

Arkansas Department of Commerce  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services  
Fiscal Year 2021, Cycle 2 Grant Funding  
Contact: Becca Caldwell, 501-682-3292

**PURPOSE:**

To present funding recommendations from AEDC Rural Services for the Arkansas Rural Community and Arkansas County Fair Building Grant Programs.

**BACKGROUND:**

Each fiscal year, AEDC Rural Services receives legislative appropriation to award funds from the above named grant programs.

Applications received by AEDC Rural Services go through the following process:

1. Reviewed for eligibility by Rural Services staff;
2. Eligible applications and rankings are then reviewed by the Rural Development Commission;
3. Recommendations are forwarded to the Governor; and
4. Recommendations are forwarded to Legislative Council for final approval.

**COMMUNITIES IMPACTED:**

- **Rural Community Grant Program**– Cities and towns with a population of less than 3,000 (no limit on unincorporated areas). Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, community centers, fire stations, parks, storm sirens, storm shelters, beautification projects and any equipment associated. The cap for this grant program is \$15,000 and requires a 50/50 match from all applicants.
- **Arkansas County Fair Building Grant Program**– Counties with a population of less than 55,000. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, construction or renovation of livestock barns, exhibit building, concession stands, bathroom facilities, auditorium and pavilion. It can also be used to purchase equipment such as doors, windows, siding, roofing, lawn mowers, toilets, showers, bleachers or other seating, major appliances. The cap on this grant program is \$4,000 and requires a 50/50 match from all applicants.

**PROPOSED FUNDING:**

- **Rural Community Grant Program (Attachment A)**
  - o Total Dollars Requested from Complete and Eligible Applications: \$450,696.19
  - o Amount Available for Distribution: \$331,144.65
  - o **Amount of Total Funding Recommendations: \$331,144.65**
- **Arkansas County Fair Building Grant Program (Attachment B)**
  - o Total Dollars Requested from Complete and Eligible Applications: \$25,657.61
  - o Amount Available for Distribution: \$25,657.61
  - o **Amount of Total Funding Recommendations: \$25,657.61**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

AEDC Rural Services requests your approval on the funding recommendations for the programs listed above. Attachments outlining recommendations for each program are included with this memo.

## Reading Memo

Approved  
AJ

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**To** : Governor Asa Hutchinson  
**From** : Jordan Bearden  
**CC** : Alison Williams, Bill Gossage, Ateca Foreman, Karen Whatley  
**Date** : Wednesday, April 14, 2021  
**Re** : AEDC Rural Services Funding – Community Grant Programs & Arkansas County Fair Building Grants

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### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this memo is to present funding recommendations from AEDC Rural Services Division for the Arkansas Rural Community and Arkansas County Fair Building grant programs Fiscal Year 2021 Cycle 2 Funding.

#### About

##### **Rural Community Grant Program:**

Applicants from incorporated towns of less than 3,000 in population and unincorporated rural areas are eligible for up to \$15,000 in matching funds under this program. The match ratio on the program is 50/50. Communities wishing to apply for projects under the program must provide one half of the cost of the project as match. Match may be comprised of in-kind labor, in-kind materials or cash and must be available at the time of application.

Communities in the past have received funding for baseball/softball fields, community centers, walking tracks, park and playground equipment, pavilions, picnic tables, and library shelving. Fire departments have received funding for new fire stations, additional bays for existing stations, turn-out gear, communications equipment, fire trucks, SCBA's, extrication equipment and brush trucks.

##### **Arkansas County Fair Building Grant Program:**

County Fairs located in counties with a population of less than 55,000 are eligible for up to \$4,000 per fiscal year and requires a 50/50 match from all applicants. for construction, renovation or general improvements of County Fair buildings or purchase of items shown to directly improve the building or the services that the County Fair Association may provide.

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, construction or renovation of livestock barns, exhibit building, concession stands, bathroom facilities, auditorium and pavilion. It can also be used to purchase equipment such as doors, windows, siding, roofing, lawn mowers, toilets, showers, bleachers or other seating, major appliances.

**FUNDING**

AEDC Rural Services received a legislative appropriation to award funds from the above-named grant program.

Proposed funding:

- **Rural Community Grant Program (Attachment A)**
  - o Total Dollars Requested from Complete and Eligible Applications: \$450,696.19
  - o Amount Available for Distribution: \$331,144.65
  - o ***Amount of Total Funding Recommendations: \$331,144.65***
  
- **Arkansas County Fair Building Grant Program (Attachment B)**
  - o Total Dollars Requested from Complete and Eligible Applications: \$25,657.61
  - o Amount Available for Distribution: \$25,657.61
  - o ***Amount of Total Funding Recommendations: \$25,657.61***

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Applications received by AEDC Rural Services are reviewed for eligibility. Once reviewed and ranked, they are vetted through the Rural Development Commission and forwarded to the Governor for review. Recommendations are then forwarded to the Legislative Council for final approval.
2. AEDC Rural Services requests your approval on funding recommendations for the program listed above. An attachment outlining recommendations for this program is included as well.
3. I concur with AEDC's recommendations and support your approval to issue the funds.

