

EAPDD

East Arkansas  
Planning & Development District

# Annual Report 2018

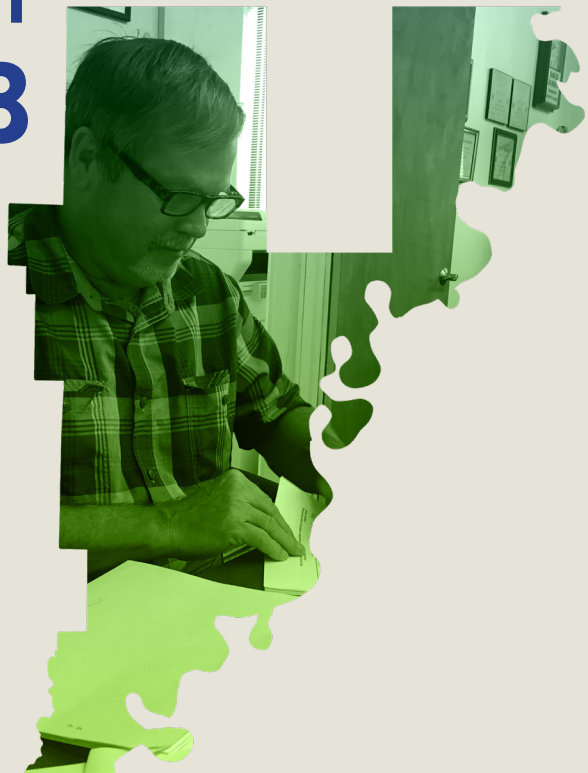




Table of Contents	2	Craighead County	22-23
Letter from the Executive Director	3	Mississippi County	24-25
Board Members	4	Poinsett County	26-27
Letter from the Board Chair	5	Cross County	28-29
Communities +	6-7	Crittenden County	30-31
Disaster Mitigation	8-9	St. Francis County	32-33
Environmental Services	10	Lee County	34-35
Financial Services	11	Phillips County	36-37
Making Connections	12-13	Regional Overview	38-39
Randolph County	14-15	2018 in Review	40-41
Clay County	16-17	Meet the Team	42-43
Lawrence County	18-19		
Greene County	20-21		

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been a year of celebration at East Arkansas Planning & Development District. However, in between celebrating our 50th year, we've been gearing up for changes in the 51st year and onward.

The EAPDD Communities+ Data Initiative continues to move forward with the onboarding of our second VISTA volunteer, Josh Mullinax, in November. He's not the only new member of the EAPDD team though, we also welcomed Jenny Moore as our Community Services Coordinator. She will help us give more personalized service to our communities.

I am personally excited for this next chapter that is unfolding at East Arkansas Planning & Development District, the EAPDD Communities + Initiative. Economic Development Data can be expensive, time-consuming and, on some occasions, just downright confusing! That's why I'm happy EAPDD is able to offer this resource that not only gathers the data, saving our counties time and money but can help them utilize it to the best of our ability and view it through a regional lens.

That regional lens is one of the most powerful things that the district offers. Through our work, elected officials, are brought together to talk about ways that they can leverage our resources and all benefit from a project, instead of one city or county receiving all the benefit, or worse, everyone losing because one community didn't have the resources to secure jobs for the citizenry.

In addition to two new team members, we've also added numerous grants to our portfolio and our communities, as well as impacted the lives of small business owners through our EDA revolving loan fund program. We've also kept tons of recyclables out of East Arkansas' landfills, making it a cleaner and greener place to live.

One of the things I love most about my job is being able to work with all of the amazing partners we have. From federal and state agencies to our elected officials and beyond, it fills me with pride to know so many people that are so dedicated to improving the lives of others. I am always excited for what is to come with this amazing group of partners!

Margaret Mead, a famed American cultural anthropologist, said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." I am confident that our small team of talented individuals are moving towards making a change for East Arkansas.



 **"It fills me with pride to know so many people that are so dedicated to improving the lives with others"**

**Melissa Rivers, EAPDD Executive Director**

# BOARD LIST



**Judge Mike Patterson**

*Clay County*

**Mayor Rob Young**

*Corning*

**Mayor Jim Poole**

*Piggott*

**Judge Ed Hill**

*Craighead County*

**Mayor Harold Perrin**

*Jonesboro*

**Mayor Kenneth Jones**

*Brookland*

**Judge Woody Wheelless**

*Crittenden County*

**Mayor Frank Fogleman**

*Marion*

**Judge Donnie Sanders**

*Cross County*

**Mayor Bob Stacy**

*Wynne*

**Mayor Adam Love**

*Cherry Valley*

**Mr. Terry Woodard**

*Member at Large*

**Judge Rusty McMillon**

*Greene County*

**Mayor Mike Gaskill**

*Paragould*

**Mayor Steve Dixon**

*Marmaduke*

**Judge John Thomison**

*Lawrence County*

**Mayor Charles Snapp**

*Walnut Ridge*

**Mayor Bonnie Ragsdale**

*Black Rock*

**Judge Terry Sandefer**

*Lee County*

**Mayor Jimmy Williams**

*Marianna*

**Mayor Chad Glass**

*Aubrey*

**Mr. Eoise Trice**

*Member at Large*

**Judge Terri Brassfield**

*Mississippi County*

**Mayor James Sanders**

*Blytheville*

**Mayor Dickie Kennemore**

*Osceola*

**Judge Clark Hall**

*Phillips County*

**Mayor Jay Hollowell**

*Helena-West Helena*

**Mayor Michael Cravens**

*Elaine*

**Mr. Leon Phillips**

*Member at Large*

**Judge Bobby Cantrell**

*Poinsett County*

**Mayor Barbara Lewallen**

*Trumann*

**Mayor Randy Mills**

*Harrisburg*

**Judge David Jansen**

*Randolph County*

**Mayor Kary Story**

*Pocahontas*

**Mayor Johnny Cochran**

*Ravenden Springs*

**Judge Gary Hughes**

*St. Francis County*

**Mayor Grady Collum**

*Hughes*

**Mayor Larry Bryant**

*Forrest City*



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Hey there! I'm Judge Jansen of Randolph County and I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve the people of the county as their judge. I'd like to welcome you to EAPDD's 2019 annual report.

I hope this report leaves you both proud of the work that has been done in East Arkansas so far and hopeful for the future. I know I am.

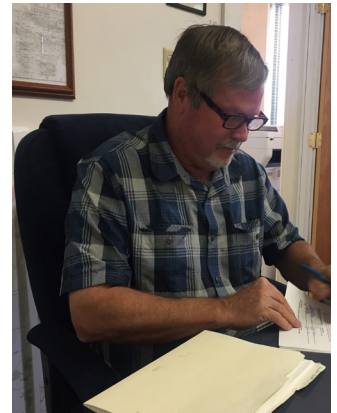
For me, serving on the board has been a pleasure. I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to converse with my fellow judges as well as local mayors. It has given me the opportunity to learn and be inspired by my peers on the EAPDD board.

This report will highlight the district's newest efforts, the EAPDD Communities + program. This program will create a database of economic development information that will make it easier for elected officials, like me, to make better, more informed decisions for our communities.

