



Hugh McDonald
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Clint O'Neal
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

TO: Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
FROM: Becca Caldwell, Director – Rural Services
RE: FY 25, Cycle 1 Grant Funding Recommendations for Rural Community Grant (RCGP)
DATE: September 4, 2024

PURPOSE:

To present funding recommendations from the Division of Rural Services for the Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

Each fiscal year, AEDC Rural Services receives legislative appropriation to award funds from the above-named grant program. Applications received by AEDC Rural Services go through the following process:

1. Reviewed for eligibility by Rural Services staff;
2. Eligible applications and rankings are then reviewed by the Rural Development Commission; AEDC Executive Director Clint O'Neal; Secretary of Commerce, Hugh McDonald;
3. Recommendations are forwarded to the Governor; and
4. Recommendations are forwarded to Legislative Council for final approval.

COMMUNITIES IMPACTED:

- **Rural Community Grant Program**– Cities and towns with a population of less than 3,000 (no limit on unincorporated areas). Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, community centers, fire stations, parks, storm sirens, storm shelters, beautification projects and any equipment associated. The cap for this grant program is \$15,000 and requires a 50/50 match from all applicants.

PROPOSED FUNDING:

Total Dollars Requested from Complete and Eligible Applications: \$357,237.26

Amount Available for Distribution: \$700,000.00 (2 cycles)

Amount of Total Funding Recommendations: \$357,237.26



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RE: FY 25, Cycle 1 Grant Funding Recommendations for Rural Community Grant (RCGP)

DATE: September 4, 2024

These funding recommendations have been approved by the following:

Arkansas Rural Development Commission: August 29, 2024
Clint O'Neal, Executive Director – AEDC: August 30, 2024
Hugh McDonald, Secretary of Commerce: September 3, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

Rural Services requests your approval on the funding recommendations for the program listed above. An attachment outlining recommendations for this program is included with this memo.

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Date

Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program Complete and Eligible Applications By Program

Fiscal Year: 2025 Cycle: 1 (two cycles per fiscal year)

Applicant	County	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narrative	Senator	Rep	Requested	Recommended
City Of Hamburg	Ashley County	Resubmit. The city of Hamburg is requesting \$13,380.00 in funding to purchase and install new bleachers for the city's baseball/softball fields.	The city of Hamburg received \$5,763.56 in 2023 to purchase picnic tables for their town square, they will be ADA compliant.	Gilmore	Beaty	\$13,380.00	\$13,380.00
City Of Cotter	Baxter County	RESUBMIT. The city of Cotter is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase and install bollard lights along the walking trail in Big Springs Park.	The city of Cotter received \$15,000.00 in 2022 to add striping and basketball goals to repair old tennis courts, an equipment storage shed and handrails for the parking area at the North Arkansas Youth Center.	Flippo	Fortner	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Clarkridge Fire Department	Baxter County	The Clarkridge Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase multiple items of equipment: AED life Pacs, Medical Bags, Airway Kits, Oxygen Bottles, Turnout Bags, Gloves, SCBA Tanks, Chain Saws, Wildland Fire Pumps, SCBA Masks, Pulse Oximeters, Splints, Head Immobilizers and Seat Belt Cutters.	Clarkridge Fire Department received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase a new heavy duty pickup truck and utility box.	Flippo	Painter	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Community of Galatia	Baxter County	The community of Galatia is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to add insulation to their community center building. The building is currently a historic building that they are converting into a community center, which has been an ongoing project since 2020.	The town of Galatia received \$15,000.00 in 2021 to start Phase II of turning their old church into a community center. They will be adding siding, a new roof and repairing walls.	Flippo	Fortner	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Hill Top Volunteer FD	Boone County	The Hill Top VFD is requesting \$14,804.95 in funding to purchase a portable multi-use Skid Unit, Turn Out Gear and a portable ground monitor and nozzle.		King	McNair	\$14,804.95	\$14,804.95
Town Of Bergman	Boone County	The town of Bergman is requesting \$14,068.79 in funding to purchase and install a new safe room for its citizens in the case of a natural hazard/disaster. The safe room can accommodate up to 75 people. Total project cost is \$112,050.31, other funding is from a USDA grant.	The Town of Bergman received \$13,625.00 in 2021 to purchase a used skid steer.	Flippo	McNair	\$14,068.79	\$14,068.79

