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

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMO

TO: Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
FROM: AEDC, Division of Rural Services
RE: Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program, FY 27, Cycle 1
DATE: September 10, 2026

PURPOSE:
To present funding recommendations from AEDC 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 programs. 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;
3. Recommendations are forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce and Governor
4. Recommendations are forwarded to Legislative Council for final approval.

COMMUNITIES IMPACTED:

- 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:

- **Rural Community Grant Program (Attachment)**
  - Total Amount Requested from Complete and Eligible Applications: $465,424.11
  - Amount Available for Distribution for FY 2027: $700,000.00 (split between two cycles)
  - ***Amount of Total Funding Recommended for FY 27 Cycle 1: $345,855.11***

RECOMMENDATION:
AEDC Rural Services requests your approval on the funding recommendations for the programs listed above. Attachments outlining recommendations for each program are included with this memo. These recommendations were approved by the Rural Development Commission on September 2nd 2026 and by Secretary of Commerce, Hugh McDonald and AEDC Executive Director, Clint O'Neal on September 10th 2026.

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

10/06/2026
Date

Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program
FY 2027 Cycle 1 Recommendations

Applicant	ISO	County	Requested	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narative	Senator	Rep	Recommended
City of Hamburg		Ashley County	$9,227.74	The city of Hamburg is requesting $9,227.74 in funding to purchase soccer equipment. The equipment will include two sets of goals, a field marking kit, field paint, replacement nets, field flags, and regulation soccer balls.	The city of Hamburg received $13,380.00 in 2025 to purchase and install new bleachers for the city's baseball/softball fields.	Gilmore	Beaty	$9,227.74
Clarkridge Fire Department	4	Baxter County	$15,000.00	The Clarkridge Fire Department is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase of a heavy duty 4X4 flatbed truck to mount a water tank and pump.	The Clarkridge Fire Department received $15,000.00 in 2025 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.	Flippo	Painter	$15,000.00
NEBCO Fire & EMS	5	Benton County	$15,000.00	NEBCO Fire & EMS is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to purchase a 4 stage 6000 PSI SCBA Compressor to refill SCBA bottles which contain the breathable air that is essential in hazardous environments.	NEBCO Fire & EMS received $15,000.00 in 2023 to aid in the purchase of Jaws of Life equipment.	Bryant	McKenzie	$15,000.00
Greers Ferry Fire Department	6	Cleburne County	$14,065.12	The Greers Ferry Fire Department is requesting $14,065.12 in funding to purchase six complete NFPA-compliant structural firefighting turnout gear sets, including coats, pants, helmets, hoods, boots, and gloves, for the Greers Ferry Fire Department. The project will replace aging protective equipment, improve firefighter safety, and strengthen the department's emergency response capabilities.		Payton	Brown	$14,065.12

Applicant	ISO	County	Requested	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narative	Senator	Rep	Recommended
City Of Taylor		Columbia County	$15,000.00	The city of Taylor is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to construct a new pavilion/stage which will replace the current hexagonal gazebo. The current gazebo is much to small for their events and they are needing to construct a new pavilion which will be lit with LED lights for night events. This is a $137,000 total project cost.	The city of Taylor received $6,500.00 in 2023 to purchase a new entry sign for the city.	Crowell	Jean	$0.00
City of Bay		Craighead County	$15,000.00	The city of Bay is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to remodel their existing community center by adding space, updating the mechanicals and bathrooms.	The city of Bay is received $15,000 in 2026 to construct two new storm shelters.	Wallace	Rye	$0.00
City Of Bono		Craighead County	$15,000.00	The city of Bono is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to purchase a new tornado siren for an unserved area in the town.	The city of Bono received $15,000.00 in 2025 to replace the heat and air units in the bono senior center/designated safe shelter. They are also using funds to create their emergency room/shelter in the senior center.	Sullivan	Cavenaugh	$15,000.00
City Of Mountainburg		Crawford County	$15,000.00	The City of Mountainburg is requesting $15,000.00 in funding for the surfacing of the basketball and tennis courts.	The City of Mountainburg received $11,384 to purchase up-to-date extrication equipment in 2016.	Petty	Puryear	$15,000.00
City Of Mulberry		Crawford County	$15,000.00	Resubmit: The city of Mulberry is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to purchase and install professional acoustic sound mitigation materials in the Mulberry Senior Center.	The city of Mulberry received $9,453.71 in 2025 to add lights and netting to their pickleball courts.	Petty	Puryear	$15,000.00
Mulberry Fire Department	6	Crawford County	$7,776.00	The Mulberry Fire Department is requesting $7,776.00 in funding to purchase an extractor/washer for their turnout gear.	The Mulberry Fire Department received $15,000.00 in 2020 to replace six fire hydrants throughout the city.	Petty	Puryear	$7,776.00
Dallas County		Dallas County	$15,000.00	Dallas County is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase of a new truck for the solid waste department. This will replace the current 2014 truck which has been unable to be repaired.	Dallas County received $5,003.00 in 2015 to improve the farmers market.	Stone	Barker	$15,000.00
Watalula Volunteer Fire Department	5	Franklin County	$15,000.00	Resubmit: Watalula Volunteer Fire Department is requesting $15,000.00 in funding for replacing SCBA's and spare air tanks.	The Watalula Volunteer Fire Department received $4,375.00 in FY25 to purchase new radios.	King	Eaton	$15,000.00

