

# 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*

**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**

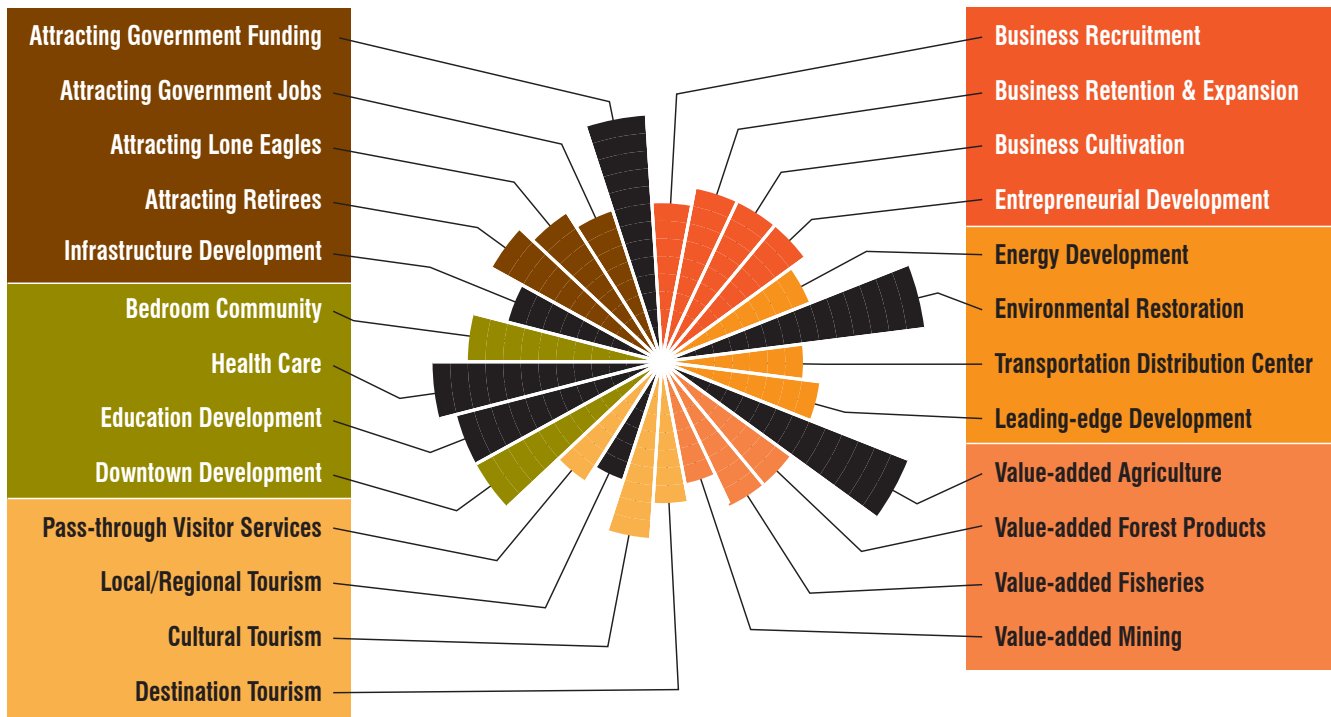
*Student  
Rector High School*

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