I saw first-hand how valuable this data can be a number of years ago when the chicken processors, PECO, were looking to bring jobs to Arkansas. While Randolph County was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of the locations for the two new facilities that were built, our neighbor, Clay County, was also a recipient of a PECO facility. Citizens from Randolph County commute to the Clay County facility and vice versa, leading to shared benefit and a stronger community for counties.

I'm excited that stories like this are going to become more and more common with the EAPDD Communities + Initiative and am excited to be your board chair during this new and exciting phase for East Arkansas.

**Judge Jansen, Randolph County Judge**



**+ “I hope  
this report  
leaves you both  
proud of the  
work that has  
been done in  
East Arkansas  
so far and  
hopeful for the  
future. I know I  
am.”**

# THE FUTURE IS HERE!

“Knowledge is power” is a phrase that increasingly defines our technological world. Though this has always been the case, the Delta is known for lagging behind the rest of the country when it comes to digital advances. Or, at least, that’s what they’ve said up until now. EAPDD Communities + is the program that will usher East Arkansas into a new era of harnessing economic development data and regional cooperation to make 21st century decisions for these often-historic communities. There are three main ingredients that define this initiative – data, cooperation and capacity



building. The first part, data, uses information from large corporations as well as data collected locally to fully understand the state of the economy, including the community’s strengths as well as obstacles that can be strategically tackled. The second, cooperation, recognizes the interconnectedness of the region and leverages East Arkansas’ shared strengths instead of allowing individual weaknesses to stunt growth as a region. Lastly, capacity building, seeks to spread knowledge of best economic development practices throughout the district by providing professional development opportunities that would otherwise require time and travel expenses to acquire.

# Communities + So Far...

Originally called “Revolution,” this project started the day Melissa Rivers, EAPDD’s executive director, took office. Years later, with the proper staff in place and funding secured, a vision is becoming clearer. With the help of VISTA volunteers and our economic development partners, this database of vital data is almost ready for launch.



## July 2017

The first USDA Rural Business Development Grant granted to EAPDD for this project was received in July 2017 and totaled \$52,010.00. This initial grant helped start the process of data collection by allowing EAPDD to work with economic development contractors, data specialists and data warehouse services.



## July 2018

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$300,000 to EAPDD in Brownfields Assessment Grants. The award is part of \$54.5 million that the EPA is distributing to 145 communities nationwide to assess and clean up underutilized properties while protecting public health and the environment.



## Nov. '17 - Nov. '18

EAPDD was awarded an Americorps VISTA Volunteer for the completion of gathering economic development data. Camille Labatut was chosen as the first VISTA Volunteer. After spending a year gathering local economic development data, her term of service ended in November of 2018.



## July 2018

One hundred thousand dollars was awarded to EAPDD through their second USDA Rural Business Development Grant for the continuation of what they have dubbed “EAPDD Communities+.”



## Nov. '18 - Nov. '19

Picking up where Camille left off, Joshua Mullinax joined the team to become our second VISTA volunteer.



# DISASTER MITIGATION

The first step in disaster mitigation is to have a plan in place. These mammoth documents outline the current situation in a county including everything from obvious natural disasters, like flooding and tornadoes, to the less obvious, including chemical exposure and disease outbreak. These plans are important because completing one enables the community to apply for additional funding sources that will reinforce a community against mother nature. However, protecting oneself against the weather isn't always done on the darkest days, some of these projects are helpful even when the sun is shining. For example, many safe rooms also double as community facilities that can be used for voting or other events.

## Old Jail, New Purpose

We jokingly tell our staff not to get into too much trouble when they roam the district, but we never expected to actually be sent a picture from jail! Ashley Lawrence and Jenny Moore visited Lawrence County to view a potential spot for a new 911 center for the county.

## Continuing to Certify



Professional development is ongoing here at the district, but Ashley Lawrence, the Disaster Resiliency Coordinator, takes the cake for most certifications collected. She has taken 19 of FEMA's Emergency Management Institute Courses, one course from the Center for Disease Control and one course from the National Organization for Development Organizations. These courses ranged from tornado mitigation to financial management for small water systems.





## Adding FEMA to the List

East Arkansas Planning & Development District works with numerous state and federal agencies, but the introduction of disaster mitigation to the portfolio brought on a new federal partner - the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The first municipality to receive a FEMA grant was the City of Elaine who was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for extraction equipment, commonly called the “jaws of life.”



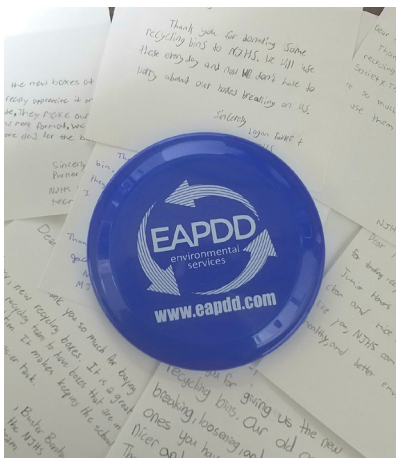
## The Best in GIS

Geospatial Information Systems, that’s quite a mouthful, but the software is even more complicated to use. Ashley Lawrence spent a week grappling with it at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmittsburg, Maryland, December 2-7. She came home having made good connections and an amazing new skill set.



# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Landfills are necessary because we don't want our communities looking like, well, landfills. That's why EAPDD also houses the East Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District (EARSWMD), which is responsible for recycling, solid waste management, e-waste and tire disposal in some of our 12 counties. As the graphic to the right illustrates, EARSWMD covers the six southern most counties: Poinsett, Cross, Crittenden, St. Francis, Lee and Phillips counties. In addition to taking care of the e-waste, recycling and waste-tires in these counties, an agreement has been made for EARSWMD to be the point for waste tire disposal in Mississippi, Randolph, Clay, Lawrence and Greene Counties.



