC's health students to serve community members and participate in real-life situations.

Critical Need/Justification:

A short-term housing and training facility will allow BRTC to serve as a regional response center³² and function as an overflow hospital during emergencies while addressing the critical needs of rural NEA by providing a wide range of services, including, but not limited to

• Adequate short-term housing for students and faculty during accelerated training;

²⁷ https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-students-administer-over-300-flu-shots

²⁸ https://www.kait8.com/2019/10/09/free-health-screenings-all-local-campus/

²⁹ https://blackrivertech.org/brtcs-dean-for-general-studies-reaches-3-gallons-of-blood-donated-to-the-american-redcross

³⁰ https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-hosts-vaccination-clinic

³¹ https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-to-host-flu-and-covid-19-vaccine-clinic

³² https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-board-of-trustees-approve-initiatives-for-paragould-in-special-meeting -- last paragraph

- A location for an existing EMS partner to base its local headquarters and provide training to students and community members while addressing service east of Black River³³;
- A large venue to increase accelerated training for healthcare³⁴, emergency responders, and other large groups, including training during national emergencies, such as the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- A FEMA disaster response command and training center³⁵ and regional earthquake-safe³⁶ community facility; and
- An additional venue to accommodate large community events, especially those which provide healthcare monitoring such as vaccination clinics, health fairs, community classes such as CPR and first aid, and accelerated training to large community groups.

Under normal circumstances, the proposed short-term housing and training facility will be used to house BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy students during their 13-week Basic Police Training, thus serve as the BRTC LETA barracks³⁷. The remaining 26 weeks will use this facility to offer accelerated training to address the employee pipeline deficiencies and employee shortages created by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Program Administration

The State of Arkansas has a long history of receiving and monitoring federal grants. The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) developed a Capital Projects Fund Beneficiary Agreement that outlines the recipient's institutional, managerial, and financial capability requirements to ensure the proper planning, management, and completion of any such project which receives federal fund money. The Beneficiary agrees to comply with any reporting obligations established by the Treasury or DFA as they relate to this award, including, without limitation, the submission of quarterly project and expenditure reports, annual performance reports, and the submission of information on Beneficiary's workforce plans and practices related to the approved proposal and subcontracted entities. As required by the State record retention requirements as set out at Arkansas Code Ann § 25-18-604, the Beneficiary shall retain sufficient records to show its compliance with the terms of this agreement, as well as the compliance of all contractors or subcontractors paid from Funds under this agreement, for a period of five (5) years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report.

A rigorous quality assurance process will be undertaken by both the BRTC CFO and the president to ensure the program funds are being spent on only eligible costs. The college's information system has the ability to separate program costs. The college employs a grant accountant³⁸ whose responsibility includes program compliance. When questions arise, communication and collaboration between the State of Arkansas and BRTC will continue.

³³https://www.facebook.com/promed911/posts/black-river-technical-college-paramedic-students-braved-the-heat-and-joined-prom/10157856227236109/

³⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. (2021, September 8). Respiratory therapists. *Occupational Outlook Handbook* website. https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm

³⁵https://www.kait8.com/2022/06/09/brtc-offering-active-shooter-training-educators/

³⁶ https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/new-madrid-seismic-zone-7

³⁷ https://blackrivertech.org/academics/service-programs/leta/scheduled-classes

³⁸ https://blackrivertech.org/kelly-edington-accepts-position-at-brtc

Current personnel including program directors and faculty will operate the facility, and the college's grant accountant will monitor the project. Internal controls are incorporated into the workflow of the finance office and cash management monitoring is performed by the controller³⁹.

Black River Technical College (BRTC) will continue to engage with the community leaders, the Arkansas State Department of Public Safety⁴⁰, healthcare providers, first responders, and law enforcement agencies within the BRTC service area, and throughout the State of Arkansas for professional feedback, development and growth. The college holds existing memoranda of understanding with a network of providers, educators, and partners throughout the state that form an extensive knowledge base that is integral to BRTC's program assurance and review process.

The short-term housing and training facility will also be available to support and educate the community through times of crisis and may be used for emergency housing during times of natural disaster, regional healthcare emergencies, or community distress. BRTC will continue to host information fairs, special events and speaking engagements⁴¹ for schools⁴², civic clubs⁴³, businesses⁴⁴ and other organizations⁴⁵. Evaluation and assessment of these events as well as community comments and feedback will continue to engage the community and address their needs in an on-going basis.

Program Budget

No charge will be assessed to organizations when BRTC is a cosponsor of activities or where the state prohibits charging for activities, such as in the case with fire science and law enforcement training activities. If the rare instance a fee is assessed, it will be both to offset costs of running the facility and reasonable for both the local area and the organization.

The proposed program budget is as follows. No other federal funds will be used for this project.

PROGRAM BUDGET						
	Pr	ogram Admin	istrative Costs	S		
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
2a. Project		\$91,987	\$91,987	\$91,987		
Management and						
Oversight						
2b. Architectural		\$27,596				
Expenses						
2c. Soils Analysis		\$5,000				

³⁹ https://blackrivertech.org/julie-williams-accepts-position-at-brtc

⁴⁰ https://blackrivertech.org/top-cadets-honored-at-brtcs-fall-2021-law-enforcement-training-academy-graduation

⁴¹ https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-to-host-the-first-horizon-bank-lecture-series

⁴² https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-hosts-fbla-district-competitions

⁴³https://www.facebook.com/PocahontasARRotaryClub/posts/4049649205128975

⁴⁴ https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-hosts-meetings-for-area-industry-leaders

⁴⁵http://neaintermodal.com/2019/03/19/northeast-arkansas-intermodal-authority-and-arkansas-community-foundation-to-host-regional-community-forum/

PROGRAM BUDGET									
	Program Administrative Costs								
2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026									
2d. FFE (Fixtures,			\$61,000	\$61,000					
furniture, &									
equipment)			4427 000	#127 000					
2e. Project Contingency			\$125,000	\$125,000					
2. Total Program	*	\$124,583*	\$277,987*	\$277,987*	*	*			
Administrative									
Costs (not to exceed									
amounts listed in									
source of funding) *									
		Project (Costs						
3a. Construction: sq. ft.			\$3,912,300						
18,900									
3b. Construction:			\$30,000						
Drainage and									
earthwork									
3. Total Project			\$3,942,300						
Costs			,						

^{*} The State of Arkansas plans to tentatively put a hold on program administration funding for this program, paying administrative costs out of general revenues. It is the hope of the State that economic strength continues such that the State can eventually apply funding reserved for administrative expenses to programmatic expenditures. Should economic activity falter, the State may use these to cover programmatic administrative expenses.

Annual operating and maintenance costs are anticipated to run about \$2.90 per square foot, which would be approximately \$54,707 for this facility. Current budget expenditures for housing cadets and Workforce 2000 funds will fund the O & M costs, insuring the facility is able to be funded and continue proposed and continuing activities indefinitely.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.16

gency:	Southeast	Arkansas Co	llege				Business Area Co	oae: ()691		
rogram Title:			Ar	merican Rescue	Plan Act of 2	021 - SEARK S	tudent Center				
- iranting Organ	ing Organization: US Congress						CFDA #:				
ffective Date		zation:		Beginning:	8/31/	2022	Ending: _		6/30/202	23	
Purpose of Gra					ments as neces	sary to provide t	horough information	on):			
Func. Area:		- Inte		Fund Code:	FRP6910	ogram Fundii	Steering C	comm. Ap	unding: oproved: nuation:		
	irana I					Program Fu	nding Amount				
Regular Salari	es										
Extra Help											
Personal Servi	ces Match	ing									
Operating Exp											
Conference &		penses									
Professional F	ees										
Capital Outlay											
Data Processir	ng										
Grants and Aid	d (CI: 04)										
Other:Student	Center B	uilding								3,000,00	
Other:											
Total				\$						3,000,00	
Anticipated Do				ion separately	6/30/23		DFA IGS State To Items requested fo compliance with Te IGS State Technolo	r information	on technologians as sub	gy must be in mitted to DFA fied positions o	
Org	Pers	Pers	Cost	Position	Cmnt Item	Positio	n Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Iten Maximum	
Unit	Area	SubArea	Center	Number	ACCOUNT OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	1 03140					
State funds authorized by Approved by:			eplace fede	eral funds who	en such funds	expire, unles	s appropriated	by the G	eneral A	ssembly a	
Approved	2	0	131/22	Ro	bert Brech	9/2/2022					
*/ \/		Λ.	21100					of Personr		Date	

Program

Use Code: 1C

Program Identifier: 1-CPF-1G

<u>Program Title:</u> Southeast Arkansas College – Student and Community Center

<u>Total Amount of Request:</u> \$3,000,000.00 <u>Applicant Presenter:</u> Dr. Steven Bloomberg

Location of Applicant/Facility: 1900 Hazel Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Number of Locations Serving the Public: 4

Type of Service to be rendered: Southeast Arkansas (SEARK) College proposes the construction of a Student and Community Center, a multi-purpose community facility providing work education and health monitoring to the local community of Pine Bluff and southeast Arkansas, offering both short-term and long-term workforce development training, community health and monitoring services, and community workshops such as financial literacy and job preparation.

How Will the Recipient implement the Program: DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION

Does the Recipient represent and commit that the Capital Projects will provide services or activities that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring for at least five years from the completion of the project?

Yes ⊠ No □

Will CPF grant funds for this program be used to cover costs incurred after March 15, 2021, but prior to execution of the Grant Agreement?

Yes □ No ☒

• If yes, you must provide the information requested under the Pre-Award Cost Annex

Program Narrative:

Program Summary:

SEARK College was created by Act 1244 of the 78th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, which was signed into law by the Governor on April 17, 1991. Prior to becoming a comprehensive community college, SEARK was born in 1959 as "Pines Vocational Technical School". Today, in 2022, SEARK combines relevant technical education programs with general education studies to offer students more than forty-two degree and certificate options.

SEARK's primary service delivery area encompasses six counties in southeast Arkansas, including: Jefferson, Grant, Lincoln, Cleveland, Desha, and Drew. These counties share similar characteristics such as higher unemployment/underemployment rates, geographic isolation, limited access to broadband Internet services, lower college attendance/completion rates, and limited opportunity for enhanced economic vitality.

To better serve its populations, SEARK recently reengineered its vision and mission statements to more accurately reflect the college's aspirations:

Statement of Vision: Empowering Students... Changing Lives.

Mission Statement: Building a community of lifelong learners committed to becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

The following Core Values set forth the standard for daily operations:

- *Students*—the reason we exist.
- Safety—providing a safe and secure learning environment.
- *Integrity*—the standard of always doing what is right.
- Authenticity—being genuine and honest in our daily activities.
- Innovation—expanding our world and refusing to simply maintain the status quo.
- *Diversity*—our diversity in mind, body, and spirit is our strength.
- *Transparency and Communication*—our institution is transparent, and communication is recognized as a vital component of how we conduct our business.

SEARK College's Student and Community Center will offer workforce support services, credit and non-credit academic programs, health-related services and other services intended to lift individuals out of poverty. As an example of the disproportionate poverty rates, the rate of poverty in SE Arkansas, according to the United States Census Bureau is fifteen percent. Conversely, with approximately 41,000 residents, Pine Bluff, the largest population center in SEARK's service delivery area, has more than a thirty-two percent poverty rate. Rison, AR, a fifty-minute drive from Pine Bluff, has more than a thirty-six percent poverty rate with a population base of approximately 1,200 residents. The Student and Community Center is designed to provide the below spectrum of services through the five-year aware period.

Academic programming such as Cyber Security, Nursing and Allied Health programs such as Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA), Patient Care Technician (PTC), and Medical Assistant, all offer viable employment opportunities within a forty-five-minute drive time from SEARK's campus. The Student and Community Center includes a walk-in health clinic for students, employees, and low-income individuals/families from throughout SEARK's service delivery area—this type of access is critical for those who are unable to afford health-care or lack transportation necessary to regional health care facilities.