Applicant	ISO	County	Requested	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narative	Senator	Rep	Recommended
City Of Marmaduke		Greene County	$10,075.00	The City of Marmaduke is requesting $10,075.00 in funding for upgrades to the Marmaduke Community Center.	The City of Marmaduke received $4,250 to purchase batting cages in FY 2012.	Johnson	Wooldridge	$0.00
Western Greene County Fire District	6	Greene County	$15,000.00	Western Greene County is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to purchase new turnout gear: coats, pants, gloves and hoods.	Western Greene County FPD is received $15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase turnout gear.	Johnson	Wooldridge	$15,000.00
Washington Volunteer Fire Department	6	Hempstead County	$10,000.00	The Washington Volunteer Fire Department is requesting $10,000.00 in funding to purchase a new heavy duty washing machine (extractor) for their turnout gear.	The Washington Volunteer Fire Department received $15,000.00 in 2024 to purchase 4 airpack's, 3 cylinders, batteries and medical facepieces.	Crowell	Henley	$10,000.00
City of Perla		Hot Spring	$11,500.00	The City of Perla is requesting $11,500.00 in funding to construct the Perla Park Pavilion and Picnic Area, this will involve the construction of a covered pavilion with picnic tables, grills, trash receptacles, lighting, sidewalks, landscaping, and ADA accessible features.		Clark	McClure	$0.00
City of Donaldson		Hot Spring County	$10,000.00	The city of Donaldson is requesting $10,000.00 in funding to support improvements to their Community Center: installation of solar lights, PA audio system, removing flooring and wall panels to replace with new flooring and paneling and to add trim and paint.		Clark	Womack	$0.00
City Of Dierks		Howard County	$10,866.00	The city of Dierks is requesting $10,866.00 in funding to purchase and install a new scoreboard for one of the baseball fields at City Park.	The City of Dierks received $15,000 in 2010 to renovate the ball park with bathrooms, trashcans, landscape, and handicap access.	Hickey, Jr.	Vaught	$10,866.00
Bethesda Community		Independence County	$15,000.00	The Community of Bethesda is requesting $15,000 in funding to purchase and installation of playground equipment located next to the Bethesda Community Center.		Payton	Schulz	$0.00

Applicant	ISO	County	Requested	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narative	Senator	Rep	Recommended
Pleasant Plains Fire Department	5	Independence County	$14,965.75	The Pleasant Plains Fire Department is requesting $14,965.75 in funding to purchase 25 new Kenmore handheld radios. This is an urgent request as the current radios they have do not function with the new tower system installed.		Payton	Pearce	$14,965.75
Izard County		Izard County	$15,000.00	The project involves electrical upgrades to the Izard County Fairgrounds. Included is a new panel box to the Event Building and updating RV plugs to install new meters, pedestals and wiring .		Payton	Walker	$15,000.00
Town Of Guion		Izard County	$15,000.00	The city of Guion is requesting $15,000.00 to purchase and installation of a new community storm box to be placed next to city hall. This is a $157,000 total project.		Flippo	Walker	$15,000.00
City Of Tuckerman		Jackson County	$15,000.00	Resubmit: The city of Tuckerman is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to construct a new pickleball court in the city park located behind city hall.	Tuckerman FD is received $4,950.00 in 2019 to rehabilitate 9 fire hydrants throughout the city.	Caldwell	Tosh	$0.00
Jackson County		Jackson County	$12,401.00	Purchase of 10 AWIN fire radios for (8) eight of the most rural area fire departments in Jackson County. (Two radios will go to the larger fire departments)		Caldwell	Long	$12,401.00
New Blaine Fire Department	6	Logan County	$15,000.00	Resubmit: The New Blaine Fire Department is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to purchase an electronic sign to display fire warnings and a zero turn mower to maintain Gehring Park for community gatherings*.	The New Blaine Fire Department received $15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase a generator for their fire department.	Vacant	Eubanks	$15,000.00
City Of Huntsville		Madison County	$15,000.00	The City of Huntsville is requesting $15,000.00 to renovate the F1 softball field, as its current condition has become hazardous for both our youth and adult softball leagues. These improvements are necessary to provide a safer playing surface and ensure the field remains a valuable recreational asset for our community.		King	Eaton	$15,000.00