## Thankful for Recycling

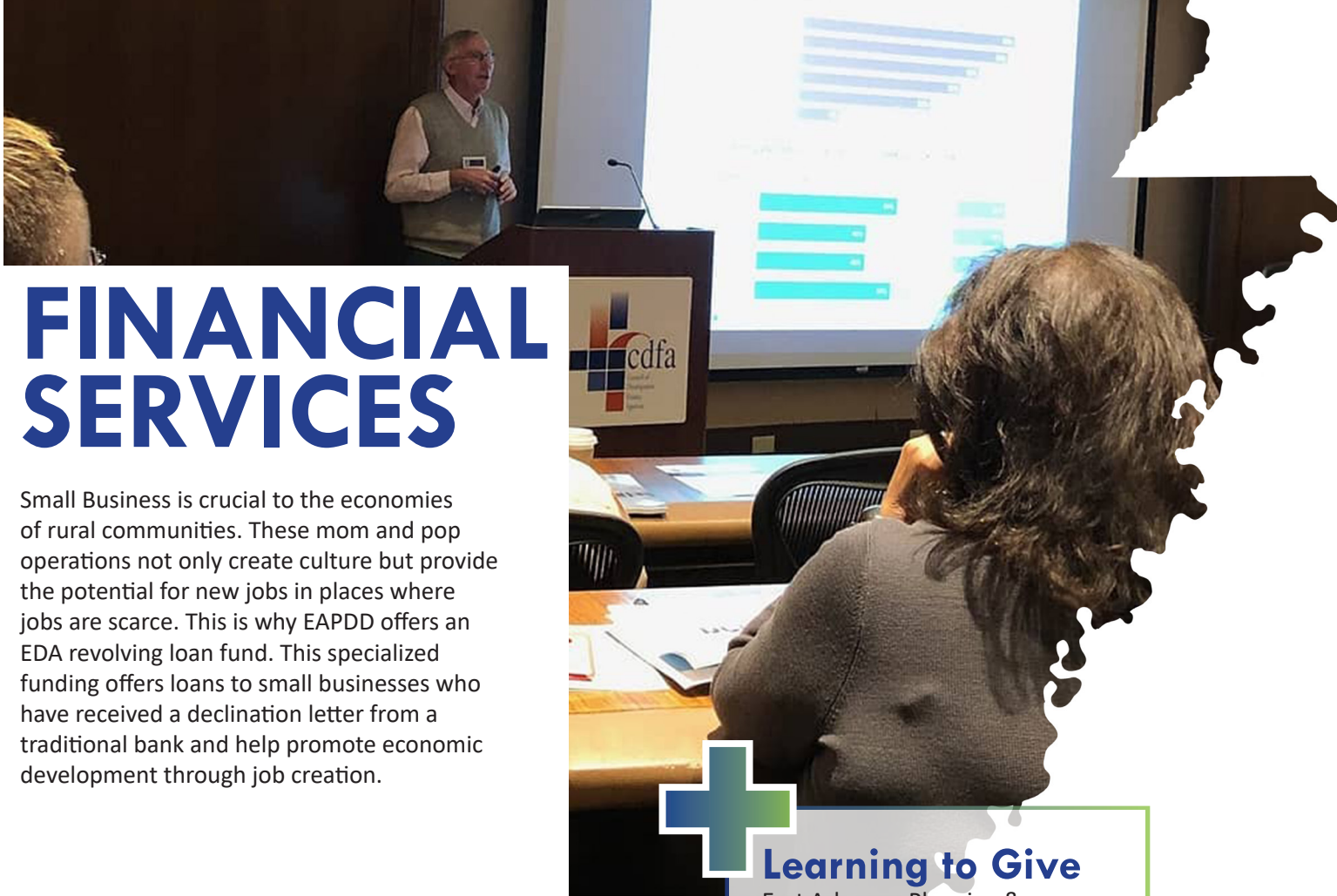
The kids from Marion Junior High School were so thrilled that the East Arkansas Solid Waste Management District was able to get them new recycling bins that each student wrote us a thank you card! Isn't that sweet?



## Making Way for Trailers

Occasionally our trailers make their way to the home base, but we don't always have a place to put them. That's why we renovated our backyard to park these community resources during their brief visits home.





# FINANCIAL SERVICES

Small Business is crucial to the economies of rural communities. These mom and pop operations not only create culture but provide the potential for new jobs in places where jobs are scarce. This is why EAPDD offers an EDA revolving loan fund. This specialized funding offers loans to small businesses who have received a declination letter from a traditional bank and help promote economic development through job creation.

**\$11,330,175.13**  
*In Loans Serviced Since 1972*



## Learning to Give

East Arkansas Planning & Development District's Financial Services department made a trip down to Dallas for the Council for Development Finance Agency's EDA Revolving Loan Fund training. Melissa Rivers, Executive Director, and Jamie Brockwell, Chief of Staff, were reminded of the basics as well as taught advanced techniques in this two-day intensive training session.

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

Improving the lives of those that call East Arkansas home is not a job that is done alone. EAPDD knows this well and, as a result, prioritizes travel all across the country to meet up with these old friends and make new friends. Some of our connections work at other economic development organizations, others live in the world of chamber of commerces and others still call their home the offices of state and federal funding agencies. Regardless, all of their combined expertise help us do the job that we do and EAPDD is grateful for every single one of them!



## Oklahoma City

The old and the new collided in late September at the Oklahoma Brownfields Conference. Ashley Lawrence, Disaster Resiliency Coordinator, caught up with Cornell Wesley, former EAPDD employee and current U.S. Economic Development Administration Economic Development Representative.



## Tulsa, OK

The gang was in Tulsa, OK July 25-27 for the South West Regional Economic Development Administration. Here, EAPDD had the chance to take center stage by serving on a panel in front of representatives from the Economic Development Administration, as well as economic developers from around Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Arkansas.



## Little Rock, AR

Ecotourism, Mobile Classrooms and Smart growth! Oh my! This isn't a classic musical, but all of the things that the EAPDD staff learned about at the AEDC Rural Development Conference that was held in late May.



## Little Rock, AR

The EAPDD was on the road in August at the Arkansas Economic Developers and Chamber Executives annual conference. Here they got to mingle with others in economic development, learn more tricks to strengthen East Arkansas, as well as hear from the governor himself.



## Hot Springs, AR

Three new faces broke onto the Arkansas Association of Development Organization scene as Sarah Thompson, Jake Pollard and Ashley Lawrence attended this year's conference along with familiar faces, Melissa Rivers and Jamie Brockwell.



## North Carolina

Jamie Brockwell, EAPDD Chief of Staff, was chosen for the very special EDA Training Program for Emerging Leaders. This program picks a handful of leaders from planning and development districts across the country by giving them additional training from peers in all 50 states. This is what landed Jamie at this brewery in North Carolina!

# RANDOLPH COUNTY



## THE JUDGE

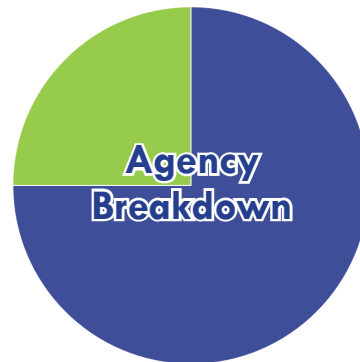
"The Randolph County Economy is doing well. We are investing in instructure. We will be building a new health department along with finishing up a major jail expansion. Our housing shortfall is being addressed with the private sector with a new housing addition along with a quality, affordable new apartment complex."

-Judge David Jansen

# +\$4,214,420.00

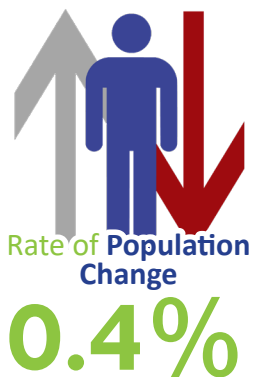
*In Federal and State Investment*

**+\$23.86** LOCAL DOLLARS **FOR EVERY** **\$1** FEDERAL DOLLAR

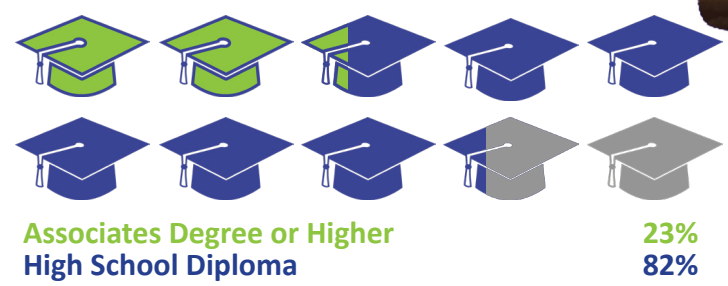


**Delta Regional  
Authority // 25%**  
**Arkansas Economic  
Development  
Commission // 75%**





## Educational Attainment



Infrastructure Development // 25%

Healthy Communities // 50%

Business Development // 25%



## A Healthier Randolph County

Randolph County took a step towards a healthier county this year by receiving a \$200,000 AEDC Community Development Block Grant. A new building for the county health unit was needed because the current building is in a flood zone, meaning that the community was constantly having to spend money to renovate the building and repair the damage.