The Student and Community Center will also serve as an Emergency Operations Center when a publicly-declared health emergency, or similar emergency is encountered. SEARK College has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Jefferson County where both entities will co-locate during a publicly-declared health, or similar, emergency, providing access to a facility which can be quickly transitioned to offer space dedicated to quarantine/screening, mass vaccinations, co-locating first responders and federal/state entities who are responding to a publicly-declared health, or similar emergency in a one-stop environment.

This program plan presents the project requested by SEARK College to construct an approximate \$14 million Student and Community Center, with the addition of \$3 million acquired through these funds. The new facility will be a multi-purpose college and community facility that, once constructed, will provide job training and development, education services, health care monitoring and related services, and emergency services during a publicly-declared emergency.

The funding in place now includes:

- \$2 million from SEARK College's Reserve Funds to be pledged once construction begins
- \$2 million from a private foundation (e-mail attached)

- \$1 million from a financial institution (Sponsorship Agreement attached)
- \$3 million from Jefferson County, Arkansas (MOU attached)
- \$3 million in additional funding from a commercial loan

Description

The Student and Community Center will serve as a multi-faceted one-stop community center providing the following workforce development, education, and health-related services under the same roof:

- Workforce Development Services:
 - Workforce skills programs including 21st Century Impact Skills and Principles of Workplace Success
 - o Skills development programs including resume writing and interviewing techniques in a digital world
 - o Employment assistance
 - o Job fairs
- Education services including credit, non-credit, and community courses and programming:
 - o Cyber Security and related Information Technology training
 - o Nursing and Allied Health programs such as:
 - RN and Nursing related training
 - Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) training,
 - Patient Care Technician (PTC) training, and
 - Medical Assistant training
- Health and Behavioral Health Monitoring
 - Pandemic-related services including quarantine facility, mass vaccination clinics, onsite testing and distribution of home COVID-19 test kits, and space for state and federal agencies to offer services
 - o Health screenings
 - o Mental health counseling
 - Food Assistance
- Emergency/critical services during a publicly-declared health or similar emergency, including:
 - o Emergency operations center
 - o Pandemic-related services
- Housing Assistance
 - o Housing referral services

The following table denotes how often critical health and social services will be offered at the Student and Community Center:

Type of Intervention	Frequency	Approximate Participants
Workshops: Financial literacy, employment skills, etc.	Quarterly	75
Job fairs	Quarterly	250
Mental health counseling	Quarterly	650

Health Screenings	Quarterly	120
Food Assistance	Quarterly	900

There is a proposed budget that includes the cost of design, site work, and construction of the building. A floor plan detailing normal and pandemic operations and outside renderings are included.

Project Timeline:

Task	Duration	Start	Finish
CPF Application Submission			06/30/2022
CPF Application Review (DFA)			
CPF Application Review (Dept of Treasury)			
RPF Publishing			
Grant Agreement Processing			
Award Made from DFA to *Organization*			
Site Investigations			
Design	150 days	01/30/21	06/30/21
Contractor Negotiations	90 days	01/30/21	03/30/21
Permitting & Approval	150 days	02/01/22	07/01/22
Construction	450 days	11/01/22	02/01/24
Contractor Mobilization	30 days	11/01/22	12/01/22
Site Improvements	30 days	12/01/22	01/01/23
Construct Facility	365 days	01/01/23	02/01/24
Organization Occupies Facility	30 days	02/01/24	03/01/24
Facility Open	60 days	03/01/24	05/01/24

Eligibility:

Work:

A motivated, available, and skilled workforce is integral to the success of any economic ecosystem—the region of Southeast Arkansas is no exception. The current COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated existing issues of employee availability, training opportunities, and has forced many employers to reach beyond Southeast Arkansas in order to find qualified candidates—a process which ultimately increases the cost of conducting business.

The Student and Community Center will be home to a new program which will help bridge these critical employment gaps. The 21st Century Impact Skills: Building a Better Workforce program represents the foundation for developing and sustaining a local, high-performance workforce. The program is divided into two components:

- 1. "Principles of Workplace Success", a new three-credit course that is now required of all students enrolled in a workforce program leading to a certificate of completion or an applied science associate degree; and
- 2. 21st Century Impact Skills will also be offered as a non-credit, community education program which is intended to help build the knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals who are either unemployed or underemployed. Curriculum for the program is divided into the following major topical areas:
 - communication and communication in the workplace;
 - enthusiasm and attitude;
 - teamwork:
 - networking;
 - problem-solving and critical thinking; and
 - workplace professionalism.

SEARK College's Student and Community Center will expand and strengthen existing partnerships and relationships with the ultimate objective of infusing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to become gainfully employed within an occupation that offers upward mobility and, most importantly, economic freedom.

• SEARK has existing partnerships with area financial institutions, such as Simmons Bank and Relyance Bank, to offer students and community members sound financial literacy advice. A key element in economic freedom is understanding how to manage personal finances. These programs will be expanded in frequency and number of participants when the new Student and Community Center is constructed. This critical programming will continue to be offered at no-cost to both students and community members.

These efforts at building a better workforce will culminate with employment opportunities offered through an innovative technology company. SEARK College was instrumental in bringing a technology company, PeopleShores, to Pine Bluff. PeopleShores purpose is to locate facilities in underserved communities and offer technology-related employment opportunities for individuals who may be overlooked in this field, unemployed, or underemployed. The relationship between SEARK and PeopleShores is unprecedented—PeopleShore's operation will be co-located on SEARK's campus, offering internship and employment opportunities for students who will not be forced to drive hours to realize their dreams of a viable career in the technology field. SEARK and PeopleShores have signed an MOU outlining this powerful concept. A copy of the MOU is included with this proposal. To help bridge the gap between education and work, SEARK will increase the number of job fairs on campus and hold additional events at the Student and Community Center for PeopleShores and other companies who are seeking access to a skilled workforce. The job fairs will be open to both students and the surrounding community.

Education:

The Student and Community Center will significantly expand the educational opportunities in SE Arkansas for students seeking education and training in high demand professions. As a Multi-Purpose Community Facility, the Student Center also satisfies the Capital Projects Fund criteria by allowing SEARK College to increase its "comprehensive academic programs" and provide "workforce training."

The Student and Community Center will be home to SEARK's new Associate of Applied Science Cyber Security Program, enabling students to earn a degree leading toward a job that pays above poverty-level wages in Arkansas. Cyber Security talent gaps are prevalent throughout the United States. According to the website Cyberseek.org, as of March 14, 2022, there are 1,908 open Cyber Security jobs in the State of Arkansas. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists Information/Cyber Security as an occupation whose growth is "much faster than the average for all occupations" and "demand for information security analysts is expected to be very high. Cyberattacks have grown in frequency, and analysts will be needed to come up with innovative solutions to prevent hackers from stealing critical information or creating problems for computer networks."

Additionally, the ongoing pandemic has seen an exponential rise in remote work being performed by employees throughout the public and private sectors. And, while remote work can prove beneficial to maintaining productivity during a pandemic, the reliance on technology can create additional security concerns. A March 2, 2022, article from Forbes Magazine, "The Cyber Security Challenges of Working from Anywhere" pointed to increased cyber-attacks due to the rapid rise in the use of home devices for business purposes. The continued reliance on home devices will create a higher demand for cyber security specialists to protect employees conducting work on or off-site. The Arkansas "Projected Employment Opportunities List 2021-22" lists Computer and Information Systems Security/Information Assurance, as a top employment target for the state.

The Student and Community Center will also provide additional space for SEARK College to expand its current offerings in Nursing and Allied Health disciplines. Arkansas was in the midst of a critical nursing shortage prepandemic and the current public health emergency has only made the shortage worse. On January 3, 2022, according to testimony from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (UAMS) Center before the Arkansas House and Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committees, education is the key to resolving nursing shortages. UAMS Vice Chancellor Dr. Tranda Ray indicated to the joint committee members, "We need to find ways to increase the number of people so we have more nurses in the state to even work with, to begin with."

SEARK's current proposal offers the opportunity to increase the Nursing pipeline in Southeast Arkansas and provide additional, quality graduates to health care partners such as the Jefferson Regional Medical Center. Jefferson Regional, over the past twelve months, averaged at least fifty-five open Nursing positions per month. Conversely, the Delta Memorial Hospital, located in the small rural community of Dumas, AR, population 4,173 consistently advertises for Nursing positions which prove to be difficult to hire and retain qualified nurses.

Occupational therapy assistants (OTA's), working under the direction of Occupational Therapists, help patients develop, recover, improve, as well as maintain the skills needed for daily living and working. OTA's are directly involved in providing therapy to patients; occupational therapy aides typically perform support activities.

According to data from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment of OTA's is projected to increase thirty-two percent from 2019 to 2029. Additionally, BLS projects job openings for OTA's to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. The median wage for an OTA in the United States is \$60,950. The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services lists \$47,040 as the entry wage for a new OTA, with the median wage as \$61,990. Occupational Therapist Assistant is listed on the Arkansas Demand Occupation list. On March 8, 2022, the website ZipRecruiter, listed more than forty-six open jobs for OTA's in the Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Occupational Therapy is also playing a critical role in the recovery of COVID-19 patients. Specifically, Occupational Therapy deals with remedial, restorative, and rehabilitation of persons who are recovering from COVID-19. A March 2021 article published in *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, underscored the importance of this discipline as it relates to recovery of COVID-19 patients. "The COVID-19 crisis has provided opportunities to highlight the essential occupational therapy contributions in critical care settings. As the world continues to face this pandemic, rehabilitation and survivorship have become central themes and occupational therapy practitioners specializing in critical care rehabilitation have illustrated the profession's essential role in the COVID-19 pandemic."

Disadvantaged individuals who must work now, and lack the time to complete a Nursing degree, can receive training within thirty days that will allow them to enter work immediately at Jefferson Regional, or other local facilities as a Patient Care Technician (PCT). PCT's provide critical bedside functions such as checking patient blood pressure/temperature and responding to individual patient needs. These positions start out at \$15 per hour. Jefferson Regional is seeking to fill more than thirty-five open PCT positions. Obtaining an entry level health-care job, such as a PCT, can help introduce disadvantaged individuals to the myriad of careers in the Nursing and Health Related fields.

The Student and Community Center will also offer numerous community-oriented enrichment programs such as financial literacy, resume-writing and job-seeking in a digital world, workplace skills development, and other related programming previously discussed which is intended to provide foundational skills to individuals working in jobs that pay below poverty-level wages.

Health Monitoring:

The new Student and Community Center will feature a walk-in health clinic for students, employees, and community members. The neighborhoods that surround SEARK College are home to lower-income, socioeconomically-disadvantaged individuals whose barriers to quality health care include a lack of reliable transportation, an inability to enroll and maintain comprehensive health insurance coverage, and elderly whose medical plans may only cover minimal services. The walk-in clinic is a partnership between SEARK College and area doctors and physician's assistants. These individuals will offer their time pro-bono to conduct health screenings, including blood pressure checks, cholesterol screenings, diabetes screenings, and other health related screenings through monthly wellness checks—all with the intent of discovering any health-related problems as early as possible.

While the neighborhoods surrounding SEARK College are home to lower-income, socio-disadvantaged individuals, these community members are within minutes of the campus. The acute need for access to health and behavior monitoring is exacerbated throughout SEARK's service delivery area. For example, the counties of Cleveland, Drew, Desha, and Lincoln have been designated by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) as "Arkansas Medically Underserved Areas" (MUA's). ADH has also identified Cleveland, Lincoln, and Desha Counties have more than ten percent of their adult population under the age of sixty-five who are uninsured. Monthly health screenings held at the Student and Community Center may provide the only viable opportunity for these residents to receive preventative health care.

SEARK's Nursing and Allied Health students will also be able to utilize the walk-in health clinic to meet clinical requirements for their respective programs. The ongoing global pandemic has made it difficult for Nursing and Allied Health students to have access to clinical sites on a regular, consistent basis. For example, the overall access to clinical sites for SEARK's Nursing and Allied Health students has declined by more than forty percent since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. The new walk-in clinic offers time for our students to serve their campus community and earn valuable clinical hours while doing so.