City Of Keiser	Mississippi County	The city of Keiser is requesting \$8,000.00 in funding to renovate the bathroom in the city park which has fallen to disrepair. They would like to make the bathrooms ADA compliant with these funds as well.	The city of Keiser received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase new park playground equipment.	Wallace	Milligan	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Taylor Volunteer FD	Columbia County	The Taylor VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 to aid in the purchase of a new pumper truck. Total project cost is \$125,000.00.		Crowell	Jean	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Village Volunteer FD	Columbia County	The Village VFD is requesting \$4,998.00 to purchase new sets of turnout gear.		Crowell	Jean	\$4,998.00	\$4,998.00
City Of Bono	Craighead County	The city of Bono is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to update their city park. They will be rehabbing their A-frame swing set and adding a new play set with borders and engineered wood fiber surfacing. Everything will be ADA accessible.	The city of Bono is received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase items to rehab their city park to include: Electrical updates for lighting, new poles and lighting fixtures, portable football and soccer goals, topsoil for football field, removal of damaged city fencing, removal and replacement of bleacher covers in park and electrical pvc conduit materials.	Sullivan	Cavanaugh	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
City Of Mulberry	Crawford County	The city of Mulberry is requesting \$9,453.71 in funding to add lights and netting to their pickleball courts.	The city of Mulberry received \$3,847.84 in 2024 to replace an existing gas oven at the city's senior center and replace it with a convection oven as it is safer and more reliable.	Petty	Puryear	\$9,453.71	\$9,453.71
Fulton County for Mammoth Springs Library	Fulton County	Fulton County is requesting \$15,000.00 to renovate the Mammoth Spring Library Branch, which is owned by the county, but leased by the city. They would like to expand the library with new construction to double their square footage and create an Internet accessible area for the library to host GED classes and testing, group meetings for lectures and discussions and will help aid in citizens performing electronic job searches.	Never received funding as a county for a community project, only for fire related projects. Last fire project was in 2016 for the Camp VFD.	Flippo	Steimel	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Viola Fire Department	Fulton County	The Viola FD is requesting \$5,063.99 in funding to purchase new turnout gear.	The Viola Fire Department is received \$3,191.38 in 2019 to replace and upgrade equipment for their fire station.	Flippo	Painter	\$5,063.99	\$5,063.99
Ozan Volunteer FD	Hempstead County	The Ozan VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase of a refurbished pumper truck.		Hickey, Jr.	Watson	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