# CLAY COUNTY

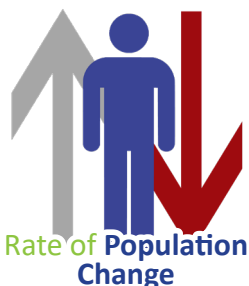
## + \$2,911,400.00

*In Federal and State Investment*



"I'm looking forward to working on getting roads built, ditches dug, trees cut down along roads, replacing old wood bridges with new steel bridges and updating the courthouse. We're also working with companies looking to come to the county to create more jobs. Overall, I'm excited to do what I can to make Clay County and Arkansas a better place to live."

- Judge Mike Patterson



Rate of Population Change

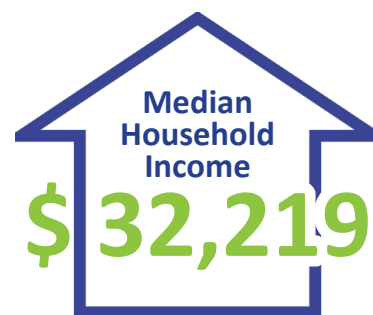
### 0.1 %

+ \$1.10 **FOR EVERY** \$1 FEDERAL DOLLAR  
LOCAL DOLLARS



Pre-School Enrollment

### 9.3%



Median Household Income

### \$32,219



### 1,843

Indirect or Direct Jobs Supported

+ \$51,821,051  
Change in Income





## Infrastructure Years in the Making

It's no secret that grant projects can take years to complete, but in the case of the Town of Datto's wastewater system, the help was long overdue. For almost a decade, the citizens of the small town in Clay County have been struggling with the lack of a wastewater system, subjecting them to frequent sewer backups and leakage into the ground. EAPDD came on the scene in 2014 to help get the problem fixed. Multiple applications were submitted to multiple agencies over the span of four years, before, finally, AEDC awarded them \$200,000, DRA awarded them \$42,100 and USDA chipped in \$600,000 to help fix these issues for the community.

### Regional Plan Achievement

**Infrastructure Development** // 83.3%  
**Healthy Communities** // 16.7%

### Agency Breakdown

**Delta Regional Authority** // 28.57%  
**Arkansas Economic Development Commission** // 42.8%  
**Economic Development Administration** // 14.3%  
**FEMA** // 14.3%

# LAWRENCE COUNTY

## +\$856,734.96

*In Federal and State Investment*

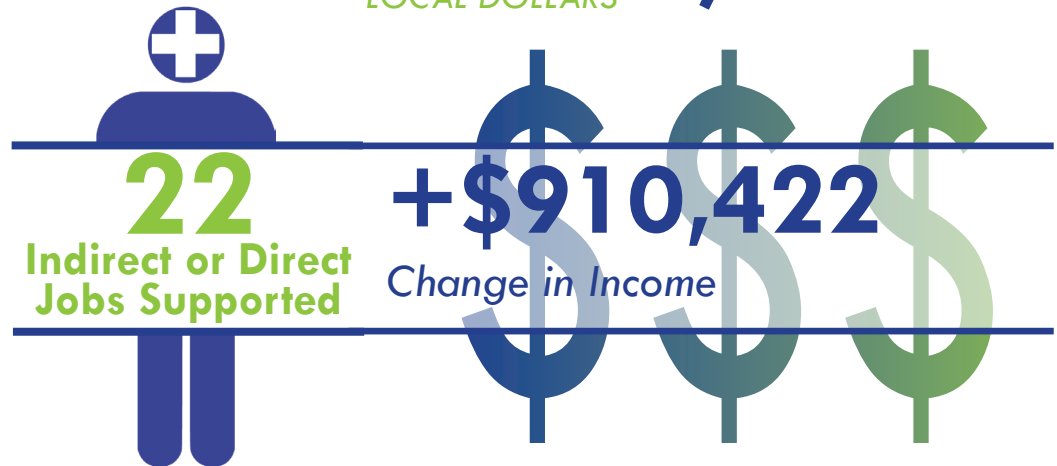


**THE JUDGE**

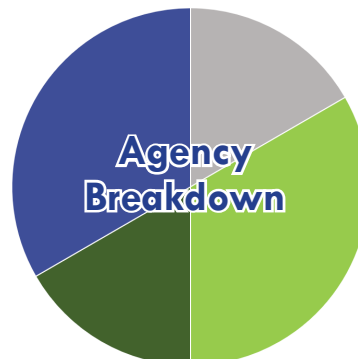
"I'm excited and hope everything holds for us to maintain the businesses we have. We have had some interest expressed in businesses coming here and we look forward to a good economic 2019."

**-Judge John Thomison**

**+\$7.94** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** FEDERAL DOLLAR  
LOCAL DOLLARS



**Infrastructure Development // 33.3%**  
**Healthy Communities // 33.3%**  
**Tourism & Cultural Development // 33.3%**

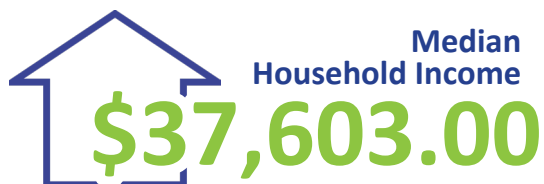


**Delta Regional Authority // 33.3%**  
**Arkansas Economic Development Commission // 16.7%**  
**Arkansas Historic Preservation Program // 33.3%**  
**FEMA // 16.7%**



## Raising the Roof

East Arkansas is home to many historic courthouses. In fact, there is even more than one of these monuments of a different time in some of these 12 counties. Lawrence County's courthouse was in need of a new roof to preserve the rest of the courthouse, which meant that we would have to get on the roof to perform the final site inspection for this grant. As pictured, Melissa Rivers, Executive Director, passed on the opportunity to view downtown Walnut Ridge from this angle!



## Educational Attainment



Associates Degree or Higher  
High School Diploma

**22%**  
**84%**

# GREENE COUNTY



**THE JUDGE**

"Our paved road preventive maintenance program includes purchases of fuel and aggregate, requires equipment maintenance, and involves independent contractors to help provide the asphalt product to our worksite. The 10 year plan to help get these roads in a more manageable condition not only puts money into our local economy through associated costs, it also puts money into our citizens pockets by decreasing wear and tear on their vehicles."