SEARK's partnership with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) will offer access to mental health services through an internship program. Students enrolled in the Master of Social Work (MSW) at UALR will be using SEARK as a clinical site through an MOU. These students can offer valuable mental health counseling services to students, employees, and community members at no cost to the individual. Access to mental health services are more critical now due to the increased stress which accompanies the ongoing global pandemic. For example, several surveys, including those collected by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), have shown substantial increases in self-reported behavioral health symptoms. According to one CDC report, which surveyed adults across the U.S., thirty-one percent of respondents reported symptoms of anxiety or depression, thirteen percent reported having started or increased substance use, twenty-six percent reported stress-related symptoms, and eleven percent reported having serious thoughts of suicide in the past thirty days. These numbers are nearly double the rates experienced prior to the pandemic. In Pine Bluff and Jefferson County, the Southeast Behavioral Center, has seen an increase of more than sixty percent of African American residents seeking some type of mental health/behavioral counseling.

As previously mentioned, the Student and Community Center will serve as a food pantry for individuals who are food insecure. According to ADH, the percentage of individuals throughout SEARK's service delivery area who are food insecure are staggering: each of the six counties has at least fifteen percent of residents who experience food insecurity. People who reside in Jefferson County, home to SEARK College, have a food insecurity rate of more than twenty-five percent.

More than forty percent of residents throughout SEARK's service delivery area, according to ADH, have health issues stemming from obesity and poor eating habits. Community members will have access to new cooking and

dietetics programming held in the new Student and Community Center. This community education program will feature partnerships with entities such as the Arkansas Extension Service and offer diet, cooking, and other classes. These self-improvement courses are intended to assist lower-income individuals and families practice a healthier lifestyle by eating foods which may help reduce certain health-issues such as obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type II Diabetes.

SEARK College has signed an interlocal agreement with Jefferson County (copy of agreement attached). The interlocal agreement calls for, in times of a public health emergency, for the student center to transition from normal operations and serve as a joint command center/emergency operations center. Among other uses, the student center could potentially serve the public good during a declared public health emergency, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in the following capacities: a) large-scale vaccination clinic site; b) isolation and quarantine center; c) food service for first responders and health officials; d) emergency operations center housed in the state-of-the-art Cyber Security Operations Center; and e) additional square footage to increase intensive care unit or emergency room bed capacities.

With the recent, exponential rise in COVID-19 cases in Arkansas due to the Omicron variant, and an uncertain future about new variants, represent additional examples of how the Student and Community Center can be used to address critical needs which are apparent, or exacerbated, by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Student and Community Center can serve as a valuable asset when large-scale vaccinations are required, or home COVID-19 testing kits are distributed, or mass vaccination/booster clinics are held.

Critical Need:

The Student and Community Center will offer health-related opportunities through the walk-in clinic, targeted at demographics whose access to quality health care is limited at best. Moreover, during times of a publicly-declared health emergency, or similar situation, the Student and Community Center, in collaboration with SEARK's partnership with Jefferson County, will offer support in the form of an emergency operations center, one-stop center for health/disaster services, space for first responders, and a critical community access point for help related to the ongoing pandemic including screening services, distribution of home COVID-19 test kits, mass vaccinations, or quarantining. Mental health services offered in partnership with UALR will help fill gaps in mental health counseling for students, employees, and community members.

The Student and Community Center will help SEARK College to address the needs of its current and future students by increasing the educational attainment of the college's service delivery area. From a statewide perspective, according to the states project.org, Arkansas ranks 44th in the nation with 85% of adults holding a high school diploma, while only twenty one percent of Arkansans have earned a bachelor's degree or higher.

The lack of educational attainment in Pine Bluff is even more dismal. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates approximately eighty-three percent of Pine Bluff residents have achieved a high school diploma and only seventeen percent of the population have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The lack of educational attainment also equates to higher poverty rates. According to the Census Bureau, the poverty rate in Pine Bluff for those who have less than a high school diploma is a staggering forty-two percent, while the poverty rate for a high school graduate is thirty percent. This number drops to eighteen percent for residents who have some college or earned an associate degree.

Recent high school graduates are also not prepared for success in college. A new study by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) examined high school graduates in SEARK's service area and their level of preparedness for college-level coursework. The study found only sixteen percent of students in SEARK's service area met at least 3 of 4 college-ready benchmark scores. This number is in comparison to the state average of twenty-seven percent and the national average of sixty-nine percent.

According to data from the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) only forty-six percent of students from SEARK's largest feeder high school, Pine Bluff High School, attend college. Moreover, per ADE, the average composite ACT test score from Pine Bluff High School is 16.57, compared to an average composite score of 19.93 for the State of Arkansas. The Student and Community Center is critical to help boost college enrollment with feeder high schools such as Pine Bluff High School because more than ninety percent of enrolled students are African American.

The Student and Community Center will offer high school students from the Pine Bluff and surrounding school districts the opportunity to enroll in concurrent credit courses—courses which award college credit and also count towards high school graduation requirements. Cyber Security and the Nursing and Allied Health programs will have onsite and online learning opportunities for high school students; thus, helping to bridge the gap between high school and college.

Program Administration:

The State of Arkansas has a long history of receiving and monitoring federal grants. The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration has developed a Capital Projects Fund Beneficiary Agreement that outlines the recipient's institutional, managerial, and financial capability requirements to ensure the proper planning, management, and completion of any such project which receives federal fund money. The Beneficiary agrees to comply with any reporting obligations established by the Treasury or the Department as they relate to this award, including, without limitation, the submission of quarterly project and expenditure reports, annual performance reports, and the submission of information on Beneficiary's workforce plans and practices related to the approved proposal and subcontracted entities. As required by the STATE record retention requirements as set out at Ark. Code Ann § 25-18-604, the Beneficiary shall retain sufficient records to show its compliance with the terms of this agreement, as well as the compliance of all contractors or subcontractors paid from Funds under this agreement, for a period of five (5) years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report.

SEARK College has the appropriate internal infrastructure to receive and monitor this federal grant. The college currently receives federal funds through existing grants, including a Primary Black Institution (PBI) grant and TRIO grant. SEARK undergoes an annual audit from the Arkansas Legislative Audit. The audit is a comprehensive analysis of how the college expended its funds, including grant funds. SEARK has established necessary procedures and processes to effectively govern these grants. Funds received through this request will be placed in a separate, restricted account. The Vice President for Fiscal Affairs and the College's Controller will serve as the fiscal agents for the disbursement of these funds. Once construction has commenced and approved pay requests have been received from the contractor, and the scope of work completed has been verified by the Controller, the college will remit up to the award amount for construction work completed in the structural phase of the project. SEARK's President shall serve as the final approval for the disbursement of funds under this award.

SEARK's current, non-grant operating budget is approximately \$15 million. The operating costs at the new Student and Community Center are estimated at \$500,000 annually. Student tuition and fees, as well as ancillary revenue provided through the bookstore will be the source for this funding.

Program Budget

Instructions: Using the Example Detailed Capital Projects Funds table below, specify the amounts of funds that the Recipient proposes to allocate to each of the following elements. The budget should include line items and sub-totals for which information is available and appropriate for the types of activities anticipated for the program. Below example is just an example outline. If more areas are required, please add. If a narrative explanation is necessary, available area is below.

These estimates may be approximations, but more detailed and accurate information will be required in reporting.

Detailed Capital Project Funds - \$3,000,000							
Detailed Description	Cost	Funding Source					
General Requirements	\$651,703	Other Funding Sources					
Existing Conditions—demolition/removal concrete pads	\$323,875	Other Funding Sources					
Concrete	\$436,211	Capital Funds Project					
Masonry	\$121,339	Other Funding Sources					
Metals	\$2,651,004	Other Funding Sources					
Wood, Plastics, & Composites	\$18,203	Other Funding Sources					
Thermal & Moisture Protection	\$1,208,205	Other Funding Sources					
Openings, Doors, Frames, & Hardware	\$895,959	Other Funding Sources					
Finishes, inc. Sheetrock	\$1,495,230	Capital Funds Project					
Specialties	\$65,750	Other Funding Sources					
Equipment, Backup Generator	\$132,057	Other Funding Source					
Millwork, Vent Hood, Window Shades, Appliances	\$186,976	Capital Funds Project					
Fire Suppression	\$162,225	Other Funding Source					
Plumbing	\$723,792	Other Funding Source					
HVAC	\$881,583	Capital Funds Project					
Electrical	\$1,088,030	Other Funding Source					
Electronic Safety & Security	\$24,126	Other Funding Source					
Earthwork	\$148,807	Other Funding Source					
Exterior Improvements, Paving, Exterior Lights	\$221,145	Capital Funds Project					
Utilities	\$158,325	Capital Funds Project					
Total:	\$8,594,545	Other Funding Sources					
Total:	\$3,000,000	Capital Funds Project					

Instructions: Using the Program Budget table, specify the amounts of funds that the Recipient proposes to allocate to each of the following years. Please distribute the budget into the estimated year the expenditures will occur. CPF Funds will be evenly distributed by the State of Arkansas on a quarterly basis from the beginning of the construction period to the completion.

These estimates may be approximations, but more detailed and accurate information will be required in reporting.

PROGRAM BUDGET								
Program Administrative Costs								
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
2a. Administering the CPF								
funds (by the Recipient)								
2b. Technical assistance to								
potential subrecipients								
2c. Complying with grant								
administration and audit								
requirement								
2d. Community								
Engagement								

2e.						
2f.						
2g.						
2. Total Program	*	*	*	*	*	*
Administrative Costs (not						
to exceed amounts listed in						
source of funding) *						
Project Costs						
3a. Recipient Project Costs		\$500,000	\$2,500,000			
3b. Subgrant Project Costs						
3a.vi						
3a.vii.						
3a.viii.						
3a.ix.						
3 Total Project Costs		\$500,000	\$2,500,000			

^{*} The State of Arkansas plans to tentatively put a hold on program administration funding for this program, paying administrative costs out of general revenues. It is the hope of the State that economic strength continues such that the State can eventually apply funding reserved for administrative expenses to programmatic expenditures. Should economic activity falter, the State may use these to cover programmatic administrative expenses.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST **SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022**

D.17

Agency: DHS,	Division of Aging	, Adult & Be	havioral Healtl	h Services		Business Area (Code:	0710			
Program Title:			Supporting Evidence-Based Behavioral			l Health Models					
Granting Organizatio	tee			CFDA #: State Fiscal Recovery Funds (S							
Effective Date of Aut	Beginning:	7/	1/2022	Ending:		6/30/20	23				
Purpose of Grant / R To support the train 1) the Assertive Cor Support Model (IHH! the Child Welfare or	ing and certifica nmunity Treatm S) to serve a sim	tion of team ent (ACT) M nilar populat	s employed by lodel for adult	Behavioral with the h	Health Agencies ighest level of m	(BHAs) in evide ental health ne	nce-based eds; and	Intens	ive In-Home		
Func. Area: HHS Funds Center:	Into		erican Rescu Fund Code: WBS Element:		Program Fundi		Direct Comm. A	Funding:	X		
					Program Fu	ınding Amount					
Regular Salaries											
Extra Help		- 4									
Personal Services Ma	atchina										
Operating Expenses	-										
Conference & Trave											
Professional Fees	Lxpenses										
Capital Outlay											
Data Processing	0.4)								5,000,000		
Grants and Aid (CI:	04)								3,000,000		
Other:											
Other:									5,000,000		
Total			\$						3,000,000		
Anticipated Duration	of Federal Fund	ds: _	9,	/30/2025		DFA IGS State Titems requested for	or informatio	on technolog			
2.11.6525			A			compliance with T IGS State Technol		g.			
Org Pe	ers Pers	Cost	Position	Cmnt			Class	Unclassii	ied positions only Line Item		
Unit Ar	ea SubArea	Center	Number	Item	Positio	n Title	Code	Grade	Maximum *		
State funds will no authorized by the G		eplace fede	eral funds who	en such fun	ds expire, unles	s appropriated	by the G	General A	ssembly an		
Gunt S	iel.	1/31/22	Robe	ert Brech	9/2/2022						
Cabinet Secretary/Age	ency Director	Date -71-27	Office	of Budget	Date on 8/31/2022	Office	of Persorr	nel Mgmt 103	Date		

ARKANSAS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT STEERING COMMITTEE ARPA Funding Request from the Department of Human Services Supporting Evidence-Based Behavioral Health Models in Arkansas August 26, 2022

While Arkansas has made significant improvements to the public mental health system, gaps remain in access to care for some populations due to the complexity of their behavioral health needs. The lack of community-based, evidence-based practice has led to increased recidivism in the State's forensic system, resulting in individuals remaining in jail awaiting admission to an appropriate treatment setting. In addition, children and youth are cycling through psychiatric acute and residential settings with little time to establish sufficient supports in the community. This is causing additional strain on the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice systems.

