

COVID-19 Support for Communities with High Poverty Rates and Communities of Color

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Steering Committee has approved a proposal by the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) to help offset the negative impacts of the public health emergency on the state's high-poverty communities. DHS intends to provide financial support to organizations serving the needs of communities with large populations of Arkansans who have limited incomes and those communities with significant minority populations, which have been shown to be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

CARES Act funding for non-profit and community organizations serving low-income and minority communities can help overcome infrastructure challenges that limit access.

- Many low-income communities in Arkansas rely on non-profit organizations to help citizens get their basic needs met, such as food, clothing, rent, transportation, and help finding a job.
- However, many of these organizations have been affected by the pandemic. They've seen decreased donations.
 - To be eligible, non-profit and community organizations must be able to provide services to high poverty areas.
 - A high poverty area is one where the poverty rate for the city or county is 15 percent or more based on the 2010 Census. See the Census tool here:
<https://www.census.gov/content/census/en/search-results.html?stateGeo=none&q=poverty%20Arkansas&searchtype=web&page=1>
- Organizations also must meet the following requirements to be eligible for funding:
 - Mission or vision to advance equity and address needs for high-poverty communities
 - Demonstrate a history of service in high-poverty communities
 - Leadership and staff are representative of populations served
 - Document racial and socioeconomic populations that have been served
 - History of clear strategies for engagement with members of the community
 - Been in operations since March 1, 2019
 - Administrative staff of no more than 15 paid staff or an annual operating budget of \$1.5 million or less.

Applications will be reviewed to make sure focus is on direct services for those in need.

- The maximum amount for each grant is \$10,000 per proposal, and 85 percent of the funding must be used to provide direct services to clients.
 - Proposals for funding should include information regarding the population served, the proposed timeline for activities, types of activities, and proposed budget for each activity.
- Applications must be submitted by Nov. 18, 2020. Those submitted after Nov. 18 will not be accepted.
 - Funds must be used or distributed based on the organization's plan by Dec. 30, 2020.
 - Online Application Site: <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/procurement/details/covid-19-community-outreach-investment-in-communities-with-high-poverty-rates-and-significant-minority-populations>