- Judge Rusty McMillon

**+ \$175,000.00**

*In Federal and State Investment*



Rate of Population Change

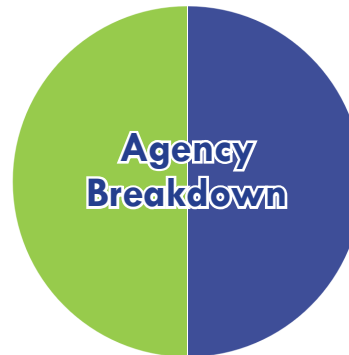
**1.0%**



Pre-School Enrollment

**7.2%**

**+\$0.74** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** FEDERAL DOLLAR  
LOCAL DOLLARS

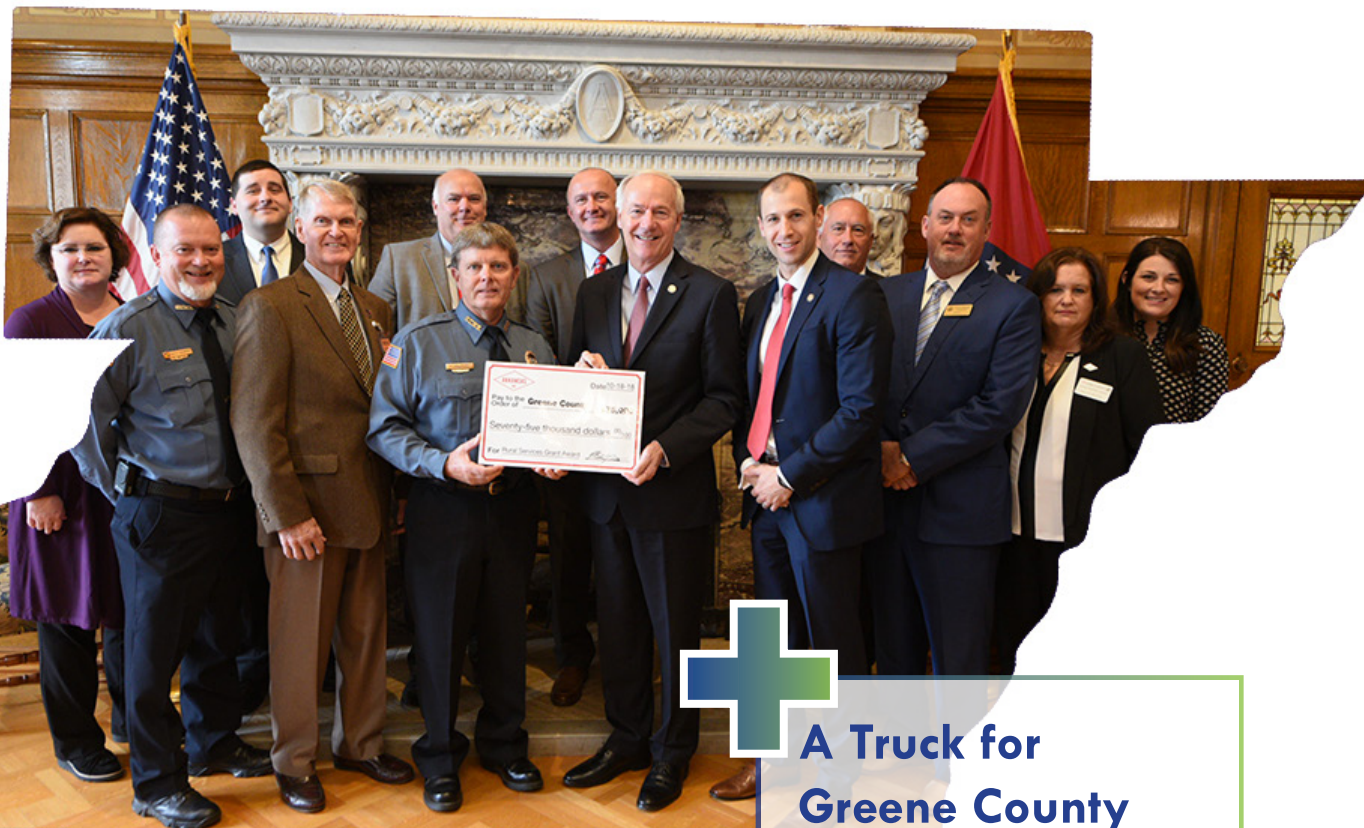


Delta Regional Authority // 50%  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program // 50%



Infrastructure Development // 50%  
Healthy Communities // 50%





## A Truck for Greene County

The beautiful hidden gems that make Arkansas the natural state are tucked away in nooks and crannies that are difficult for rescue crews to access in order to save the lives of both spectators and those that call these natural beauties home. Greene County is no exception. Which is why Greene County Rescue Squad was awarded \$75,000 for the purchase of a new rescue truck. This new vehicle will allow them to reliably get to every nook and cranny that may be struck by the kinds of complicated emergencies that this county-wide organization is specially trained to do.

## + Projects

- Marmaduke Rail Spur
- Greene County Rescue Squad



# CRAIGHEAD COUNTY



## THE JUDGE

"In 2019, I am excited about making progress towards some of the big goals I have for Craighead County. I am excited to learn more about grant opportunities, make county government more efficient, as well as hear of the results of the AHPP grant we just submitted with EAPDD's help. Specifically, I'm excited about the completion of the crisis stabilization unit that we have partnered with the state and surrounding counties to bring to Craighead County."

- Judge Marvin Day

**+ \$1,032,483.00**

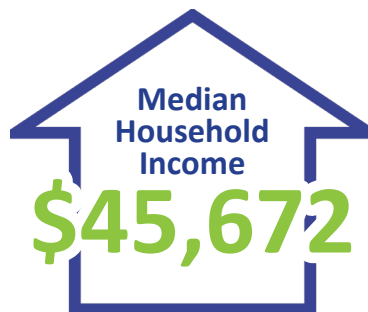
*In Federal and State Investment*

**+ \$1.22** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** *FEDERAL DOLLAR*  
*LOCAL DOLLARS*



**+\$57,331,510**

*Change in Income*



**Delta Regional Authority // 100%**





## Educational Attainment



Associates Degree or Higher  
High School Diploma

33%  
88%



Tourism & Cultural  
Development // 25%  
Healthy  
Communities // 50%  
Business  
Development // 25%

## Becoming Certified

One of the biggest factors that influences a healthy economy is a well-trained workforce. This year Craighead County was recognized for their accomplishments in workforce development by receiving an ACT WorkReady Community Certification. This certification required that hundreds of Craighead County's population pass a written exam and be awarded National Career Readiness Certificates, which gives current and potential future employers a better idea of what Craighead County, and the individual, has to offer the business. This achievement was extra special since they were the second county in the entire state to receive this designation!