Therefore, this proposal seeks to use a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021's (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Arkansas Allotment to support the training and certification of teams employed by Behavioral Health Agencies (BHAs) in evidence-based models. Specifically, 1) the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Model for adults with the highest level of mental health needs; and 2) Intensive In-Home Support Model (IHHS) to serve a similar population of children and youth in Arkansas, who are involved with or at risk of involvement with the Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice System. Simultaneously, DHS is working with a behavioral health task force comprised of legislators, healthcare policy leaders, behavioral health providers, PASSEs, and other stakeholders to identify and fill gaps in services, develop an appropriate rate structure for home and community-based models, and establish expectations regarding the population these teams will serve and services these teams will provide.

To provide appropriate and adequate training, the Department of Human Services (DHS) will contract with procured vendors to allow Qualified BHAs to apply for and complete training in the ACT and IHHS models.

This training will allow Qualified BHAs to expand their treatment capabilities and serve more Arkansans who need 24 hour supports from a team of Behavioral Health Clinicians and Support Staff. We expect this Staff to provide the necessary intensive, team-based treatment to maintain individuals in home and community-based settings.

Therefore, DHS requests \$5,000,000 in ARPA funding to provide training and certification in ACT and IHHS to Qualified BHAs, in order to support necessary evidence-based expansion of behavioral health services.

Qualified BHAs: To receive funding under this proposal, the entity must be an Arkansas Medicaid enrolled Behavioral Health Agency or Community Support Services Provider. Participating providers may be privately owned, county or municipal-owned, or state-owned.

Disbursement of Funds:

Eligible BHA providers must submit a letter of intent for approved training and related expenses through the Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services by October 1, 2022. DAABHS will begin accepting application on October 1, 2022, and ending December 1, 2024, or until all funds are expended.

The requested funding will be used for training, monitoring, supervision, and certification for the Assertive Community Treatment Model to serve those adults with the highest level of mental health needs within the PASSE and to those with Medicare who qualify for Medicaid through the Spenddown category; as well as Intensive In-Home Services for children and youth who qualify for Medicaid and receive services within the PASSE.

- To receive funding the Qualified BHA must submit an application that identifies the number of teams to be trained, who will be trained on each team, and what role they will serve.
- Team selection would be based on need as identified in PASSE and Medicaid claims data, as well as, by geographic area based on the distribution of the eligible population.

Allotment Determination:

- 1. Assertive Community Treatment:
 - Provide funding for training, monitoring, supervision, and provider certification for up to 100 teams.
 - Estimated training cost is \$20,000 per team. (See Cost Information below)
 - Total funding requested: \$2,000,000
- 2. Intensive In-Home Services (IHHS)
 - Provide funding for training, monitoring, supervision, and provider certification for up to 100 teams.
 - Estimated training cost is \$30,000 per team. (See Cost Information below)
 - Total funding requested: \$3,000,000

Restrictions on Funds: Recipients of funds will be required to attest that these funds are necessary to cover expenses incurred during the program period to address extraordinary costs related the to the PHE, including but not limited to closing critical gaps in infrastructure, capacity, and sustainability; and that none of these funds will be used to:

 Duplicate or supplant funding from any other federal or state program. Payments or other reimbursement for direct patient care is not included as funding from a federal or state program.

To the extent that expenses are subsequently reimbursed under another federal or state program, funds disbursed from the state's portion of the American Rescue Plan approved by the American Rescue Plan Act Steering Committee and authorized by the Arkansas Legislative Council will be reconciled and recovered.

Application and Expense Review:

Qualified BHAs will be required to submit an application attesting to the requirements and limitations outlined above (form to be created by DHS) signed by the Qualified BHA's CEO or the equivalent.

Funds must be expended no later than December 1, 2024. Documentation of expenditure of funds will be subject to audit and review by DHS and must be submitted by July 31, 2025. Any funding that is not supported by expense documentation will be recovered.

Cost Information:

Cost Determination for ACT:

1

Page 6
ASSUMPTIONS FOR VIRGINIA MARKET-BASED PROVIDER FEES FOR REHAB SERVICES

Allowable Cost Components:	Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)	Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)				
Training Costs	Initial Training: The start-up cost for one MST team is \$22,500. Technical Assistance to support initial program development, with travel, is \$4,000. Orientation Training for up to 14 participants, with travel, is \$12,000.	Initial Training: The cost of phase one training and technical assistance is \$39,000, plus an estimated \$16,000 for travel, for a total of \$55,000.					
	Ongoing Training: Technical assistance: \$29,000; T.A. travel: \$8,000; Budget for staff turnover	Ongoing Training: Phase 2 cost is \$20,000 (plus \$3,500 for travel),	Established Team Training \$9,750 Fidelity o\$4,000 Consultation \$3,150				
	Licensing: Annual license fees of \$4,000 per organization (Agency license) and an additional \$2,500 per team (Team license) are	and the cost for phase 3 is \$8,000 (plus \$1,000 for travel) per year.					
	required.	Licensing: Included in training					
	Fidelity: \$5,000 for data collection	Fidelity: Not specified					
Full Time / Part Time Split	All full time	All full time	All full time				

¹ Formatted Document (virginia.gov)

How available are ACT programs?

Despite the documented treatment success of ACT, only a fraction of those with the greatest needs have access to this uniquely effective program. Only six states (DE, ID, MI, RI, TX, WI) currently have statewide ACT programs. Nineteen states have at least one or more ACT pilot programs in their state. In the United States, adults with severe and persistent mental illnesses constitute one-half to one percent of the adult population. It is estimated that 20 percent to 40 percent of this group could be helped by the ACT model if it were available.

NAMI 2013; Updated March 2017. For more information, visit www.namihelps.org/learn-more

Page 2 of 2

Cost Determination for IHHS Model: 3

Initial Training and Technical Assistance

Start-up costs for one MST team is \$22,500. Technical Assistance to support initial program development, with travel, is \$4,000. Orientation Training for up to 14 participants, with travel, is \$12,000.

Curriculum and Materials

Included in costs above.

Materials Available in Other Language: All materials needed for the rapist training and implementation are available in Spanish.

Licensing

Annual license fees of \$4,000 per organization (Agency license) and an additional \$2,500 per team (Team license) are required.

² Assertive-Community-Treatment TreatmentOptions 2018.pdf (namimn.org)

³ https://www.blueprintsprograms.org/programs/32999999/multisystemic-therapy-mst/print/

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.18

Agency:	Arkansas	Department	of Human	Services			Busines	ss Area C	Code:	0710	
Program Title: Emergency Aid Relief to Hospitals											
Granting Org	anization:	ARP Steeri	ng Commit	ee			CFDA #	CFDA #: State Fiscal Recovery Fund			
Effective Date	e of Authori	zation:		Beginning:	:	7/1/2022	_	Ending:		6/30/20)23
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ARKANSAS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT STEERING COMMITTEE ARPA Funding Request from the Department of Human Services Emergency Aid Relief to Hospitals August 30, 2022

Hospitals continue to experience severe financial strain due to the economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Increased costs and labor shortages have resulted in lesser revenues for the hospitals. This means that several hospitals across the state, particularly those that serve rural populations, are at immediate risk of closure.

Therefore, this proposal seeks to use a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021's (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Arkansas Allotment to address the negative impacts of the public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic (PHE), such as staffing and bed shortages; extraordinary costs of providing COVID-19 mitigation, prevention, and treatment; and disruptions in utilization of health care services across payers. Simultaneously, DHS is working with the Arkansas Hospital Association (AHA) to undergo a rate review for Arkansas inpatient and outpatient hospital rates, as well as examine policies to help address the strains placed on hospitals through the pandemic. Hospitals should develop and implement a sustainability plan.

Specifically, the Department of Human Services (DHS) will make an allotment of funds to each qualifying hospital – those meeting the definition of immediate jeopardy defined below – for the purpose of mitigating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 by retaining and recruiting much needed staff to treat COVID-19 patients and other patients in need of acute care and keep hospitals open.

Use of these funds will allow hospitals to maintain operations to ensure patients receive the care they need during and between the pandemic disease "surges." The purpose of these payments is to assist hospitals to offset extraordinary costs related to mitigating and preventing COVID-19 and retaining and acquiring frontline staff that have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, DHS requests \$60 million in ARPA funding to provide immediate relief to hospitals determined to be in immediate jeopardy of closure due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the ongoing public health emergency.

Eligible Hospitals: Hospitals eligible to seek Emergency Aid Relief must be deemed in "immediate jeopardy" by showing the following two things:

This draft is a working document. All information contained herein is subject to change and may differ substantially from the final document. The information contained in this document should not be considered the position or views of the agency or the Governor.

- Insufficient assets to cover liabilities, as indicated by a quick ratio¹ of less than one as shown by the most recent month end financial statements and attested to by the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer of the Hospital.
- Less than 90 days cash on hand OR operating margin of less than -10% in Q1 or Q2 CY2022.

Additionally, hospitals must meet the following criteria:

- Must be licensed by the Arkansas Department of Health as a general hospital.
- Must be currently enrolled with AR Medicaid.

Formula: Hospitals will be able to apply for funding in the amount of three months' worth of payroll expenses and contract labor, not to exceed \$10 million per hospital. To apply for this amount, hospitals will be required to submit expense documentation for the previous three months preceding the date of application.

Funds may be used to recruit or retain healthcare staff. Other than executive staff, all staff employed or contracted by an eligible hospital are deemed healthcare staff. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic's damaging effect on healthcare staffing costs, funds may also be used for healthcare staff payroll expenses generally, including contract labor. Funds may not be used for indirect costs for administrative, management, and financial management personnel.

DHS will audit hospitals that receive funding under this proposal to ensure they met the eligibility criteria, and the funding is used for appropriate purposes. If it is determined funds were not used appropriately by eligible hospitals, those funds may be recouped by DHS.

Disbursement: The funds will be disbursed by DHS, through the Arkansas Medicaid payment system, as follows:

- Qualifying applications from hospitals that meet all three of the following criteria will be paid in the order in which they are received by DHS:
 - Independent (not part of a for-profit or 501(c)(3) nonprofit multi-hospital system);
 - Not designated as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH), as these hospitals receive more favorable Medicare funding than other hospitals; and
 - Located in a county with a population of less than 50,000.
- Any unallocated funding remaining as of December 1, 2022, will be distributed next to qualifying applications received from independent (non-system) Critical Access Hospitals on a pro rata basis.

This draft is a working document. All information contained herein is subject to change and may differ substantially from the final document. The information contained in this document should not be considered the position or views of the agency or the Governor.

¹ Quick ratio is a liquidity ratio, which measures the ability of a company (in this case, a hospital) to use its cash, cash equivalents, and accounts receivable reasonably expected to be collected to extinguish its current liabilities (bills, notes, loans, and accounts payable).

 Any remaining unallocated funding will be distributed next to the remaining qualifying applications until all funds are exhausted.

Restrictions on Funds: Recipients of funds will be required to attest that these funds are necessary to cover expenses incurred during the program period to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to address extraordinary costs related the to the PHE, including but not limited to closing critical gaps in infrastructure, capacity, sustainability, and strategic planning, and that none of these funds will be used to:

- Duplicate or supplant funding from any other federal or state program. Payments or other reimbursement for direct patient care is not included as funding from a federal or state program.
- Pay any increase in management fees to administrative personnel.

The total amount of the reimbursement may not exceed the maximum payment as set forth in this proposal, even if the particular provider incurs costs greater than the maximum amount determined by the formulae. To the extent that expenses are subsequently reimbursed under another federal or state program, funds disbursed from the state's portion of the American Rescue Plan approved by the American Rescue Plan Act Steering Committee and authorized by the Arkansas Legislative Council will be reconciled and recovered.