Agree AA Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ Request More Information \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Funding Recommendation Report

Jordan Bearden / 501.612.4837



**RURAL SERVICES**

**Rural Community Grant Programs  
Funding Recommendations**

Fiscal Year 2021  
Cycle 2

Applicant	County	Requested	Narrative	Resubmit	Senator	Representative	Recommendation
Avoca Fire Department	Benton	\$15,000.00	The Avoca Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase turnout gear.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cecile Bledsoe	Vacant Vacant	\$15,000.00
Bono	Craighead	\$10,975.00	The city of Bono is requesting \$10,975.00 in funding to purchase and install a new tornado siren.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Sullivan	Jack Ladyman	\$10,975.00
Carlisle	Lonoke	\$15,000.00	The Carlisle Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a new compressor to fill their air tanks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Dismang	Roger Lynch	\$0.00
Clarkridge Fire Department	Baxter	\$15,000.00	The Clarkridge Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a new pumper truck. The Department has four trucks, they are looking to replace all of them in phases.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Flippo	Nelda Speaks	\$0.00
Collins-Cominto Fire Department	Drew	\$14,550.00	The Collins-Cominto Fire Department is requesting \$14,550.00 in funding to purchase new turnout gear and radios.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Gilmore	Howard Beaty	\$14,550.00
Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department	Prairie	\$15,000.00	The Crossroads VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a 1999 Pierce Saber Custom Pumper truck.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Dismang	David Hillman	\$15,000.00

Applicant	County	Requested	Narrative	Resubmit	Senator	Representative	Recommendation
DeAnn Volunteer Fire Department	Hempstead	\$1,767.00	The DeAnn VFD is requesting \$1,767.00 in funding to purchase new radios.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Teague	Danny Watson	\$1,767.00
England	Lonoke	\$15,000.00	The city of England is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to replace fencing and dugouts at the England Ball Complex for their little league and t-ball fields.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Dismang	Roger Lynch	\$15,000.00
Galatia	Baxter	\$15,000.00	The town of Galatia is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to start Phase II of turning their old church into a community center. They will be adding siding, a new roof and repairing walls.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Missy Irvin	John Payton	\$15,000.00
Grant County	Grant	\$15,000.00	Grant County is requesting \$15,000.00 to add two water hydrants and upgrade an electric panel at the county owned Cox Creek Lake Park.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles Beckham	Ken Bragg	\$15,000.00
Gravette Fire Department	Benton	\$15,000.00	The Gravette Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new turnout gear.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Hendren		\$0.00
Hacket Fire Department	Sebastian	\$15,000.00	Hackett Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new SCBA units.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mathew Pitsch	Marcus Richmond	\$0.00
Hazen	Prairie	\$15,000.00	The city of Hazen is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct an indoor batting facility near the ballpark.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Dismang	Roger Lynch	\$15,000.00
Hector	Pope	\$8,229.50	The city of Hector is requesting \$8,229.50 in funding to purchase and install a tornado siren.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Breanne Davis	Keith Slape	\$8,229.50

Applicant	County	Requested	Narrative	Resubmit	Senator	Representative	Recommendation
Hickory Flat Fire Department	White	\$15,000.00	The Hickory Flat Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding for a 22' X 24' addition to be added on to the Fire Department as a SCBA storage and filling room.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Missy Irvin	Cameron Cooper	\$15,000.00
Highfill	Benton	\$15,000.00	The city of Highfill is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to renovate the interior of their community building. This building has been renovated using RCGP and RSBGP grant funds but for the exterior.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bart Hester	Delia Haak	\$0.00
Hwy 35 South Volunteer Fire Department	Cleveland	\$15,000.00	The Hwy 35 South Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 to aid in the construction of a steel building which will serve as their fire station.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Gilmore	Mike Holcomb	\$15,000.00
Jacksonport	Jackson	\$2,750.00	The city of Jacksonport is requesting \$2,750.00 in funding to purchase and install a new HVAC unit for the Jacksonville Community Safe Room.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ronald Caldwell	Craig Christiansen	\$2,750.00
Lavaca Fire Department	Sebastian	\$9,400.65	The Lavaca Fire Department is requesting \$9,400.65 in funding to purchase a washer and dryer unit for their turnout gear.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Ballinger	Lee Johnson	\$9,400.65
Leachville	Mississippi	\$15,000.00	The city of Leachville is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a new concession stand at the city's ball park.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave Wallace	Johnny Rye	\$15,000.00
Marshall	Searcy	\$15,000.00	The city of Marshall is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a VACTRON pump system for the cities drainage system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Missy Irvin	Keith Slape	\$15,000.00