# MISSISSIPPI COUNTY

**+ \$6,379,670.00**

*In Federal and State Investment*

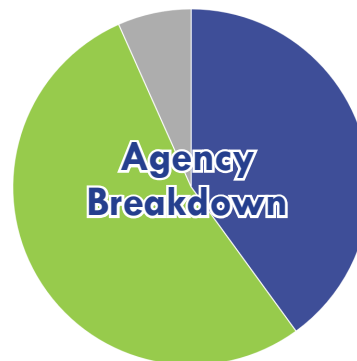
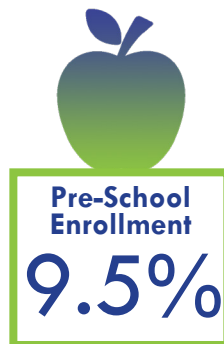


**THE JUDGE**

"Recently, we passed a referendum, extending an existing ½ cent sales tax that will enable Mississippi County to renovate both county courthouses and enlarge the Blytheville courthouse. We are bringing GPS mapping to our county road department and installing a road commission to enhance efficiency around our county infrastructure. We are currently making adjustments in our landfill and have seen a 13% rise in volume compared to last year."

- Judge John Nelson

**+\$0.78** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** FEDERAL DOLLAR  
LOCAL DOLLARS



**Delta Regional Authority // 53.3%**  
**Arkansas Economic Development Commission // 40%**  
**Economic Development Administration // 6%**



## Completed!

A project four years in the making finally wrapped up in the City of Manila. The Manila senior center project started in 2014 with the grant writing process. Later in the year, they received word that they had been awarded a grant and in January 2015 it became official with the signing of the grant documents. Construction wrapped up and a grand opening was held in October of 2018, bringing a close to this project Manila's senior citizens have been waiting for.

## Educational Attainment



Associates Degree or Higher  
High School Diploma

19%  
82%

Median  
Household Income  
**\$36,417.00**



Infrastructure  
Development // 60%  
Healthy  
Communities // 6%  
Tourism & Cultural  
Development // 6%  
Business  
Development // 26.6%

# POINSETT COUNTY



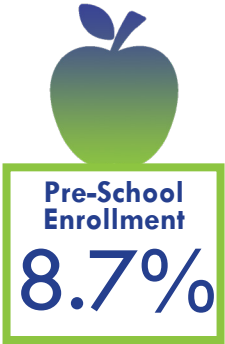
## THE JUDGE

“What I’m looking forward to most is the cooperation of all Poinsett County’s elected officials to make it a better place for citizens. I’m looking forward to making our 911 and OEM services more efficient and hopefully upgrading three more bridges. We’re hauling gravel, digging ditches, making travel safer, and making Poinsett County a better place for people to live.”

- Judge Bobby Cantrell

**+ \$543,500.00**  
*In Federal and State Investment*

**+\$0.72** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** *FEDERAL DOLLAR*  
*LOCAL DOLLARS*



### Educational Attainment







## Creating Jobs

To create accessories for all-terrain vehicles you may believe you need some welding equipment, metal, safety gear and a place to do it all, but the needs for this business go deeper than that. In order to expand this business, it takes many more pieces that often go unnoticed. This is the problem that Rage Fabrications had and, as a result, the City of Trumann needed to address. The Delta Regional Authority pitched in \$225,000 to help them add 10 more jobs to Poinsett County.

### Regional Plan Achievement

**Infrastructure Development** // 25%  
**Healthy Communities** // 50%  
**Business Development** // 25%

### Agency Breakdown

**Delta Regional Authority** // 50%  
**Arkansas Economic Development Commission** // 25%  
**FEMA** // 25%

**Median Household Income**  
**\$37,487.00**

# CROSS COUNTY

## + \$1,342,462.00

*In Federal and State Investment*



**THE JUDGE**

"I am pleased that revenues have been steady, and even on the rise, for the past four years. It paints a good picture for us economically and it puts us in good shape for when businesses consider Cross County."

- Judge Donny Sanders

**+\$1.77** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** FEDERAL DOLLAR  
LOCAL DOLLARS



Infrastructure Development // 12.5%  
Healthy Communities // 25%  
Business Development // 62.5%



Delta Regional Authority // 50%  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission // 50%





## A Sweet Grant for Sweet Potatoes

Imagine a mere 3% of a project's total cost making or breaking the project. After investing \$8.5 million in East Arkansas, Matthews Ridgeview Farms in Wynne needed a little help purchasing the equipment to finish off this expansion project. The Delta Regional Authority answered the call by contributing \$256,500, a mere 3% of the total project cost.

## Educational Attainment



Associates Degree or Higher  
High School Diploma

19%  
80%



1.0%



Pre-School  
Enrollment

7.0%



# CRITTENDEN COUNTY

**+ \$3,839,828.00**

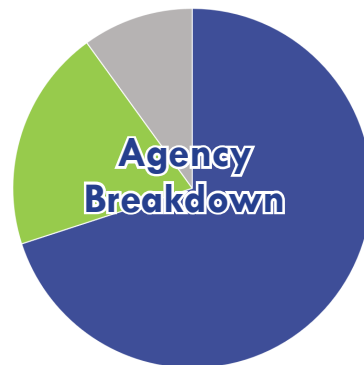
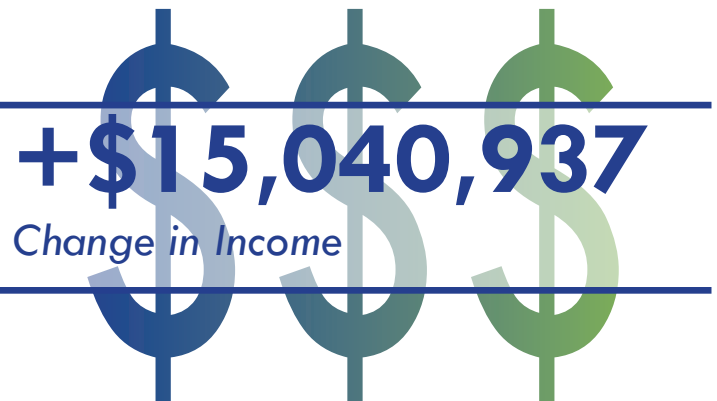
*In Federal and State Investment*

**+ \$9.48** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** *FEDERAL DOLLAR*  
*LOCAL DOLLARS*



"I think we have a lot of potential for this year. We have a lot of construction going on right now, we just opened a new hospital, three hotels are currently under construction and we may get a Chick-fil-A soon"

**-Judge Woody Wheelless**



**Delta Regional Authority // 20%**  
**Arkansas Economic Development Commission // 70%**

**Arkansas Historic Preservation Program // 10%**

## New Paint for a Historic Building

One of the goals of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is to preserve the multitude of historic courthouses that can be found throughout the state. Crittenden County's courthouse falls under this category with its unique dome, "Obedience to the Law is Liberty" engraved in its front and back sides, and the fact that it has defined Crittenden County since its completion in 1911. In addition to providing funds to prepare the roof, which was a much-needed structural repair, the grant they received in 2017 also covered a new coat of paint. The painting was completed in 2018, giving this over 100-year-old building new life.

## Educational Attainment

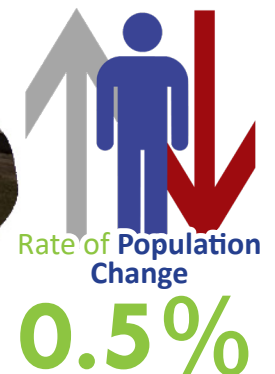


**Associates Degree or Higher**  
**High School Diploma**

**23%**  
**81%**



**Infrastructure Development // 20%**  
**Healthy Communities // 30%**  
**Workforce Development // 20%**  
**Tourism & Cultural Development // 10%**  
**Business Development // 20%**



# ST. FRANCIS COUNTY



**THE JUDGE**

"We are excited about the economic opportunities we have in St. Francis County. A Chinese company has purchased the old Sanyo property on Highway 1 with the prospects of bringing up to 800 jobs to our region in the next few years. We are also optimistic that we will see continued growth around the I-40 Corridor. Also, we hope to see expansion within existing industries located in St. Francis County."