Application and Expense Review: Hospitals will be required to submit an application attesting to the requirements and limitations outlined above (form to be created by DHS); and documentation created by the hospital demonstrating its quick ratio (as outlined above) signed by the hospital's CEO or CFO. Within 90 days of submitting an application, a hospital receiving funds under this Proposal must submit to DHS a plan for achieving sustainability, along with a statement of steps taken to date to improve the hospital's business model and practices. The plan and statement must be submitted in a form to be created by DHS and signed by the hospital's CEO or CFO. The plan and statement will be reviewed in the event an additional round of funding for hospitals is considered. A hospital's failure to timely submit a plan and statement will be grounds for DHS to recover the total amount of the reimbursement from the hospital.

Funds must be expended during the time period of July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023.

Documentation of expenditure of funds will be subject to audit and review by DHS and must be submitted by July 31, 2023. Any funding that is not supported by expense documentation will be recovered from the hospital.

OFFICE OF BUDGET

1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 402 Post Office Box 3278 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-3278

Phone: (501) 682-1941 Fax: (501) 682-1086 www.arkansas.gov/dfa

August 22, 2022

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee Arkansas Legislative Council State Capitol Building Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 37 (02) of Act 199 of 2022, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

- Department of Finance and Administration Disbursing Officer To provide reimbursements under Ark. Code Ann. §11-5-118 \$25,000
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Lonoke Fish Hatchery External Water Reuse Project and Spawning Building \$5,000,000
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Bayou Meto Wildlife Management
 Area Greentree Reservoirs Renovation \$15,000,000
- Department of Agriculture To support water, wastewater/stormwater, and irrigation projects
 \$280,000,000

Sincerely,

Larry W. Walther Cabinet Secretary

LWW Attachment(s)

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.19

Agency:	DFA Di	sbursing	Officer				Business Area	Code:	0620	
Program Title:	Program Title: Employee Vaccination Testing Reimbursement - § 11-5-118									
Granting Orga	nization:	US Trea	asury				CFDA #: 21.0	27		
Effective Date	of Authori	zation:		Beginning:	08/26/2	022	Ending: 12/31/2026			
Purpose of Gra	ant / Reaso	on for addit	ion or char	nge (include attac	hments as n	ecessary to provide t	horough informat	ion):		
coronavir	us 2019 that will	(COVID- allow for	19)." Th reimbur	nis exemption	n is relate	mployees from ed to vaccines. s and employe	DFA has p	romulga	ated ru	
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Funds Center:		Int	ernal Orde	r/WBS Element:	A.0620.ARPVA	CREIM-E		Conti	inuation:	
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	State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.									
Approved by:			•	1	0	623				
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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR COVID-19 TESTING

OVERVIEW

Act 1115 of 2021 provides an exemption for employees in Arkansas from impending termination due to vaccination mandates. Codified as ACA 11-5-118, this legislation protects employees if their employer requires or is mandated to require vaccination or immunization for coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) or its variants. The law outlines a specific exemption process and tasked the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) with establishing rules regarding the method of distribution of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to employees and employers to cover the cost of testing. DFA promulgated an emergency rule on January 12, 2022. The legislation went into effect on January 14, 2022. DFA is required to report monthly to the Arkansas Legislative Council on distribution of these funds.

COVID-19 TESTING PROGRAM

The legislation calls for:

- 1) Timely distribution of funds to recipients within thirty (30) days;
- Establishment of an option for distribution to an employer that chooses to receive funds for disbursement to employees; and
- 3) Verification and method of authentication of receipts that shall meet legislative auditing requirements, including without limitation the development of forms.

FORMS

DFA has created the following forms:

- Contract and Grant Disclosure Form this form is necessary to comply with Governor's Executive Order 98-04
- 2) Form for Submission of Reimbursement Claims this form will gather information necessary to implement the reimbursement claim component of the COVIOD-19 Testing Program while adhering to the reporting requirements for subrecipient awards under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Final Rule.
- 3) Form for Requesting Distribution of Funds to Employer for COVID-19 Testing and for Monthly Reporting this form will be used by employers to disburse funds to their employees to cover the cost of COVID-19 testing which is not covered by the employee's health benefit plan. The employer would be a subrecipient and is required to submit documentation that will be used to meet the monitoring, oversight, and reporting requirements under the American Rescue Plan of 2021, Final Rule.
- 4) American Rescue Plan Act required documentation
 - a. Subrecipient Agreement
 - i. Acceptance Certification
 - b. Authorized Agent Form
 - c. Proposed Testing Roster Form
 - d. Completed Testing Roster Form
 - e. Employee Separation Roster Form

PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING CLAIMS

Under the Program, an employer or employee may submit a claim for reimbursement to cover the cost

of COVID-19 testing not covered by the employee's health benefit plan on the form(s) provided by the DFA for that purpose. The employer or employee shall denote on the form(s) whether the employer or the employee is the Claimant to be reimbursed.

In addition to the properly completed form(s), the Claimant shall provide the original, or a digitally scanned copy, of the invoice, receipt, or other document(s) evidencing that the test was conducted, the name of each employee tested, the cost of COVID-19 testing, the name of the manufacturer of each COVID-19 test, the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") emergency use authorization number for each test, and a paycheck stub for the most recent pay period for each employee tested, and with all documents submitted in legible format.

By both signing the form(s), the employer and employee shall certify that the information provided on the form(s) and all documents submitted with their reimbursement claim are true, accurate, and complete. Upon receipt of the documents and the properly completed form(s), the DFA - Disbursing Officer shall issue funds to the Claimant within thirty (30) days.

OPTION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO AN EMPLOYER

An employer that chooses to receive funds for disbursement to employees to cover the cost of COVID-19 testing not covered by the employee's health benefit plan shall submit a request for funding on the form(s) provided by DFA for that purpose.

The employers shall be required to submit the following forms:

- a. Contract and Grant Discloser Form
- b. Subrecipient Agreement and Acceptance Certificate
- c. Proposed Testing Roster
- d. Other documentation including receipts, invoices or other documents evidencing testing

The Department will determine the amount of funds to be provided to an employer, for disbursement to employees to cover the cost of testing, based upon the information provided on the form(s) and the proposed testing roster.

MONTHLY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

An employer that receives funds to distribute to employees for COVID-19 testing shall report monthly to DFA on form(s) provided for that purpose. In addition to providing the properly completed form(s), an employer shall provide the original, or a digitally scanned copy, of invoices, receipts, or other documents evidencing that each test was conducted, name of each employee tested, the cost of COVID-19 testing, the name of the manufacturer of each COVID-19 test, the FDA emergency use authorization number for each test, and a paycheck stub for the most recent pay period for each employee tested with all documents submitted in in legible format.

An employer that receives funds to distribute to employees for COVID-19 testing shall provide on a monthly basis an updated proposed testing roster, a completed testing roster, and an employee separation roster on the form(s) provided by DFA.

By signing the form(s), the employer shall certify that the information provided on the form(s) and all documents submitted with the form(s) are true, accurate, and complete.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission 0800 Business Area Code: Agency: Program Title: Lonoke Fish Hatchery External Water Reuse Project and Spawing Building AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 Granting Organization: Ending: 06/30/23 Beginning: 07/01/2022 Effective Date of Authorization: Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information): This two-part project aims to significantly reduce the Lonoke Fish Hatchery's annual groundwater consumption through the construction of infrastructure that would allow the reuse of the water used for fish production instead of single-use. By developing water recirculating capabilities in the spawning building, the estimated impact on the Sparta aguifer would be a reduction of 141.9 million gallons of water annually based on the ability to reuse water with 90% efficiency. The estimated allowable project cost: \$2,000,000. In addition, upgrades to the outdoor hatchery ponds, including water reuse infrastructure and water storage capability, would further reduce our water use footprint by an estimated 430.1 million gallons annually pumped from the Sparta aquifer based on a reuse rate of 80% efficiency. The estimated Project cost: \$3,000,000. American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding Direct Funding: Func. Area: REC Steering Comm. Approved: 08/18/2022 Fund Code: Internal Order/WBS Element: Continuation: Funds Center: Program Funding Amount Regular Salaries Extra Help Personal Services Matching Operating Expenses Conference & Travel Expenses Professional Fees Capital Outlay Data Processing Grants and Aid (CI: 04) 5,000,000 Other: Other: 5,000,000 Total \$ 06/30/2024 Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: **DFA IGS State Technology Planning** Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning. Positions to be established: (list each position separately) Class Pers Position Cmnt Line Item Org Pers Cost SubArea Center Number Item Position Title Grade Maximum * Unit Area State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor. Approved by; Office of Personnel Mgmt Date

D.20

Chris Racey Chief of Staff

Ben BattenDeputy Director



Brad CarnerDeputy Director

Spencer Griffith
Deputy Director

Austin Booth

Director

August 18, 2022

Larry W. Walther, Secretary Department of Finance and Administration 1509 W. 7th St. Suite 401 Little Rock AR, 72205

Dear Secretary Walther,

Pursuant to Section 38 of Act 997 of 2021, I am requesting the consideration of the attached appropriation requests for two ARPA-funded projects approved by the steering committee on August 18th. These projects include:

Bayou Meto WMA GTR Renovation

\$15,000,000 for the renovation of approximately 13,000 acres of Greentree reservoirs (GRT) in the Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area (WMA) that have been negatively impacted by prolonged flooding. This appropriation will be utilized for infrastructure renovations that will enhance water flow. These critical infrastructure renovations are essential to allow AGFC to manage water better and enhance drainage within the GTRs, particularly during the summer growing season, thus improving deteriorated forest health conditions to ensure the long-term sustainability of the world-renowned Greentree public land waterfowl hunting opportunities within the state. The long-term health and sustainability of these remnant bottomland hardwood forests are essential to sustaining public land waterfowl hunting opportunities for over 40,000 individuals annually, with an estimated financial benefit of \$70 million annually to local communities across Arkansas. In addition, these unique habitats support a host of other terrestrial and aquatic species, which provide significant wildlife viewing and other hunting opportunities beyond just waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Lonoke Fish Hatchery External Water Reuse Project and Spawning Building Water Reuse Project

\$5,000,000 to modernize how water is used, captured, and then reused at the Lonoke Fish Hatchery and would also increase the efficiency and capacity for fish production. By developing water recirculating capabilities in the spawning building, the estimated impact on the Sparta aquifer will be a reduction of 141.9 million gallons of water annually based on the ability to reuse water with 90% efficiency. This is equivalent to the water use of 3,698 "average" Arkansas water users. Upgrades to the outdoor hatchery ponds, including water reuse infrastructure and water storage capability, will further reduce our water use footprint by an estimated 430.1 million gallons annually pumped from the Sparta aquifer based on a reuse rate of 80% efficiency. This is equivalent to the average consumption of 11,117 Arkansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Austin Booth Director

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



Project Name: Lonoke Fish Hatchery External Water Reuse Project and Spawning Building Water Reuse Project

Project Status: Design phase underway

- Approved budget for design = \$350,000
- Current budget for construction = \$0

Project Description: The Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery located in Lonoke, AR is both the largest and the oldest facility in the AGFC fish culture system. This facility produces an average of 9-10 million fish annually, including catfish, Florida bass, and

baitfish. The proposed project includes the following: 1. Modernization of the 19,200 square foot indoor fish spawning/holding building including enhanced water reuse/recirculation capabilities. 2. Upgrades to the existing outdoor water supply/drain lines to include a water recapture/reuse system and a water storage pond for a 200-acre warm water culture facility.

Spawning building water reuse/recirculation project: This project consists of the construction of a 19,200 sq. ft. modernized indoor production facility that will provide for the complete re-use of water in this new facility. Currently, the groundwater used in two existing buildings for hatching, rearing, and holding fish is used in a one-pass system where the groundwater flows out of the building to the drainage ditches at the same rate that it is pumped in. The current designs for this new indoor facility include all the necessary components for a 100% water reuse system, including a settling basin, mechanical filtration system for the removal of solids, a sterilization system, and all the necessary piping so that each culture unit can drain into this system, go through the necessary treatments, and will then be available for additional use throughout the facility.

