



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
**Department of Finance  
and Administration**

**C**  
**OFFICE OF BUDGET**  
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March 6, 2026

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair  
Representative Jeffrey Wardlaw, Co-Chair  
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 26 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 35 (01) of Act 1006 of 2025, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

1. University of Arkansas – Fort Smith – ALIGN Program \$46,998

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. L. Hudson', written over a horizontal line.

James L. Hudson  
Secretary

Attachment(s)

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
SECTION 35 OF ACT 1006 OF 2025**

**C.1**

Agency: University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Business Area Code: 0195

Program Title: ARPA UAFS ALIGN WATC

Granting Organization: Office of Skills Development CFDA #: 21.027

Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2025 Ending: 6/30/2026

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
The purpose of this grant program is to support the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program at the Western Arkansas Technical Center (WATC) at UAFS by addressing the budget deficit between the vocational center aid, based on LPN program enrollment, allocated to WATC for state fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and the fixed costs of offering the LPN program during that period. UAFS has been awarded additional funding for the LPN program at WATC.

**American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding**

Func. Area: UNIV Fund Code: 216ARP2 Direct Funding:  X  
Funds Center: D71 Internal Order/WBS Element: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Continuation: \_\_\_\_\_

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	32,670
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	14,328
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	
Other:	
Other:	
<b>Total</b>	\$ <b>46,998</b>

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/30/2026

<b>State Technology Plan Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>
Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to the Division of Information Systems.	

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)** \* unclassified positions only

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Cmnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

**State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.**

Approved by: Terisa Riley 2/17/2026 Jessica Moore 03/04/26  
Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date



Cody Waits  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

Stephanie Isaacs  
DIRECTOR,  
OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**ARKANSAS OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

**AND**

**Western Arkansas Technical Center**

**MOU # ALIGN 252630**

**ASSURANCES AND COMPLIANCE:** This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of Arkansas. The parties agree to comply with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Executive Order 11246, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the related regulations to each. Each Party assures that it will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, sex, age, disability, veteran status, or national origin. Nothing in this MOU may be construed to waive the sovereign or statutory immunities of either Party.

**PERIOD COVERED:** This MOU shall take effect on August 1, 2024, or the date signed by both Parties. The MOU shall continue through December 31, 2026.

**PARTIES:** Parties to this MOU are the Arkansas Office of Skills Development (OSD) and Western Arkansas Technical Center (WATC). OSD is a state agency authorized to award strategic grants to public and private organizations for the development and implementation of Arkansas workforce training programs. WATC serve to advance nursing profession by preparing graduates to meet ever-changing client needs for health care.

**BACKGROUND:** The State of Arkansas has recognized the challenge that the healthcare industry faces due to the nursing shortage that exists across the United States. OSD and Arkansas institutions of higher education have been empowered to design, develop, and implement innovative programs to fill this ever-increasing gap through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the *Arkansas Linking Industry to Grow Nurses (ALIGN) Program*. This grant program is aimed at upskilling lower-level professionals, expanding nursing apprenticeships, increasing nurse educator recruitment and retention, expanding clinical rotations, increasing nursing program capacity where relevant, reimbursing tuition, purchasing equipment, implementing simulation centers, and expanding labs.

**PURPOSE OF MOU:** To provide funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the *ALIGN Program* at WATC, which will deliver a program of study in Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN). WATC is a multi-district vocational center located on the University of Arkansas Fort Smith and PEAK Innovation Center campuses in Fort Smith. This MOU addresses the budget deficit between the vocational center aid, based on LPN program enrollment, allocated to WATC for state fiscal years 2025 and 2026 and the fixed costs of offering the LPN program during that period.

**FUNDING:** The funding available under this MOU shall not exceed \$698,445.41. This funding shall be reduced by the vocational center aid awarded for state fiscal years 2025 and 2026. The resulting amount shall cover actual expenditures incurred by WATC during state fiscal years 2025 and 2026. The funding deficit covered by this MOU involves expenditures for instructor salaries, classroom equipment and textbooks, student supplies, and other fees necessitated by the LPN program offered through WATC.

Itemized descriptions of covered expenses are detailed in the document titled "WATC Approved Budget for ALIGN Funding," which is attached to and incorporated with this MOU.

OSD will reimburse WATC upon receipt of documentation, expenses consistent with the "WATC Approved Budget for ALIGN Funding" that have been incurred.

Invoices and supporting documents shall be submitted to OSD, Lesia Edwards at [lesia.edwards@arkansas.gov](mailto:lesia.edwards@arkansas.gov).

**PROGRAM REPORTING:**

WATC will provide reports to OSD as requested. These reports shall contain:

- Verified enrollment data
- Certifications/credentials earned
- Expenditures
- Concurrent credit hours earned
- Employment outcomes

**INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND CONFIDENTIALITY:** The Parties agree to abide by the privacy and nondisclosure provisions of the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act, its associated federal regulations, and Arkansas privacy laws to the extent they apply.

