

Jobs 4 You Cabot Workforce Training Center
Executive Summary
November 20, 2024

The Jobs 4 You Cabot Workforce Training Center will be a newly constructed facility for adults with developmental disabilities. The Center will be located on 3.79 acres at 3544 Hwy 367 South, near Cabot in Lonoke County. When the complex opens, 38 new jobs will be created, and the workforce program has the capacity to train up to 60 adults each year who have the opportunity to be placed in meaningful community employment. In addition, an ADA-compliant park will be constructed that includes a ½ mile walking trail, benches, and fitness equipment designed for those with disabilities, including seniors, those with handicaps, and those needing rehabilitation. The park will be open to the public year-round and maintained by Lonoke County. Pinnacle Structure Company in Cabot agreed to donate the metal outdoor pavilion for the park.

Specialists will train those attending the Jobs 4 You center to identify their best skill set and match them to local employers in the community. Jobs 4 You Cabot will serve North Pulaski, Faulkner, Lonoke, Prairie, and White Counties. Transportation is billed through Medicaid and will be offered daily at no cost to and from the homes of those attending the workforce instruction. All adults with disabilities will receive instruction at no cost to them or their families. In addition, a community room in the facility will be available to the community for events, meetings, and civic purposes. The room will accommodate up to 100 people and includes a catering kitchen, seating, and A/V equipment.

The cost of the 10,000 sq. ft. workforce center is \$3.7 million and is designed by Taggart Architects. To date, \$1.5 million has been raised from the Delta Regional Authority, Community Development Block Grant, and Attorney General Settlement Funds. Arkansas Enterprises for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. (AEDD) purchased the land for \$571,000 and will fund all costs above the lowest construction bid.

DHS estimated that there are over 3,000 adults, ages 18 through 60, who could be eligible to attend the Jobs 4 You program, along with 475 high school seniors representing fifteen public high schools in this five-county region. The workforce center would be the first of its kind in Arkansas and could serve as a pilot project for other regions of the state with a desire to move their population of citizens with developmental disabilities into the workforce. This model for Arkansas is moving adults away from institutions, away from sheltered workshops, and into local communities. Providing workforce-ready employees contributes to the local economy and lessens dependency on state and federal subsidies for those with developmental disabilities.

With the State providing the \$2 million requested by AEDD, construction work can begin in 2025, with the Jobs 4 You Cabot Workforce Center opening in 2026. In addition, two new transitional homes will be constructed in Cabot, which will accommodate 16 adults who are at risk of homelessness. AEDD employees 300 people, serves seventeen counties in Arkansas, and partners with over fifty employers who hire adults graduating from their workforce program.