Outdoor hatchery water recapture/reuse project: This project consists of the construction of a water storage reservoir that many of the hatchery's 77 ponds will be able to drain into. The Lonoke Hatchery is solely dependent on groundwater for filling ponds and as those ponds are drained during harvest operations, that water flows off the hatchery through a series of underground piping into adjacent ditches. This renovation project will provide a system that will allow for ponds being drained to flow to an on-site storage reservoir. This captured surface water can then pass through a filtration system and a system of valves and pumps that will provide an alternative water source for filling all hatchery ponds and greatly reduce (80% reuse) the hatchery's dependence on groundwater.

Project Goals and Impacts: This project aims to increase the sustainability of the water use associated with fish production at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Lonoke Fish Hatchery. As a state conservation agency, it is important that we lead by example when it comes to water sustainability. In this case that includes reducing our impact on groundwater use by minimizing our withdrawals and maximizing our reuse of water on the facility to the extent possible. Currently, the hatchery utilizes groundwater brought to the surface through

wells. This water is used for fish production and then leaves the hatchery property through a system of ditches. The aim of this two-part project is to greatly reduce the annual consumption of groundwater through the construction of infrastructure that would allow the reuse of the water used for fish production instead of single-use.

The proposed project would modernize how water is used, captured, and then reused in the facility and would also increase the efficiency and capacity for fish production. Groundwater is an extremely critical resource to the state, and is relied upon by Arkansas for drinking water, agriculture, and aquaculture. By utilizing water recirculating capabilities in the spawning building, the estimated impact on the Sparta aquifer would be a reduction of 141.9 million gallons of water annually based on the ability to reuse water with 90% efficiency. This is equivalent to the water use of 3,698 "average" Arkansas water users. Upgrades to the outdoor hatchery ponds including water reuse infrastructure and water storage capability would further reduce our water use footprint by an estimated 430.1 million gallons annually pumped from the Sparta aquifer based on a reuse rate of 80% efficiency. This is equivalent to the average consumption of 11,117 Arkansans.

County: Lonoke

Congressional District: Rick Crawford (1)

AR Representative District Name and number: Roger D. Lynch (14)

AR Senate District Name and number: Jonathan Dismang (28)

Justification of project:

a) Benefit to Arkansans - The surrounding Lonoke County and the city of Lonoke, AR, a socially disadvantaged rural community, draw their water from four wells that pump from the Sparta Sand Aquifer. They also purchase treated water from Grand Prairie Regional Water whose sources are five wells that pump from the Sparta Sand Aquifer to two water treatment facilities. Grand Prairie also purchased water from the City of Stuttgart, whose source for water is four wells that pump from the Quaternary System and Sparta Aquifers to two Water Treatment Plants.

AR Natural Resources Division states: "It is important to realize that groundwater levels continue to decline in areas with the highest water use for both the Mississippi River Valley alluvial aquifer and the Sparta aquifer. Arkansas is withdrawing groundwater from the alluvial and Sparta/Memphis aquifers in eastern and southern Arkansas at a rate far above that which is estimated to be sustainable. So long as water-use from these aquifers continues to exceed sustainable yield, this water resource will continue to be depleted."

Lonoke County and surrounding cities will be positively impacted by the modernized water reuse capabilities of the Joe Hogan hatchery. Again, recirculation and reuse both indoor and outdoor will help decrease the water drawn from the Sparta Aquifer by a total of 572 million gallons annually.

- b) ARPA funding statutory and regulatory criteria In the Treasury Department's Final Rule [31 CFR Part 35 RIN1505-AC77] on the use of Coronaviras State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds it states that ARPA provides that SLRF funds may be used "[t]o make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure". The Treasury determined that the types of water and sewer projects that were authorized under the interim final rule by reference to existing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs would in all cases be necessary investments given the conditions applicable to such EPA Programs. This includes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program. The Final Rule states that eligible uses of the CWSRF are eligible uses of SLFRF in the water and sewer infrastructure category. This includes a broad range of projects that improve drinking water infrastructure, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including the replacement of lead service lines. With respect to clean water and wastewater infrastructure, the interim final rule provided that recipients may use SLFRF funds to construct publicly owned treatment infrastructure, manage and treat stormwater or subsurface drainage water, and facilitate water reuse, among other uses. The document also references measures to conserve and reuse water including subsurface drainage water (groundwater) as a measure of green infrastructure investments and improvements to climate change resiliency.
- c) Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility In order to help justify this project's potential positive impacts on the sustainability of groundwater use, its eligibility for inclusion in the Clean Water State Revolving fund guidelines from the EPA was consulted. This document states in the Groundwater Protection and Restoration section that, "Eligible groundwater projects include those that protect and restore the aquifers.

 This includes pump and treat projects, aquifer recharge projects, and projects that decrease aquifer withdrawals through rainwater harvesting, water conservation, or water reuse."

Total Eligible Project cost: \$5,000,000

Spawning Building Eligible Project Cost: \$2,000,000

Component Breakdown:

1) Design and Engineering: \$200,000

2) Construction: \$1,800,000

Hatchery Water Re-use Eligible Project Cost: \$3,000,000

Component Breakdown:

1) Design and Engineering: \$300,000

2) Construction: \$2,700,000

Estimated timeline of completion: 2022 - 2024.

- -7/1/22-2/6/23 Engineering and Design
- -10/17/22-3/31/23 Permitting
- -2/6/23-4/3/23 Request for Proposals
- -4/4/23-5/2/23 Contracting phase
- -5/3/23-6/27/24 Construction phase
- -6/27/24 Project Completion

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

D.21

Agency:	Arkans	as Gan	ne and	Fish Comm	nission		Business Area Co	de: (0800	
Program Title	Bayou	Meto V	/MA G	TR Renova	tion			_		
Granting Orga	anization:	AMERIC	CAN RE	SCUE PLAN	ACT OF	2021	CFDA #:			
Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 07/01/2022							Ending: 0	6/30/	2023	
Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):										
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Approved by: Cabinet Secreta	BNT ary/Agency D	7 virector	8/19/2 Date	ZZ Proffice	of Budget	の・よフンス Date	Office of P	Personne	I Mgmt	Date

Chris Racey Chief of Staff

Ben Batten
Deputy Director



Brad Carner Deputy Director

Spencer Griffith Deputy Director

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Austin Booth
Director

August 18, 2022

Larry W. Walther, Secretary Department of Finance and Administration 1509 W. 7th St. Suite 401 Little Rock AR, 72205

Dear Secretary Walther,

Pursuant to Section 38 of Act 997 of 2021, I am requesting the consideration of the attached appropriation requests for two ARPA-funded projects approved by the steering committee on August 18th. These projects include:

Bayou Meto WMA GTR Renovation

\$15,000,000 for the renovation of approximately 13,000 acres of Greentree reservoirs (GRT) in the Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area (WMA) that have been negatively impacted by prolonged flooding. This appropriation will be utilized for infrastructure renovations that will enhance water flow. These critical infrastructure renovations are essential to allow AGFC to manage water better and enhance drainage within the GTRs, particularly during the summer growing season, thus improving deteriorated forest health conditions to ensure the long-term sustainability of the world-renowned Greentree public land waterfowl hunting opportunities within the state. The long-term health and sustainability of these remnant bottomland hardwood forests are essential to sustaining public land waterfowl hunting opportunities for over 40,000 individuals annually, with an estimated financial benefit of \$70 million annually to local communities across Arkansas. In addition, these unique habitats support a host of other terrestrial and aquatic species, which provide significant wildlife viewing and other hunting opportunities beyond just waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Lonoke Fish Hatchery External Water Reuse Project and Spawning Building Water Reuse Project

\$5,000,000 to modernize how water is used, captured, and then reused at the Lonoke Fish Hatchery and would also increase the efficiency and capacity for fish production. By developing water recirculating capabilities in the spawning building, the estimated impact on the Sparta aquifer will be a reduction of 141.9 million gallons of water annually based on the ability to reuse water with 90% efficiency. This is equivalent to the water use of 3,698 "average" Arkansas water users. Upgrades to the outdoor hatchery ponds, including water reuse infrastructure and water storage capability, will further reduce our water use footprint by an estimated 430.1 million gallons annually pumped from the Sparta aquifer based on a reuse rate of 80% efficiency. This is equivalent to the average consumption of 11,117 Arkansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Austin Booth Director

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



Project Name: Bayou Meto WMA GTR Renovation – Phase I

Project Status: Design phase underway

- Approved budget for design = \$350,000

Budget for construction = \$0

Short Project Description: This 33,832-acre Wildlife Management Area (WMA) has approximately 13,000-acres within 7 greentree reservoirs (GTRs) to provide critical wintering waterfowl habitat and waterfowl hunting opportunities. Prolonged flooding within this WMA throughout the year is

resulting in significant impacts to forest health conditions, jeopardizing both the long-term sustainability of this valuable habitat and the sustainability of the recreational opportunities the WMA provides.

Project Need: Major infrastructure renovations are needed to enhance water flows through this WMA. Current rainfall events, coupled with stormwater runoff from Jacksonville, Sherwood and other communities into Bayou Meto is causing prolonged flooding. Current infrastructure is inadequate and cannot evacuate water leading to declining forest health conditions within this vitally important remnant bottomland hardwood forest. The bottomland hardwood forests (BLH) forests found at Bayou Meto WMA are in significant health decline morphologically indicated by basal swelling, extensive epicormic branching, crown dieback and even death. Renovations are needed to replumb water control structures allowing for increased drainage, specifically during the spring and summer. Levees will be altered allowing for additional water to flow off the WMA improving red oak regeneration within the forest complex.

Project Goals: The proposed project would renovate water control structures and the infrastructure needed to manage water in the GTRs. This will greatly benefit tree health and the regeneration of red oak species which are a key food resource for wintering waterfowl. Red oaks have been hit hard by the prolonged flooding and in turn are being replaced by less desirable tree species or scrub / shrub habitat. Alterations to water control structures will be extensive and will need detailed engineering to determine the best alternative to renovate the GTRs. Additionally, the proposed work here will benefit the state's water resources by: 1) filtering and trapping nutrient loads, 2) reducing sediment and other non-point source pollution, 3) mitigating peak stormwater flows downstream, *and* 4) storing flood water.

County: Arkansas and Jefferson

Congressional District: Rick Crawford (1)

AR Representative District Name and number: Roger Lynch (14) and Ken Ferguson (16)

AR Senate District Name and number: Stephanie Flowers (25)

Justification of project:

- a) Benefit to Arkansans These critical infrastructure renovations are essential to allow AGFC to better manage water and enhance drainage within the GTRs particularly during the summer growing season thus improving deteriorated forest health conditions to ensure the long term sustainability of the world-renowned greentree public land waterfowl hunting opportunities within the state. The long-term health and sustainability of these remnant bottomland hardwood forests is essential to sustaining public land waterfowl hunting opportunities for over 40,000 individuals annually with an estimated financial benefit of \$70 million annually to local communities across Arkansas. In addition, these unique habitats support a host of other terrestrial and aquatic species which provide significant wildlife viewing and other hunting opportunities beyond just waterfowl hunting opportunities.
- b) ARPA funding statutory criteria This project will address declining forest conditions that are occurring in some of the most biodiverse forest ecosystems in Arkansas. Ecosystem services that are benefitted are flood mitigation, sediment reduction, NPS pollution reduction and management of stormwater. The proposed project will promote climate resiliency in our bottomland hardwood forests. AGFC's system of wildlife management areas provide recreational opportunities that improve mental health for people by providing low-cost recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, hiking, and camping.

