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Strengthening Arkansas Communities

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Community & Economic Development
Strengthening Arkansas Communities



The mission of Community & Economic Development (CED) is to strengthen Arkansas communities and businesses through research-based education.



SERVICES

Leadership

Flagship programs such as *LeadAR* and *ConnectAR* help identify and train active and effective youth and adult leaders for community, county and statewide leadership roles. Education about parliamentary procedure and other tools to help organizations be more effective are also offered through a variety of teaching methods.

Community

CED helps Arkansas communities and regions build local capacity to improve their social and economic well-being and create vibrant and resilient communities. Programs include visioning, strategic planning, and strategies for effective economic development. Local government educational outreach helps government officials and community members identify causes of fiscal stress and develop effective strategies for providing community services.

Business

CED provides educational programs and technical assistance to strengthen Arkansas businesses. The Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center (APAC) provides training, technical assistance and resources to help Arkansas businesses sell products and services to public agencies and their contractors. Annual *Income Tax Schools* provide updates on policies, procedures and new tax legislation for tax professionals that meet continuing education unit standards. Entrepreneurship and e-commerce programs teach youth and adult business operators how to enhance their competitive edge based on the latest research findings and technology.

Public Policy

The Public Policy Center provides timely, credible, unbiased and research-based information and education about public issues. Our goals are to:

- increase citizen knowledge, awareness and understanding of public issues;
- enhance public participation in decisions regarding public issues and
- help citizens craft, evaluate and implement alternative solutions to public issues.

PRODUCTS

CED periodically publishes state, county and subject-matter profiles. Based on social and economic indicators, profiles provide community and state leaders with snapshots of current conditions and emerging trends. Other publications include newsletters, fact sheets, impact studies, best practices, policy briefs and curriculum guides.