Hindsville Volunteer FD	Madison County	The Hindsville VFD is requesting \$3,697.50 in funding to purchase an extractor to remove carcinogens from their turnout gear.		King	Berry	\$3,697.50	\$3,697.50
Madison County	Madison County	Madison County is applying for extractors and washers for turnout gear for the Clifty and Kingston RFPDs.		King	Berry	\$11,092.50	\$11,092.50
St. Paul Fire Department	Madison County	The St. Paul VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase radios, extractors and dryers.	The St. Paul FD received \$11,477.50 in 2013 to purchase extrication equipment.	King	Berry	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Miller County for Genoa VFD	Miller County	Miller County is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to place a storm siren in the Genoa Community. The land is owned by the Genoa VFD and this is part of a larger scale project to install three sirens throughout Miller County.	Miller County received \$9,400 in 2013 to add playground equipment to Alex Smith Park.	Hickey, Jr.	Jean	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Miller County for Doddridge VFD	Miller County	Miller County is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to place a storm siren in the Doddridge Community. The land is owned by the Doddridge VFD and this is part of a larger scale project to install three sirens throughout Miller County.	Miller County received \$9,400 in 2013 to add playground equipment to Alex Smith Park.	Hickey, Jr.	Jean	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Miller County for Mandeville VFD	Miller County	Miller County is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to place a storm siren in the Mandeville Community. The land is owned by the Mandeville VFD and this is part of a larger scale project to install three sirens throughout Miller County.	Miller County received \$9,400 in 2013 to add playground equipment to Alex Smith Park.	Hickey, Jr.	Watson	\$15,000.00	15,000.00
City Of Jasper	Newton County	RESUBMIT x2. The city of Jasper is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase and installation of scoreboards for the softball/baseball fields in Bradley Park.	The city of Jasper is received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase sound equipment for their city park stage.	King	Walker	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
City Of Bearden	Ouachita County	RESUBMIT. The city of Bearden is requesting \$7,707.73 in funding to purchase and install picnic tables and a pavilion in their city park. Deed issue has been corrected, city now leases the property.	The City of Bearden received \$15,000.00 in 2017 to complete work on an old depot to create a city library and city museum.	Stone	Barker	\$7,707.73	\$7,707.73

City Of Des Arc	Prairie County	RESUBMIT. The city of Des Arc is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a new concession stand/bathroom facility at their ballpark facility to make the facility ADA compliant.	The city of Des Arc received \$7,500.00 in 2022 to repair the roof of the American Legion Building which is owned by the city.	Caldwell	Lynch	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Oak Prairie VFD	Prairie County	Oak Prairie VFD is requesting \$6,892.00 in funding to purchase life saving grain bin rescue kits.	Oak Prairie VFD received \$15,000.00 in 2022 to purchase equipment to outfit their recently acquired truck.	Dismang	Lynch	\$6,892.00	\$6,892.00
City Of Hackett	Sebastian County	The city of Hackett is requesting \$10,764.00 to construct two ADA parking areas one at each of the current gravel parking areas at their city park.	The City of Hackett received \$13,461 in 2014 a restroom at the City Park.	Rice	Johnson	\$10,764.00	\$10,764.00
Junction City VFD	Union County	the Junction City VFD is requesting \$14,952.00 in funding to purchase 8 complete sets of turnout gear.		Stone	Shepherd	\$14,952.00	\$14,952.00
Community of Alread	Van Buren County	The community of Alread is requesting \$7,000.00 in funding to replace the roof on the community center complex. This building was the old gym for the school district which has been consolidated into the Clinton School District. The building is now used as a community center complex.		Irvin	Berry	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Fairfield Bay FD	Van Buren County	The Fairfield Bay FD is requesting \$5,248 in funding to purchase thermal imaging cameras.	The Fairfield Bay FD received \$15,000.00 in 2019 to construct an addition to their Fire Station.	Irvin	Beck	\$5,248.00	\$5,248.00
The Community of Scotland	Van Buren County	The Community of Scotland is requesting \$7,190.97 in funding to add new HVAC units and upgrade the facilities stove. This is for their community/senior center.		Irvin	Beck	\$7,190.97	\$7,190.97
City Of Winslow	Washington County	The city of Winslow is requesting \$6,835.62 in funding to purchase and install two new unit heaters in the Winslow Community Center.	The City of Winslow received \$2,000.00 in 2020 to purchase a new 17.5 KW portable, emergency generator.	Petty	Puryear	\$6,835.62	\$6,835.62
Town Of Griffithville	White County	The town of Griffithville is requesting \$11,087.50 in funding to replace the roof on their civic center.		Dismang	Wooten	\$11,087.50	\$11,087.50

Total Available for FY 2025: \$700,000.00

Total Requested for Cycle 1: \$357,237.26

Recommended Amount for cycle 1: \$357,237.26