Project cost: \$15,000,000

Estimated timeline of completion: 2022 - 2029 complete.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022

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Agency:	Arkansas D	epartment o	of Agricultu	re			Business Are	ea Code:	9901	
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iranting Org	anization:11	.7 th Congres	s of the Un	ited States		4.000-41.0000	CFDA #:12.	027		
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Anticipated	Duration of	Federal Fun	ds:	12/31/2026		<u></u>	14			
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8/22/2022



Water and Other Infrastructure Projects Working Group American Rescue Plan Act Steering Committee

Water and Other Infrastructure Projects Working Group

Members

- Wes Ward, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Chair
- Major General Kendall Penn, Secretary, Department of the Military
- Solomon Graves, Secretary, Department of Corrections
- Dr. Jose Romero, Secretary, Department of Health
- Jami Cook, Secretary, Department of Public Safety
- Becky Keogh, Secretary, Department of Energy and Environment
- Steve Eggensperger, Governor's Liaison for Military and Public Safety, Ex-officio
- Mary Robin Casteel, Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor, Ex-officio

Needs Survey

- July 12, 2021 July 15, 2021 Initial Targeted Stakeholder Needs Survey -
- July 26, 2021 August 13, 2021 Full Statewide Water Infrastructure needs survey
- 3 Webinars
 - July 29, 2021
 - August 4, 2021
 - August 11, 2021
- August 31, 2021: Working Group Final Report Submitted



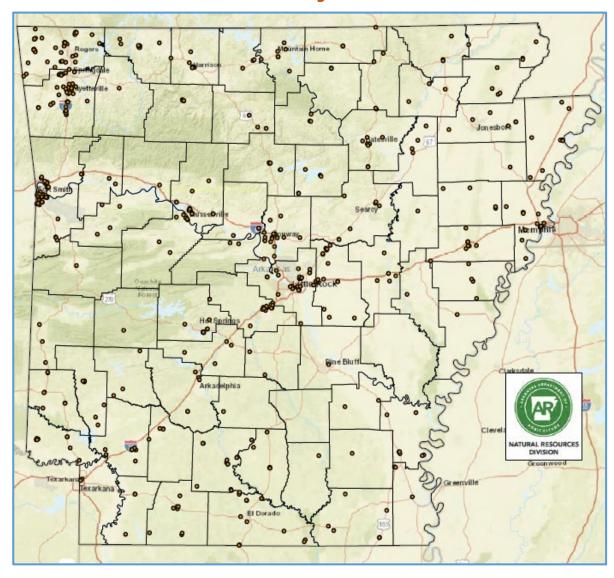
2021 Needs Survey Results

Project Type	Water	Wastewater	Stormwater	Dam/Levee	Mixed Project	Total
Total	\$2,926,970,868	\$1,924,023,078	\$308,970,698	\$3,140,750	\$104,188,150	\$5,267,293,543
Projects Submitted	728	503	151	3	32 (1417
Projects Submitted Without Costs	2	5	10	0	1	18
Average Project Costs	\$4,031,640	\$3,863,500	\$2,191,282	\$1,046,917	\$3,360,908	\$3,765,042
Median Project Cost	\$879,200.00	\$1,575,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	N/A
Projects willing to cost share a						
portion of the project cost	400	299	114	1	23	837
Percentage of projects willing to						
cost share a portion of the project	55%	59%	75%	33%	72%	59%
The project has undergone review						
by the State Water and						
Wastewater Advisory Committee					_	
(WWAC)	79	64	1	0	1	145
The project has been approved for	F0	F0		0	2	110
funding Final engineering plans are	50	59	8	0	2	119
completed for the project	77	79	14	0	4	174
The project is already under	//	75	14	U	4	174
construction	24	19	5	1	2	51
The purpose of the proposed	24	13	J	_	_	J1
project is to correct noncompliance						
with a state or federal rule	90	170	5	1	5	271
Percentage of projects intended to	90	170	3	1	3	2/1
correct noncompliance with a state						
or federal rule	12%	34%	3%	33%	16%	19%
Average Months to Complete		2 1/0	2,0	23,0	_3,0	
Project After Bidding	13	15	13	11	19	N/A
Median Months to Complete						
Project After Bidding	12	12	10	11	16	N/A



Drinking Water Project Locations

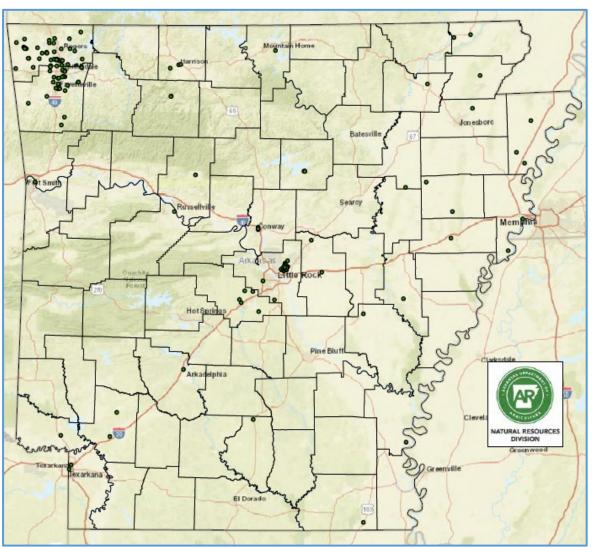
Wastewater Project Locations





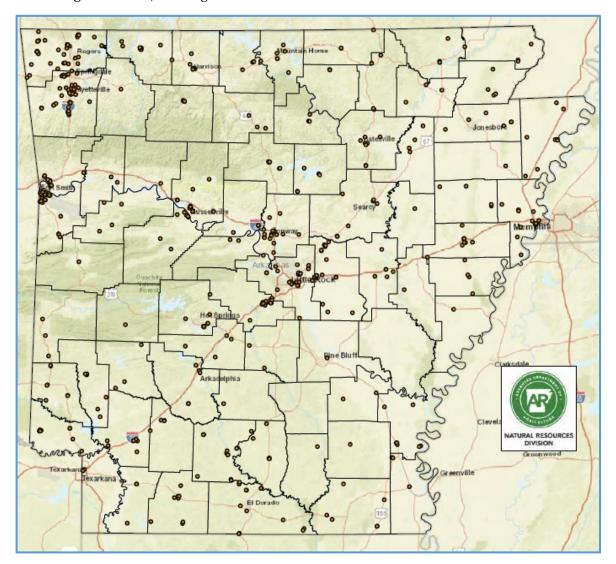
Stormwater Project Locations

This map includes projects submitted under the needs survey to address stormwater, floodplain, nonpoint source pollution, dams, levees and related projects



Mixed Project Locations

This map includes projects submitted under the needs survey that listed multiple project types including wastewater, drinking water and stormwater





Water Infrastructure Needs – State Government

Department of Human Services - \$1,221,250 Total

- Arkadelphia Human Development Center \$225,000
- Arkansas Health Center \$49,250
- Booneville Human Development Center \$500,000
- Lewisville Juvenile Treatment Center \$21,000
- Mansfield Juvenile Treatment Center \$16,000

■ Department of Military - \$6,850,000 Total

- Water tower at Fort Chaffee \$3,200,000
- Water tower at Camp Robinson \$3,000,000
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade \$100,000
- Water line upgrade \$550,000

Department of Corrections – \$22,805,300 Total

- Division of Community Correction Misc. Projects \$755,300
- Division of Correction Water and Wastewater Projects \$22,050,000.

Department of Veterans Affairs - \$700,000 Total

Wells for irrigation at both Arkansas State Veterans Cemeteries - \$700,000.

Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism - \$6,500,000 Total

- Lake Dardanelle South Campground Septic Upgrades Yell County \$50,000
- Lake Fort Smith Marina & Day Use Pump Station Equip Replacement; Area A Pump Station Repairs & Equip Replacement; Inspect & Repair Dining Hall Sewer Line \$135,000
- Mammoth Spring Welcome Center Pump Station Equipment Replacement \$35,000
- Millwood Lake WWTP Piping and Equipment Replacement; 3 WW Pump Stations Equipment Replacement \$110,000

- Mississippi River Beech Point WW Pump Station Equipment Replacement \$35,000
- Moro Bay WW Pump Station Equipment Replacement \$45,000
- Mount Magazine Cabin #10 & Campground WW Pump Station Pumps & Equipment Replacement; WWTP Structural & Equipment Renovations and Repairs; New 100,000 Water Supply Tank; Water Pump Station Pumps and VFD Panel Replacements \$1,575,000
- Mount Nebo WWTP Painting & Equipment Renovations and Repairs \$200,000
- Ozark Folk Center Park Main Pump Station Repairs & Equipment Replacement \$500,000
- Petit Jean Area A Pump Station Repairs & Equipment Replacement; Infiltration Repairs in Area A \$110,000
- Poinsett Parkwide Water Line Replacement \$250,000
- Queen Wilhelmina WWTP Sand bed Construction and Replacement; Domestic Water Pump Repairs; PS#3 Water Tank Repairs \$340,000
- Village Creek Water Main Relocation & Repairs; 3-WW Pump Stations Repairs & Equipment Replacement; Horse Camp Water Line Replacement; WWTP Dichlorination Install & Other Repairs \$505,000
- White Oak WW Pump Station Repairs; WWTP Repainting and Equipment Replacement \$135,000
- Woolly Hollow WW Pump Station Replacement; WWTP Repainting and Equipment Replacement; Water Line Outfall Line Repairs \$260,000

Cost estimates across the Departments total \$ 38,076,550



Additional Projects Submitted (August 2021)

- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission \$58.4 Million
 - Lake Conway Dam Renovation (\$5,000,000)
 - Lonoke Fish Hatchery Spawning Expansion (\$6,000,000)
 - Lake Greenlee Water Control Repair (\$800,000)
 - Tri-County Lake Water Control Gate Replacement (\$500,000)
 - Hogue Lake Levee Repair and Control Valve Repair (\$800,000)
 - Lake Elmdale Spillway Repair (\$500,000)
 - Centerton Fish Hatchery Renovation (\$7,000,000)
 - Hurricane Lake North Greentree Reservoir Renovation (\$5,000,000)
 - Black River Greentree Reservoir Renovation (\$7,000,000)
 - Shirley Bay Greentree Reservoir Renovation (\$5,200,000)
 - Bayou Meto Greentree Reservoir Renovation (\$15,000,000)
 - Petit Jean Greentree Reservoir Renovation (\$4,000,000)
 - Galla Creek Greentree Reservoir Renovation (\$600,000)
- Grand Prairie Farming and Water Company \$25 Million



Funding Recommendation

Funding Categories/Projects	GRANT ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS
Drinking Water Related Projects	\$135,000,000
Wastewater Treatment and Collection / Stormwater Related Projects	\$135,000,000
White River Irrigation District – Irrigation Project	\$5,000,000
Bayou Meto Water Management District – Irrigation Project	\$5,000,000
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission – Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area	\$15,000,000
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission – Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery	\$5,000,000
TOTAL	\$300,000,000



^{*} State Agencies may apply and be considered for Water and Wastewater Funding with all other entities

Proposed Water / Wastewater Grant Program Considerations

- Grant Program to be administered by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture through the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and will be for Public entities
 - DWSRF Rule Chapter 15 Section 1507.1 Entities eligible for assistance under the Safe Drinking Water Program. The loans made available under the Fund may be obtained for an eligible Project by any duly constituted and existing political subdivision of the State, including but not limited to counties, cities, towns and municipalities, and by any duly constituted special purpose improvement district, rural development authority, rural waterworks facilities boards, public facilities board, regional water distribution district, and by any duly qualified and existing public trust or authority, individually or as agent, representative or instrumentality of any political subdivision, or other Eligible Entity described above.
- Eligible Projects include a broad range of water and sewer projects, including those eligible under the EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and certain additional projects, including a wide set of lead remediation, stormwater infrastructure, and aid for private wells and septic units.
 - Projects will be determined for eligibility consistent with the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Maximum Grant Amount \$5,000,000 per entity for each project type.
- Minimum Cost Share Requirement: The cost share required for drinking water and wastewater collection and treatment projects proposed under this
 program will be subject to the following percentages based on the median household income for the city(ies) and/or County(ies) served by the proposed
 project and according to the following chart:
 - 2020 Median Household Income (MHI) for Arkansas Approx. \$49,475/Year
 - MHI < \$30,000 0% cost share
 - MHI \$30,000 \$50,000 25% cost share
 - MHI >\$50,000 50% cost share