- Judge Gary Hughes

**+ \$406,500.00**

*In Federal and State Investment*

**+ \$5.15** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** FEDERAL DOLLAR  
LOCAL DOLLARS



## +Projects

- EAEC Seeds of Change
- Industrial Park Improvements

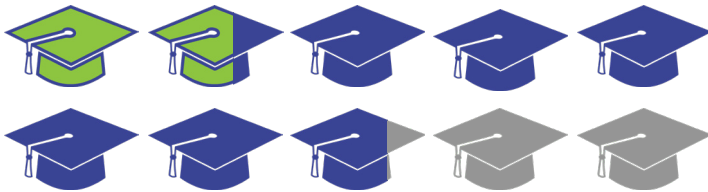


Delta Regional Authority // 100%





## Educational Attainment



**Associates Degree or Higher  
High School Diploma**

**16%  
78%**



**Regional Plan  
Achievement**

**Infrastructure  
Development // 50%**  
**Business  
Development // 50%**

## Big Dreams Require Data

Thanks to their engagement with the EAPDD Communities + program St. Francis County is on its way to leveraging data to make their economic development dreams come true. Through the regional plan, which was put together thanks to funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, St. Francis County discovered that its citizens had big dreams that included affordable housing, business recruitment and value-added agriculture.

# LEE COUNTY



## THE JUDGE

"For 2019, as County Judge, I am looking forward to continuing to improve our county roads, ditches, drainage and emergency services in our community. I am hoping to help our schools to improve and sell our community, in hopes of gaining new jobs and businesses. Also, we are looking forward to gaining more tourism with our Mississippi River State Park, which has great camp sites and recreations with bike and walking trails. We also look forward to better serving our community."

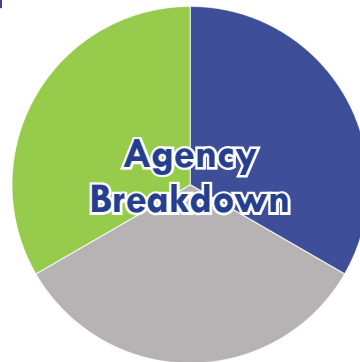
-Judge Terry Sandefer

# + \$288,077.00

*In Federal and State Investment*

# + \$2.34 FOR EVERY \$1

LOCAL DOLLARS FEDERAL DOLLAR



Delta Regional Authority // 33.3%  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission // 33.3%  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program // 33.3%



## 1.7%

## + Projects

- Lee County Courthouse
- Haynes Fire Station
- STRIVE

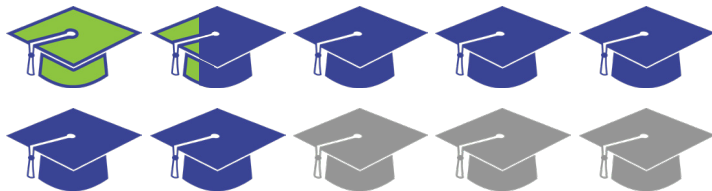


**Healthy Communities** // 33.3%  
**Education & Workforce Development** // 33.3%  
**Tourism & Cultural Development** // 33.3%

## Revisiting Priorities

Lee County has come leaps and bounds over the years since the completion of the regional plan in 2011. Now that Communities + is blossoming in East Arkansas, Lee County will be able to revisit their economic development priorities in more efficient ways. Their priorities have been identified as attracting funding, business recruitment, business retention and expansion, downtown development, education development, infrastructure development as well as a pass-through visitor center.

## Educational Attainment



**Associates Degree or Higher**  
**High School Diploma**

**13%**  
**70%**



# PHILLIPS COUNTY



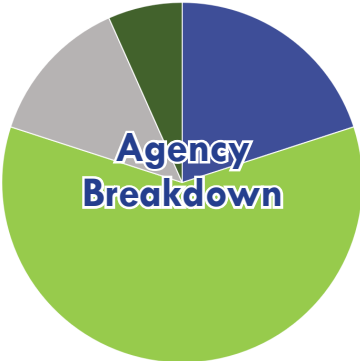
“I depend on East Arkansas Planning & Development District to keep me informed on what’s available on the state and federal level, so that I continue to improve the quality of life for my constituents.”  
-Judge Clark Hall

**+ \$3,460,122.66**  
*In Federal and State Investment*

**+\$1.66** **FOR EVERY** **\$1** *FEDERAL DOLLAR*  
*LOCAL DOLLARS*



**Infrastructure Development // 53.3%**  
**Healthy Communities // 40%**  
**Tourism & Cultural Development // 6.6%**

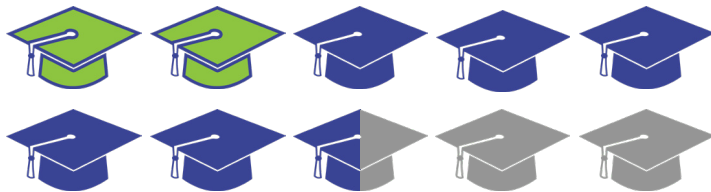


**Delta Regional Authority // 60%**  
**Arkansas Economic Development Commission // 20%**  
**Arkansas Historic Preservation Program // 6.7%**  
**FEMA // 13.3%**





## Educational Attainment



Associates Degree or Higher  
High School Diploma

20%  
75%



## New Gear for Newbies

Like many small-town fire departments, the Town of Lexa has trouble keeping all of their turnout gear and SCBAs up-to-date. Unfortunately, firefighter training facilities are not lenient in light of the financial problems facing fire departments and will not accept new members to the training academy without up-to-date gear. While training new volunteers is vital, it is even more vital in the field, as this gear is the difference between life and death for these community members who risk it all for the safety of their city. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission heard their call for help and awarded them \$69,962.66 to update their equipment. This investment will mean increased safety for both firefighters and citizens.



Did you know  
that in the past  
10 years EAPDD  
has managed  
approximately

**\$60,042,570**

in investment in  
East Arkansas?

Population = 387,818 =

# REGIONAL OVERVIEW



**\$26,521,006.62**

*In Active Investment*

**\$166,590,406.69**

*in Local Investment*

Across

**92**

Active Projects



**\$6.28**

LOCAL DOLLARS

FOR  
EVERY

**\$1**

FEDERAL  
DOLLAR



## AGENCY INVESTMENT

Here at EAPDD,  
we appreciate the  
investment from every  
one of our agency  
partners!

