

EAPDD



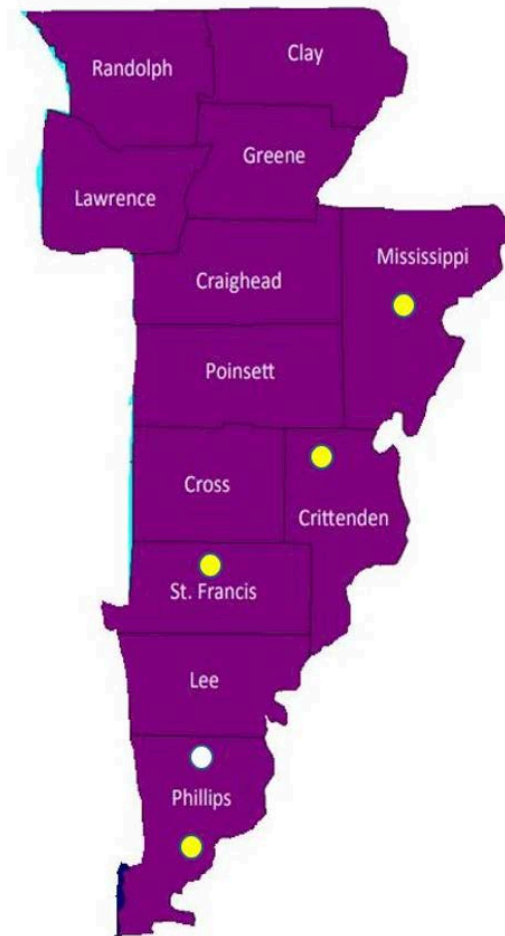
East Arkansas
Planning & Development District

Predominantly African American communities actively seeking / awarded grant funding using EAPDD assistance:

Forrest City	Earle	Luxora
West Memphis	Lake View	Anthonyville
Hughes	Blytheville	Parkin
Turrell	Jeanette	Birdsong
Elaine	Marvell	Osceola

Geographic location of awarded projects:

- ▶ Crittenden County
 - ▶ City of Earle - Mayor Sherman Smith
- ▶ Mississippi County
 - ▶ City of Osceola - Mayor Sally Wilson
- ▶ St. Francis County
 - ▶ City of Forest City - Mayor Cedric Williams
- ▶ Phillips County
 - ▶ City of Helena - West Helena - Mayor Kevin Smith



Consistent hurdles our agency encounters with grant applications:

- ▶ Lack of available funding for grant applicant match.
 - ▶ Most grant require a 10% match. Some grants may require a match up to 25% of the project total. This is hard for many of our smaller communities to provide.
- ▶ Receiving information in a timely manner from the various entities providing information needed for the application process.
 - ▶ Receiving information from the city and from third parties other than the city can slow down or stop the application process in its tracks. This may include getting info from engineers, contractors, or other third parties.
- ▶ Communication barrier due to lack of broadband service.
 - ▶ Some cities do not have access to broadband services. Because of this, some do not have an email address. This makes it difficult to register for DUNS numbers as well as share and receive information in a timely manner.

Obstacles that persistently cause issues for applicants and the application process:

- ▶ Documents/information not being received in a timely manner to us. This often causes the application to be ineligible. We try our hardest to press hard deadlines, and we even extend the deadlines more often than we should.
- ▶ Communication barriers such as no email, no manned office, no working phone, no internet, no fax machines, no computers.
- ▶ Finding an engineer can also be difficult for some of our communities. Engineers not providing a strong preliminary engineering report is key. Getting an engineering report and cost estimate early in the application process truly helps the grant writer.
- ▶ No community involvement. Most grants that we write require some form of community involvement. The more they have, the better their application looks. We often find that there is zero community involvement and forced with a public hearing that no one shows up to.

Grant opportunities available to small towns and communities:

- ▶ AEDC (Arkansas Economic Development Commission) Community Development Block Grants - for populations under 50,000, those with a low-to moderate-income of at least 52%.
- ▶ AEDC Rural Services Block Grant - for populations of 3,000 or less with a low-to-moderate income of at least 51%. This program offers up to \$75,000 with a 10% match.
- ▶ AEDC Rural Community Grant Program - for populations of 3,000 or less with a low-to-moderate income of at least 51%. This program offers up to \$15,000 with a 50\50 match.
- ▶ DRA (Delta Regional Authority) States Economic Development Assistance Program - This program was created specifically for distressed counties and parishes. SEDAP investments emphasize job creation, regional collaboration, and funding partnerships in communities. This program only requires the applicant to be located in the Delta Region.
- ▶ FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Mitigation Grants - Various
- ▶ EDA (Economic Development Administration Grants) - Grant requirements and priorities may vary from each federal fiscal year.