Proposed Evaluation Criteria

Drinking Water Project Evaluation Criteria

Project Evaluation	Points Possible	Performance Measure
Criteria		
Provides Water Supply	10	Reduction in groundwater use.
Benefits		Percentage of project area implementing water use
	5	efficiency or conservation best
		management practices
2. Drinking Water Quality		Water quality violations requiring immediate
Improvements	10	action. Contaminant Level (MCL) violations as
		well as lead Action Level exceedances.
		Improvement to water quality parameters
	5	primarily deemed aesthetic rather than having
		significant health ramifications.
3. Consolidates or	10	Project will result in the regionalization or
restructures a public water		consolidation of water systems
system	5	Project will extend public water to underserved
		areas from an existing water system
4. Provides benefits and	5	Median household income for the city(ies) and/or
avoid adverse impacts to		County(ies) served by the proposed project
financial distressed or		<\$36,000
disadvantaged	5	County(ies) served by the project has a population
communities		decline > 5% during the previous decade
	5	Percentage of project benefitting disadvantaged
		communities
	5	Current Average 4,000-gal water bill/median
		Household Income
5. Address Noncompliance		Facility has received inspections that show
with State or Federal	5	noncompliance or are under a State or Federal
Laws/Rules		enforcement order.
6. Cost effectiveness	10	Standardized unit cost indicator measuring cost
		per unit of benefit
	5	Dual Use Projects Projects that incorporate new
		or inventive measures to improve additional
		infrastructure within the community
7. Project readiness	10	Phase of project development
8. Modernizes system and	5	Project will enhance operational and maintenance
improvements in		programs for long term through instrumentation
instrumentation or		upgrades and remote sensing and/or the project is
improves cybersecurity		designed to improve cybersecurity of the water
		system

Wastewater Treatment and Collection/Stormwater Project Evaluation Criteria

Project Evaluation Criteria	Points Possible	Performance Measure
1. Provide water quality	15	Volume of water treated.
benefits	10	Amount of reduced Infiltration and Inflow
2. Extent to which the project reduces Nutrients	7	Project is designed to specifically treat and remove nutrients.
	3	Project will result in an indirect reduction in nutrients
3. Project Location in relation to the 303d list, source water	5	Project will result in water quality improvements to an impaired waterbody on the 303d list.
protection areas or Watershed with a Watershed Management	5	Percent of the project located in a recognized source water protection area.
Plan	5	Project is located within a watershed with an EPA accepted Watershed Management Plan developed in accordance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act
4. Consolidates or restructures a public wastewater system	10	Project will result in the regionalization or consolidation of wastewater systems
	5	Project will extend wastewater to underserved areas from an existing wastewater system
5. Provides benefits and avoid adverse impacts to financial distressed or disadvantaged	5	Median household income for the city(ies) and/or County(ies) served by the proposed project <\$36,000
communities	5	County(ies) served by the project has a population decline > 5% during the previous decade
	5	Percentage of project benefitting disadvantaged communities
	5	Current Average 4,000-gal water bill/median Household Income
6. Address Noncompliance with State of Federal Laws/Rules	5	Facility has received inspections that show noncompliance, are under a State or Federal enforcement order, or are listed on the EPA Significant Non- compliance List
7. Cost effectiveness	10	Standardized unit cost indicator measuring cost per unit of benefit
	5	Dual Use Projects Projects that incorporate new or inventive measures to improve additional infrastructure within the community
8. Project readiness	10	Phase of project development
9. Modernizes system and improvements in instrumentation or improves cybersecurity	5	Project will enhance operational and maintenance programs for long term through instrumentation upgrades and remote sensing and/or the project is designed to improve cybersecurity of the water system



Proposed Water / Wastewater Grant Program Schedule

ALC Funding Approval	Time Allowed	August 26, 2022
Application Period Opens*		August 26, 2022
Applications Due	50 Days	October 14, 2022
Applications Reviewed and Scored	21 Days	November 3, 2022
ANRC Commission Meeting	6 days	November 9, 2022
Entity Certification of All Funds Approved	<180 Days	May 17, 2023
Construction Start Date Deadline	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2023
Construction Complete Deadline	December 31, 2026	December 31, 2026

^{*} The Arkansas Department of Agriculture anticipates holding seven meetings across the state during the application period to assist communities in completing the application for funding.

Existing Water and Wastewater Funding Programs

- The Arkansas Department of Agriculture Provides funding to water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste facilities through 2 Federal and 3 State programs.
- Funding Awarded Last 3 Years

Year	Grant/Principal Forgiveness	Low Interest Loans	Total	Communities Served
FY 2020	\$17,660,937	\$139,086,468	\$156,747,405	53
FY 2021	\$20,678,314	\$133,879,865	\$154,558,179	63
FY 2022	\$3,063,040	\$163,951,903	\$167,014,943	24
Total	\$41,402,291	\$436,918,236	\$478,320,527	140



Current Lending Rates through Existing Programs

CWSRF & DWSRF

1.00%* for up to 10 years

1.75%* for up to 20 years

2.25%* for up to 30 years

*A 1% loan servicing fee is included in the rates above

Both CWSRF & DWSRF are required to have lending rates below market.

WDF, WSSW & GO BOND

2.10% for up to 10 years

2.55% for up to 20 years

2.85% for up to 30 years

*GO interest rates may vary based on general obligation bond issuance(s).

In addition, a 3% loan origination fee will be due upon loan closing. This fee can be paid from loan proceeds.



Estimated Future Funding Through Existing Programs and IIJA

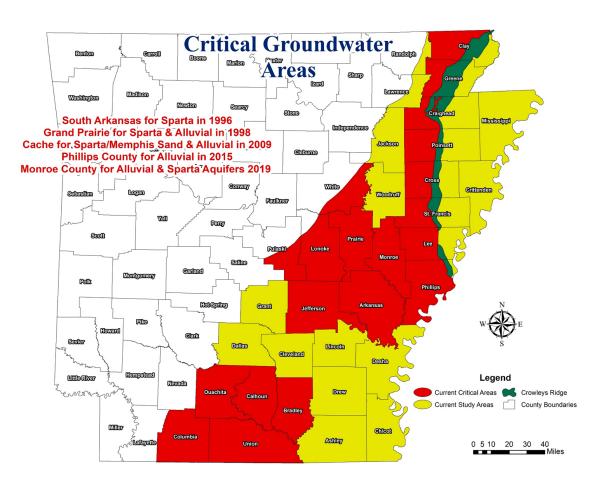
FFY	Ba	se Program	Base program Principle Forgivness		IIJA Supplemental		IIJA Supplemental Principle Forgivness		Т	Total Funding	Т	otal Principal Forgiveness
FFY 2022	\$	24,121,000.00	\$	3,498,180.00	\$	38,752,000.00	\$	18,988,480.00	\$	62,873,000.00	\$	22,486,660.00
111 2022	Ψ	24,121,000.00	Ψ	3,470,100.00	Ψ	30,732,000.00	Ψ	10,700,400.00	Ψ	02,073,000.00	Ψ	22,400,000.00
FFY 2023	\$	24,121,000.00	\$	3,498,180.00	\$	42,536,034.00	\$	22,107,802.00	\$	66,657,034.00	\$	25,605,982.00
FFY 2024	\$	24,121,000.00	\$	3,498,180.00	\$	46,418,751.00	\$	24,010,333.00	\$	70,539,751.00	\$	27,508,513.00
FFY 2025	\$	24,121,000.00	\$	3,498,180.00	\$	50,282,151.00	\$	25,903,399.00	\$	74,403,151.00	\$	29,401,579.00
FFY 2026	\$	24,121,000.00	\$	3,498,180.00	\$	50,282,151.00	\$	25,903,399.00	\$	74,403,151.00	\$	29,401,579.00
Total	\$ 1	120,605,000.00	\$	17,490,900.00	\$	228,271,087.00	\$	116,913,413.00	\$	348,876,087.00	\$	134,404,313.00

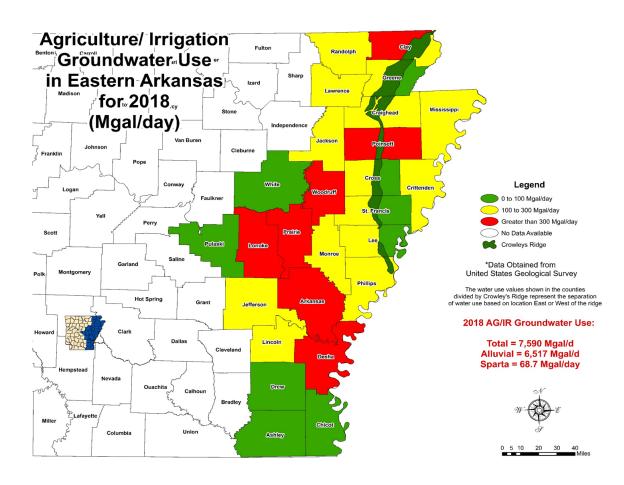
^{*}Estimates based on previous federal year appropriations or funding of the national state revolving fund programs and awarded Arkansas federal funds.

^{**}In addition to the amounts listed above Arkansas will receive approximately \$285,000,000 in additional funds dedicated to Lead Service Line Replacement and Emerging Contaminants.



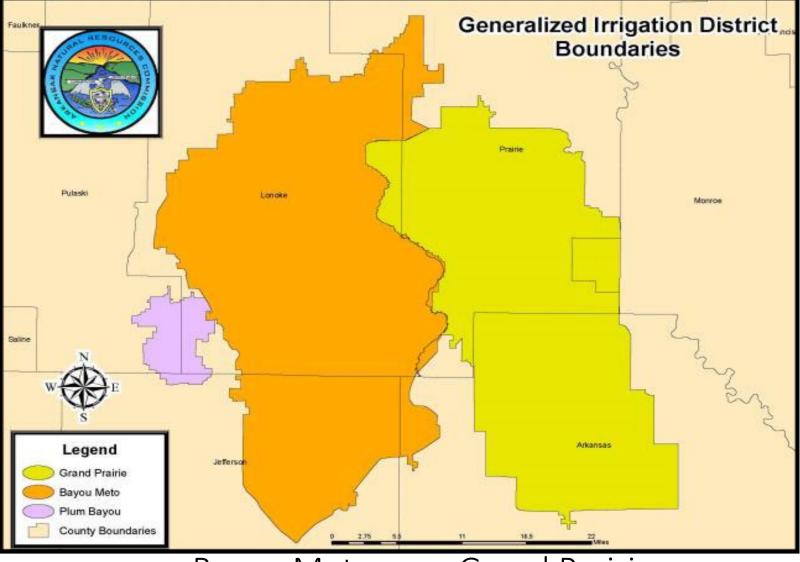
Critical Groundwater Areas & Groundwater Use in Eastern Arkansas







Large Water Delivery Projects Under Construction



Grand Prairie 247,556 Acres of irrigated cropland



Bayou Meto

265,561 acres of

irrigated cropland

Bayou Meto Gra

Grand Prairie

Bayou Meto Water Management District – Irrigation Project

 The Bayou Meto Basin Project is designed to protect and preserve the Alluvial and Spart aquifers through the diversion of excess water from the Arkansas River via a delivery system made up of pump stations, new canals, existing streams, and pipelines to the water depleted areas. In addition to providing an agricultural water supply, the project is designed to include channel improvements and a pumping station to reduce flooding.

Project Area

- Arkansas, Prairie, Lonoke, Jefferson, and Pulaski Counites
- 863,712 acres of Land Area
- 265,561 acres of Irrigated Cropland

American Rescue Plan Funding

• \$5 million: Funding would be used to construct 10 pumping stations for water delivery.





White River Irrigation District – Irrigation Project

- Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project is a comprehensive water management plan designed to protect and preserve the Alluvial and Sparta aquifers. The project allows the continued irrigation of current agricultural crops and reduces further depletion of groundwater aquifers.
- Project Area:
 - Arkansas, Prairie, Lonoke, and Monroe Counties
 - 362,662 Acres of Land Area
 - 247,556 Acres of Irrigated Cropland
- American Rescue Plan Funding
 - \$5 million: Funding would be utilized to construct 5 county road crossings over a 10-mile canal segment that is under construction as Phase 1 of the Grand Prairie Project.