Applicant	ISO	County	Requested	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narative	Senator	Rep	Recommended
Etowah Volunteer Fire Department	6	Mississippi County	$9,900.00	The Etowah VFD is requesting $9,900.00 in funding refurbish the entire station's flooring.	The Etowah Volunteer Fire Department received $3,002.00 in 2024 to purchase four thermal imaging cameras.	Wallace	Milligan	$9,900.00
Montgomery County		Montgomery County	$6,800.00	Resubmit: Montgomery County is requesting $6,800.00 in funding to renovate the Clenney Fields concession stands and restrooms. (ball field in county). The match is primarily comprised of donated labor.	Montgomery County received $12,500 in 2014 for the Sulphur/Laverna for a pumper truck	Rice	Maddox	$6,800.00
Marshall Fire Department		Searcy County	$15,000.00	The Marshall Fire Department is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to finish the interior of their newly construction fire station: trim and finish work, plubmging, electical and lighting fixtures, shelving and cabinets, appliances such as stove, refrigerator, mocrowave and washer and dryer.	The Marshall Fire Department received $15,000 in 2026 (last cycle) to begin renovating the interior of their newly constructed station.	Irvin	Walker	$15,000.00
Cave City Fire Department	3	Sharp County	$15,000.00	The Cave City Fire Department is requesting $15,000.00 to purchase six full sets of turnouts.		Payton	Schulz	$15,000.00
City Of Evening Shade		Sharp County	$12,994.00	The city of Evening Shade is requesting $12,994.00 in funding for renovations to a building in downtown Evening Shade to be used as a community/event center.	Evening Shade received $10,475 in 2015 to purchase emergency sirens.	Payton	Schulz	$0.00
Stone County		Stone County	$15,000.00	Resubmit: Stone County is requesting $15,000.00 in funding to partially renovate the Mountain View School building which houses the Stone County museum. They will be renovating the floors, repairing floor joists and adding new subflooring. This building is owned by Stone County, but is located in Mountain View.	Stone County received $15,000.00 in 2024 to make improvements to the county owned rodeo complete. They are wanting to add a concession stand and restroom.	Irvin	Brown	$0.00
City Of Fairfield Bay		Van Buren County	$4,250.00	Resubmit: The City of Fairfield Bay is requesting $4,250.00 in funding to purchase LED lighting for the interior and exterior of the senior center.	The City of Fairfield Bay received $6,355.72 in 2018 to purchase heating and air conditioning at the city center kitchen facilities. They have had a recent Fire Protection project however, it is closed out.	Irvin	Meeks	$4,250.00

Applicant	ISO	County	Requested	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narative	Senator	Rep	Recommended
City Of Winslow		Washington County	$14,750.00	Resubmit: the city of Winslow is requesting$14,750.00 in funding to repair their public library. With these funds, they will repair the roof, make ADA improvements to the bathroom and install new electrical work.	The city of Winslow received $6,835.62 in 2025 to purchase and install two new unit heaters in the Winslow Community Center.	Petty	Puryear	$14,750.00
City of Pangburn Fire Department	4	White County	$15,000.00	The Pangburn Fire Department is requesting $15,000 in funding to construct a new 40 foot by 40-foot fire station within the Pangburn Fire District to improve emergency response capabilities and enhance fire protection for residents, businesses, and visitors in the district. the new station will strategically house firefighting apparatus and emergency equipment, reducing response times to rural areas and improving the department's ability to protect lives and property.	The Pangburn Volunteer Fire Department is received $7,124.25 in 2024 to purchase new fire helmets.	Dismang	Pearce	$15,000.00
City Of Augusta		Woodruff County	$5,853.50	Resubmit: The City of Augusta is requesting funding for a new commercial lawn mower for city use.	The City of Augusta received $12,000 in FY 2010 renovate a building for a community center.	Caldwell	Moore	$5,853.50

Total Requested $465,424.11

Recommended Amount: $345,855.11