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

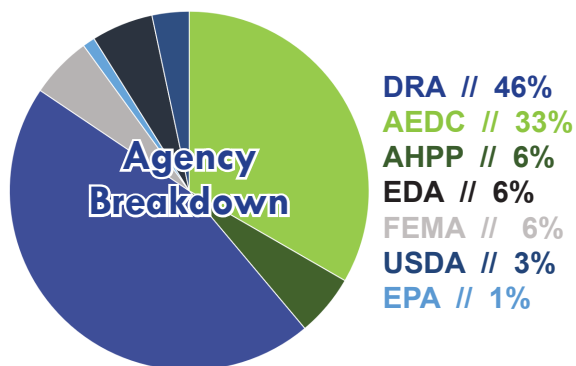
**\$188,435**

Economic  
Development  
Administration

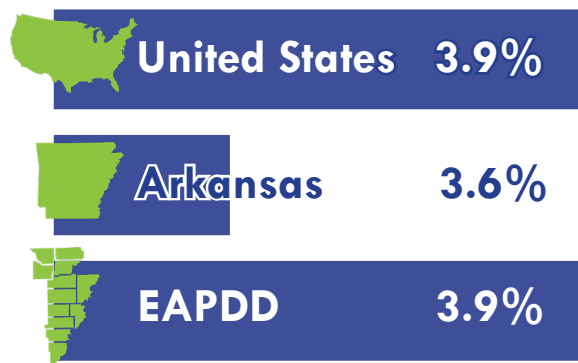
**\$2,800,000**

Arkansas Economic  
Development  
Commission/  
Housing & Urban  
Development

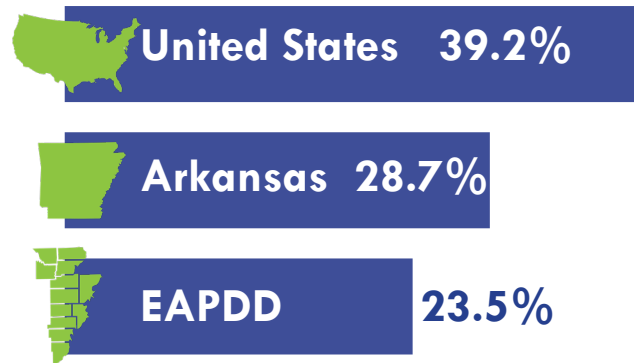
**\$9,612,051**



## Unemployment Rate



## Associates Degree or Higher



FEMA/ Arkansas  
Department  
of Emergency  
Management  
**\$141,035**

Delta Regional  
Authority  
**\$10,330,333**

Arkansas Historic  
Preservation  
Program  
**\$532,807**

Environmental  
Protection Agency  
**\$300,000**

# 2018 IN REVIEW

## January

"Knowledge is power" is a phrase that is key to EAPDD's mission, which is why we held our Rural Communities Workshop in January. This workshop helped communities apply for the Rural Communities Grant, a grant that funds a variety of community resources.



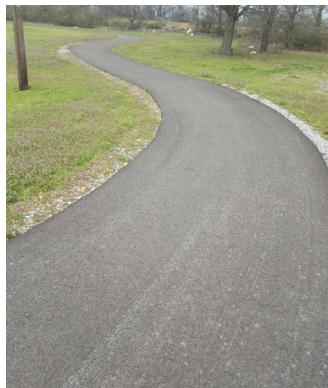
## February

In February, EAPDD hosted the Craighead County Spelling Bee. We love seeing these amazing students go all out for a chance to compete in the state spelling bee and receive an impressive trophy.



## March

EAPDD visited the city of Joiner in March to see their newest park improvement that they obtained through the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism after EAPDD hosted a workshop on these playful grant opportunities.



## April

April brought about a major accomplishment for EAPDD's Chief of Staff, Jamie Brockwell, as she graduated from the Midsouth Basic Economic Development Course!



## May

In May, EAPDD met with the Hoxie's First Stand group to discuss ways to celebrate the first segregated school in the state and increase tourism to this little-known historical site in Lawrence County.



## June

In June, Melissa Rivers went to Little Rock to meet with Jorge Ayla, Regional Director of the EDA's Austin Region, and Matt Twyford, AEDC Senior Manager for Community Development to talk about the ways that we could utilize the Competitive Communities Initiative that debuted this year to strengthen our communities.





## July

The middle of summer brought about the Economic Development Administration shining a light on EAPDD's very first VISTA volunteer. Their spotlight talked about all the fantastic work that she's done during her term of service of East Arkansas.



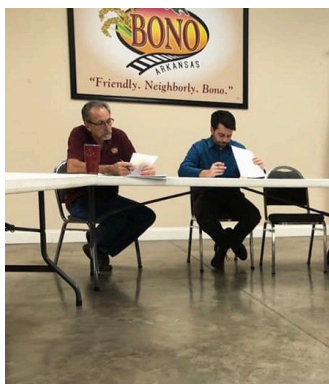
## August

As the children made their way back to school, EAPDD headed out into the district to gather important economic development data as well as photos! You'll see teamwork at its finest as VISTA Volunteer, Camille Labatut, holds the umbrella for Community Engagement Coordinator, Sarah Thompson, as she captures the essence of East Arkansas.



## September

Economic Development is not a solo activity, which is why our months are filled with meetings, like this one in the City of Bono who, as of the publication of this report, are in the process of creating a multi-purpose safe room in their community!



## October

Jean Noble, of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, took a trip to East Arkansas to train the majority of our employees to administer the Community Development Block Grants that do so much good for East Arkansas!



## November

In November, some newer faces left the office and headed to Little Rock. Jake Pollard and Jenny Moore visited the capital city to learn more about Arkansas Historic Preservation Program grants.



## December

EAPDD celebrated the Holidays with their annual December board meeting. This last meeting of the year mixed business with pleasure in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville.



# MEET THE TEAM

We asked the team what they were most excited for in 2019. You can see their answers under their headshots!



**Melissa Rivers**

*Executive Director*

"We've got an all-star team assembled and I am beyond excited to see how far we can go for East Arkansas."



**Jenny Moore**

*Community Services  
Coordinator*

"I'm estatic to be a part of this team. I love my coworkers. I love our elected officials. I love being a part of making our communities better."



**Joshua Mullinax**

*VISTA Volunteer*

"I'm most excited about the chance to learn about communities in Northeast Arkansas and economic opportunities to assist Northeast Arkansas."



**Tim Phillips**

*Environmental Services  
Manager*

"I'm excited about making progress towards finding solid waste solutions that work for everyone."



**Jamie Brockwell**

*Chief of Staff*

"I'm looking forward to see the team continue to grow and expanding our services to East Arkansas."



**Erika Jernigan**

*Operations/Financial Services  
Coordinator*

"I'm looking forward to expanding visibility of our Revolving Loan Fund."



**Ashley Lawrence**

*Disaster Resiliency Coordinator*

"I am most excited about providing our communities with disaster resilience projects, plans, and procedures that are desperately needed."



**Sandra Taylor**

*Receptionist*

"I am most excited to continue serving our communities in the planning district. I am also excited about another year working with the team our executive director has put together."



**Sarah Thompson**

*Community Engagement  
Coordinator*

"I'm most excited to find new and innovative ways to use communications to increase economic development in East Arkansas."



**Susan Wilson**

*Compliance Specialist*

"I'm excited to be able to see the outcomes of the grant money we work so hard to get our communities."



2905 King Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401

EAPDD.com | Phone: 870.932.3957 | Fax: 870.932.0135