



ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

ARKANSAS COVID-19 RESPONSE



ARKANSAS

INC

Before COVID-19 Labor Statistics (Feb 2020)

- Arkansas Unemployment Rate: 3.5%
- Arkansas Labor Force: 1,367,278
- Employment: 1,319,479
- Unemployment: 47,779

More Arkansans working than ever before
107,000 more Arkansans working than in January of 2015

Current Labor Statistics (July 2020)

- **Arkansas Unemployment Rate: 7.1% (April – 10.8%)**
- **Arkansas Labor Force: 1,304,752**
- **Employment: 1,212,619**
- **Unemployment: 92,133 (April – 140,898)**

- **United States Unemployment Rate: 10.2%**



ARKANSAS
INC

AEDC Programs | Initial COVID-19 Response

- ✓ **\$10 Million CDBG Grants to 27 Rural Hospitals**
 - Grants between \$250,000 - \$500,000
 - Economic Assistance – Operational Costs/Equipment/Supplies
 - Total employment: 7,899

- ✓ **\$9 Million Quick Action Bridge Loan Program**
 - \$3M from Attorney General's Consumer Education and Enforcement Fund – Bridge Loan Program
 - \$6M from Governor's Quick Action Closing Fund
 - Designed for small businesses across all industries in Arkansas with 2-50 employees to “bridge” to PPP loans
 - Number of companies benefitted: 483
 - Number of jobs benefitted: 6,610



AEDC Programs | Ready for Business Grant Program

✓ Key Objectives

- Leveraged \$1.25B in CARES Act allotment
- Assisted companies with expenses related to reopening or resuming operations.
 - Social distancing and PPE requirements strain already thin margins
 - Businesses lacked working capital to restock and advertise
- Created a sense of confidence for employees and customers that it was safe to return to business

✓ Program Parameters

- Grant = \$1000/FTE, up to \$100,000 per business owner
- Must expend funds between March 31-December 30, 2020



ARKANSAS
INC

AEDC Programs | Ready for Business Grant Program Results

- ✓ **\$147.7 million appropriation**
- ✓ **Business size and ownership of recipients:**
 - **Less than 50 employees: 94.4%**
 - **Minority-owned: 25.2%**
 - **Women-owned: 33%**
- ✓ **Grants awarded to companies from all 75 counties**
 - **Number of companies benefitted: 11,409**
 - **Number of jobs benefitted: 225,000**

AEDC Programs | Loans to Developmental Disabilities Providers

- ✓ \$7.8 million forgivable loan program
- ✓ Available to large providers of services to the developmentally disabled (such as Goodwill and Easterseals) who were not eligible for assistance through other federal programs
- ✓ Loans can be forgiven using same criteria as that in the SBA Paycheck Protection Program
- ✓ Number of jobs benefitted: 3,921