Applicant	County	Requested	Narrative	Resubmit	Senator	Representative	Recommendation
McNab	Hempstead	\$7,465.00	The city of McNab is requesting \$7,465.00 in funding to purchase a new work tractor for the city.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jimmy Hickey, Jr.	Danny Watson	\$7,465.00
McNeil Fire Department	Columbia	\$9,069.00	The McNeil Fire Department is requesting \$9,069.00 in funding to purchase 6 sets of turnout gear.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles Beckham	David Fielding	\$9,069.00
Moro Fire Department	Lee	\$7,323.50	The town of Moro is requesting \$7,323.50 in funding to replace the siding and roof on the Moro Fire and Rescue Department.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ronald Caldwell	Reginald Murdock	\$7,323.50
Murfreesboro	Pike	\$15,000.00	The city of Murfreesboro is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to install a pavillion and play area in their city park.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Teague	Justin Gonzales	\$15,000.00
Oak Prairie Volunteer Fire Department	Prairie	\$15,000.00	Oak Prairie Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase equipment to outfit their recently acquired truck.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Dismang	David Hillman	\$0.00
Oakland Promise Land Fire Protection District	Marion	\$8,490.00	Oakland Promise Land Fire Protection District is requesting \$8,490.00 in funding to purchase SCBA tanks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Flipppo	Jack Fortner	\$8,490.00
Ogden	Little River	\$5,150.00	The city of Ogden is requesting \$5,150.00 in funding to renovate the interior and exterior of their community center.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jimmy Hickey, Jr.	DeAnn Vaught	\$5,150.00
Omaha Rural Fire Association	Boone	\$15,000.00	The Omaha Rural Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase another pumper truck for the fire department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Flipppo	Ron McNair	\$15,000.00

Applicant	County	Requested	Narrative	Resubmit	Senator	Representative	Recommendation
Poinsett County	Poinsett	\$15,000.00	Poinsett County is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to install a lighted pavillion in their new Main Street Learning Park.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave Wallace	Dwight Tosh	\$0.00
Round Mountain Volunteer Fire Department	Washington	\$9,087.50	The Round Mountain Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$9,087.50 to purchase seven sets of turnout gear.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lance Eads	Bruce Coleman	\$9,087.50
Rover Fire Department	Yell	\$9,675.00	The Rover Fire Department is requesting \$9,675.00 in funding to purchase and install an overhead door for the Fire Department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gary Stubblefield	Mary Bentley	\$9,675.00
Scranton Rural Fire Department	Logan	\$15,000.00	The Scranton Rural Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new equipment. (Resubmit twice)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary Stubblefield	Jon Eubanks	\$15,000.00
Thornton	Calhoun	\$12,612.50	The city of Thornton is requesting \$12,612.50 in funding to complete their community center project, which will be the addition of a heat and air unit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trent Garner	Jeff Wardlaw	\$12,612.50
Tontitown	Washington	\$14,551.54	The city of Tontitown is requesting \$14,551.54 in funding to repair and renovate the Harry Sbanotto Park's Baseball Field.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bart Hester	Robin Lundstrum	\$0.00
Ulm	Prairie	\$15,000.00	The town of Ulm is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to replace two heat and air units along with duct work in the Ulm Community Center. Wiring and lights will be replaced as well as the ceiling and wall coverings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Dismang	David Hillman	\$15,000.00



Applicant	County	Requested	Narrative	Resubmit	Senator	Representative	Recommendation
Water Valley Volunteer Fire Department	Randolph	\$4,600.00	Water Valley Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$4,600.00 in funding to purchase new digital radios.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Frances Cavenaugh	\$4,600.00

37 record(s) totaling \$450,696.19

Total Recommended Amount: \$331,144.65



## County Fair Building Grant Program Complete and Eligible Report

Fiscal Year                    2021  
Cycle                                2

Applicant	County	Requested	Narrative	Senator	Representative	Recommendation
Baxter County Fair Association	Baxter	\$3,126.15	The Baxter County Fair is requesting \$3,126.15 in funding to purchase and install new doors for their commercial buildings.	Scott Flippo	Nelda Speaks	\$3,126.15
Clark County Fair Association	Clark	\$2,531.46	The Clark County Fair Association is requesting \$2,531.46 in funding to purchase new lights for the youth building.	Charles Beckham	Richard Womack	\$2,531.46
Little River County Fair Association	Little River	\$4,000.00	The Little River County Fair is requesting \$4,000.00 in funding to purchase new benches for their multi-use arena.	Jimmy Hickey, Jr.	DeAnn Vaught	\$4,000.00
Nevada County Fair Association	Nevada	\$4,000.00	The Nevada County Fair Association is requesting \$4,000.00 in funding to build a new rabbit barn.	Larry Teague	Danny Watson	\$4,000.00
North Franklin County Fair Association	Franklin	\$4,000.00	The North Franklin County Fair Association is requesting \$4,000.00 in funding to upgrade electricity in several buildings on the fair grounds.	Gary Stubblefield	Mark Berry	\$4,000.00
Poinsett County Fair Association	Poinsett	\$4,000.00	Poinsett County Fair Association is requesting \$4,000.00 in funding to purchase and install 15 electrical outlets.	Dave Wallace	Dwight Tosh	\$4,000.00
Scott County Fair Association	Scott	\$4,000.00	Scott County Fair Association is requesting \$4,000.00 in funding to install a new roof on the home economics building.	Terry Rice	Marcus Richmond	\$4,000.00
7 record(s) totaling \$25,657.61						<b>Total Recommended Amount:</b> \$25,657.61