**MODIFICATION:** This MOU may be modified only by written agreement signed by both Parties.

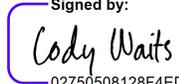
MOU NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY ALL PARTIES AND ALL INFORMATION FILLED OUT:

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:**

DocuSigned by: <i>Terisa Riley, Chancellor UAFS</i> 2/12/2026		
7FF7D64088C148A... Dr. Terisa Riley, Chancellor Date		
University of Arkansas Fort Smith	(479) 788-2005	terisa.riley@uafs.edu

**STATE STAFF:**

Stephanie Isaacs, Director, Office of Skills Development Arkansas Department of Commerce	Date
DocuSigned by: <i>Stephanie Isaacs</i>	2/12/2026
B07ACA3ABE2074C9...	

Cody Waits, Director, Workforce Connections Arkansas Department of Commerce  Signed by:  02750508128E4ED...	Date  2/12/2026
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FUND ACCOUNT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

MOU Expiration Date	APPROPRIATION CODE	APPROPRIATION FUND	APPROPRIATION CHARACTER	SOURCE OF FUNDS	REVENUE CODE	Office of Skills Dev. Cost Ctr
09/30/2026	BX7	FRP9020	04	FEDERAL	N/A	B902102000
Total MOU Funding	\$698,445.41					

<b>WATC</b>					
<b>Approved Adjusted Budget for ALIGN Funding</b>					
	Year 1	Year 2	Total	Line #	
				Year 1	Year 2
<b>Salaries/Benefits</b>					
A&P Instructor (Fall)	\$ 15,151.50	\$ 15,454.53	\$ 30,606.03	1	21
Medical Terminology Instructor (Fall)	\$ 9,593.17	\$ 9,593.17	\$ 19,186.34	2	11
2 - LPN Instructors (23.5 per semester) LPN classes are 7 credit hours, with 14 total hours per semester (includes 3 lecture, 4 lab, 6 clinical)	\$ 72,649.50	\$ 74,102.50	\$ 146,752.00	3	23
Executive Director (required by Board of Nursing, LPN program is only available to WATC students with 80% of ED allocated to budget)	\$ 76,745.34	\$ 82,000.00	\$ 158,745.34	4	24
2-LPN Instructors (18 per semester) LPN classes are 7 credit hours, with 14 total hours per semester (includes 3 lecture, 4 lab, 6 clinical)	\$ 72,649.50	\$ 74,102.50	\$ 146,752.00	5	25
LPN Instructor (% of Standifer Salary) LPN classes are 7 credit hours, with 14 total hours per semester (includes 3 lecture, 4 lab, 6 clinical)	\$ 23,308.00	\$ 23,308.00	\$ 46,616.00	6	26
Simulation Coordinator (FT) - All simulation events for LPN as well as assist with inventory control in PN.		\$ 58,275.00	\$ 58,275.00		27
LPN Adjuncts for Lab/Clinical	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	7	28
<b>Total Salaries/Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 285,097.01</b>	<b>\$ 351,835.70</b>	<b>\$ 636,932.71</b>		
<b>Classroom/Lab Equipment</b>					
iPads per student for one cohorts	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,000.00</b>	8	29
<b>Student Supplies/Expenses</b>					
Textbooks/Access for iPads	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	9	30
ATI Software - NCLEX exam prep (per semester cost)	\$ 9,180.00	\$ 9,380.00	\$ 18,560.00	10	31
TEAS Exam	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 4,030.00	11	32
CNA Exam		\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00		33
CPR Certification	\$ 234.00	\$ 234.00	\$ 468.00	12	34
N95 Masks	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00	13	
Supplies	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 14,500.00	12	35
Drug Tests	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	13	36
TB Skin Test	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	14	37
Background Checks	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,900.00	15	38
Insurance	\$ 350.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1050.00	16	39
LPN Pins for Pinning Ceremony	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,850.00	17	40
NCLEX	\$ 6,365.00	\$ 6,365.00	\$ 12,730.00	18	41
Mileage reimbursement for students	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	19	42
PD for Students	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	20	43
Scrubs, stethoscope, pen light for students		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00		44
IV Arms		\$ 16,440.00	\$ 16,440.00		45
Anatamoge Tablets		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		46
<b>Total Student Supplies/Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 91,094.00</b>	<b>\$ 130,634.00</b>	<b>\$ 221,728.00</b>		
<b>Total Adjusted Request</b>	<b>\$ 395,191.01</b>	<b>\$ 489,469.70</b>	<b>\$ 884,660.71</b>		
<b>Total Budgeted</b>	<b>\$ 395,191.01</b>	<b>\$ 489,469.70</b>	<b>\$ 884,660.71</b>		
<b>Total Adjusted Budgeted (91.132% of Total)</b>	<b>\$ 252,381.88</b>	<b>\$ 446,063.53</b>	<b>\$ 698,445.41</b>		