

CLAY COUNTY

Arkansas



Plan "Snapshot"

Clay County, Arkansas is a small county of just over 16,000 people located in the northeastern corner of the state along the Missouri border. What we lack in population, we more than make up for in heart. Although our communities have seen some success in our individual efforts, we have not yet established countywide partnerships to give us greater opportunity for success. Through this strategic planning process, we are building these partnerships ones we hope will last well into the future.

Our youth are the future of Clay County. We recognize this in every aspect of what we do. Our Steering Committee, which includes representatives from local high schools, realizes that there is a strong sense of pride that ties us all together. No matter what the age group, we all feel that this is our town, our county and our time to make a difference.

We are a community that is still patriotic. We still believe in this great nation we call the United States of America. We are proud to grow food that feeds the world and grow cotton that clothes it, a true testament to the glory of this country. Our families grew up in agricultural communities – we worked together, lived together, played together and harvested together as families. These values are still present today, rooted in the heritage and characteristics of our children.

We've experienced hard times, just like other communities in East Arkansas and other rural communities around the nation. This process of strategic planning has encouraged us to be optimistic. We are lighting a fire here in Clay County, fanning the flames of hope with hard work and dedication to future success. This is our opportunity to shine and to make Clay County a beacon for other small communities around the country, proving once and for all that a small group of people can make a difference.

We will make a difference.

PLAN DIRECTOR

Janet Manchester

Executive Director

Rector Community Development

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Haven Cagle

Student

Rector High School

Gerald Morris

Mayor

City of Piggott

Scott Cole

Piggott

Dewayne Phelan

Mayor

City of Corning

Louie Cordell

Rector

Judy Phelan

Lindsey Ford

Student

Rector High School

Debbie Jackson

Assistant to the Mayor

City of Piggott

David Freeman

Mayor

City of Rector

Johnna Redman

Piggott Area Chamber of Commerce

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Gary Howell

County Judge

Clay County

Kim Romine

Office Manager

City of Rector

Blake Johnson

City Councilor

City of Corning

Sidney Simmons

Student

Rector High School

James Magee

Executive Director

Piggott Community Hospital

Daniel White

Student

Rector High School

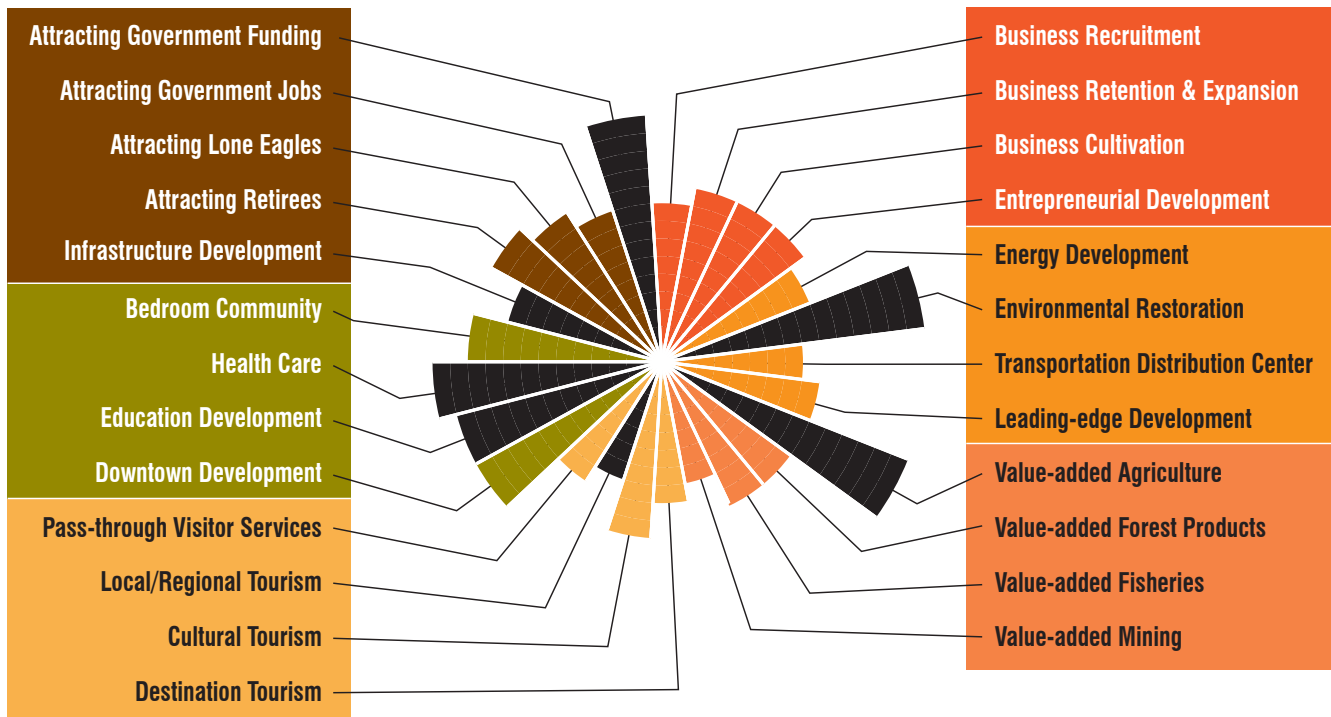
Leann Mann

Principal

Piggott Elementary School

CLAY COUNTY STRATEGY “THUMBPRINT”

The strategy “thumbprint” depicts twenty-five community and economic development strategies in terms of Clay County’s potential to successfully implement each of the strategies. The longer the “spoke,” the greater the likelihood that Clay County could see success in pursuing that strategy. Black spokes indicate strategies that have been selected for implementation by the Clay County Steering Committee.



SELECTED STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES

Attracting Funding	Increased collaboration and coordination for funding opportunities.
Civic Engagement, Leadership and Volunteerism	Leadership training programs for elected officials, volunteers and youth; Development of countywide website.
Community Beautification	Clean-up and beautification projects for each community.
Education Development	Expansion of education and workforce training opportunities.
Environmental Restoration	Redevelopment of dilapidated and brownfield properties.
Health Care Expansion	Expansion of existing health care facilities and services.
Infrastructure Development	Master planning for improvement and expansion of infrastructure.
Local/Regional Tourism	Development of “Clay Lake” and supporting amenities.
Recreation and Entertainment	New facilities for recreation throughout the county.
Senior Living	Development of new assisted living and senior living facilities.
Value-added Agriculture	Development of opportunities for local producers to expand markets.