

Arkansas Department of Transportation

**RULES FOR
TRANSPORTATION-RELATED
RESEARCH & WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT GRANT
PROGRAM**



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SEP 29 2021

BUREAU OF
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

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SECTION 1 Regulatory Authority

- 1.1 Authority for promulgating these rules is conferred upon the Arkansas Highway Commission and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 27-65-145.
- 1.2 These rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Transportation Rules for Transportation-Related Research & Workforce Development Grants.
- 1.3 Pursuant to ~~Act 705 of 2017, and Act 884 of 2021~~, codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 19-5-1258, ARDOT is responsible for the award and administration of grants under the ~~Transportation-Related Research Grant Program (TRRGP)~~ Transportation-Related Research & Workforce Development Grant Program (TRRWDGP).

SECTION 2 Purpose

- 2.1 These rules describe the Arkansas State Highway Commission and the ARDOT procedures for awarding grants from the ~~Future Transportation Research Fund for the TRRGP~~ Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development Fund for the TRRWDGP.
- 2.2 ~~The purpose of the TRRGP is to support the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation.~~
The purpose of the TRRWDGP is to support:
 - the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation; and
 - industry training, apprenticeship and educational programs to foster skills required for transportation related personnel development.

SECTION 3 Procedures

- 3.1 Potential applicants will be notified when an application period begins by email, letter, advertisement in applicable publications, and/or a notice on ARDOT's website.
- 3.2 The minimum amount requested for each application is \$20,000. There is no limit to the maximum amount that can be requested. However, it should be noted that only \$500,000 is available each year.

SECTION 4 Selection Committee

- 4.1 Applications will be reviewed and scored by the ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP Committee. It will be the duty of the ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP Committee to rate the quality of each application in order to recommend which applications will receive funding.
- 4.2 The ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP Committee will be comprised of the following members:
- ARDOT Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning, ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP Chairman
 - ARDOT Materials Division Head
 - ARDOT Transportation Planning and Policy Division Head
 - ARDOT System Information and Research Division Head
 - ARDOT Human Resources Division Head
 - ARDOT Workforce Development Section Head
 - ARDOT Staff Research Engineer

SECTION 5
Scoring Criteria

~~5.1 The scoring criteria will be in accordance with Act 705, which defined “transportation-related research” as the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials and methods to ensure cost effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation, including without limitation rail, public transportation, aviation, and waterborne transportation.~~

SECTION 5
Eligible Applicants

5.1 Any publicly funded institution of higher education may submit an application to receive a grant for transportation-related research or workforce development to the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

SECTION 6
Scoring Criteria

6.1 Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 27-65-145, “transportation-related research” is defined as the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials and methods to ensure cost effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation, including without limitation rail, public transportation, aviation, and waterborne transportation.

6.2 Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 27-65-145, “workforce development” is defined as industry training, apprenticeship, and educational programs that foster skills required for transportation related personnel development.

SECTION 6-SECTION 7
Award Process

- 6.1 7.1 The ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP Committee will submit their recommendation(s) for award of ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP funding to the ARDOT Director. Upon the Director's approval, a Minute Order will be submitted to the Arkansas Highway Commission for their approval. Upon approval, a letter will be sent to each applicant informing them of the award amount granted for their application.
- 6.2 7.2 An Agreement of Understanding will be prepared by ARDOT for each grant recipient. The recipient and the ARDOT Director must both sign the Agreement of Understanding before funds will be distributed.

SECTION 7-SECTION 8
Reporting Requirements

- 7.1 8.1 At the end of each State Fiscal Year, the recipient must provide ARDOT with certification that expenditures were an appropriate use of the ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP funds accompanied with a summarized expenditure report.
- 7.2 8.2 Additionally, upon expenditure of all ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP funds or completion of the project, whichever occurs first, the recipient must submit a final report detailing what has been accomplished by the project and certifying that all expenditures were made in accordance with the ~~TRRGP~~ TRRWDGP.

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1782

5 By: Representatives Beck, Bentley
6 By: Senator M. Johnson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION
10 OF HIGHWAY REVENUE INTEREST INCOME; TO AMEND THE LAW
11 CONCERNING THE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH FUND
12 AND THE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED GRANT PROGRAM; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES.
14
15

Subtitle

16 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
17 DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHWAY REVENUE INTEREST
18 INCOME; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING
19 THE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH FUND
20 AND THE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED GRANT
21 PROGRAM.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
26

27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 19-5-1258 is amended to read as follows:
28 19-5-1258. Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development
29 Fund.

30 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the
31 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous
32 fund to be known as the "Future Transportation Research and Workforce
33 Development Fund".

34 (b) The Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development Fund
35 shall consist of:

36 (1) If available after the deposit of the funds required under §



1 14-143-130, interest income received under § 27-70-204 up to a maximum amount
 2 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) each year from the State Highway
 3 and Transportation Department Fund; and

4 (2) Any other revenues authorized by law.

5 (c) The Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development Fund
 6 shall be used by the Arkansas Department of Transportation for distributing
 7 grants under the Transportation-Related Research and Workforce Development
 8 Grant Program, § 27-65-145.

9
 10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-65-145 is amended to read as follows:
 11 027-65-145. Transportation-Related Research and Workforce Development
 12 Grant Program – ~~Definition~~ Definitions.

13 (a) As used in this section:

14 (1) ~~“transportation~~ Transportation-related research” means the
 15 systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to
 16 establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and
 17 sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-
 18 effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development
 19 concerning all forms of transportation, including without limitation rail,
 20 public transportation, aviation, and waterborne transportation; and

21 (2) “Workforce development” means industry training,
 22 apprenticeship, and educational programs that foster skills required for
 23 transportation related personnel development.

24 (b) The Transportation-Related Research and Workforce Development
 25 Grant Program is established to provide grants to publicly funded
 26 institutions of higher education for transportation-related research or
 27 workforce development.

28 (c) A publicly funded institution of higher education may submit an
 29 application to receive a grant for transportation-related research or
 30 workforce development to the Arkansas Department of Transportation, which
 31 includes without limitation:

32 (1) A brief description of the transportation-related research;

33 (2) An estimate of the cost-effective benefits of the
 34 transportation-related research or workforce development;

35 (3) The economic development anticipated from the
 36 transportation-related research; and

1 (4) Any other information requested by the department.

2 (d) The department may award a grant to a publicly funded institution
3 of higher education using funds available in the Future Transportation
4 Research and Workforce Development Fund for transportation-related research
5 or workforce development that meets the criteria established by the
6 department.

7 (e) The department and the State Highway Commission shall promulgate
8 rules to implement and administer this section, including without limitation
9 the:

- 10 (1) Application process;
- 11 (2) Disbursement of grant funds; and
- 12 (3) Criteria required under subsection (d) of this section.

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15 **APPROVED: 4/25/21**
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