



How Can You Get Involved?

The Center's mission is to equip Arkansans with sustainable, accessible research-based practices and expertise to create vibrant, self-reliant communities where businesses, organizations and families thrive. Through our EDA University Center program, we support economic and workforce development activities in collaboration with the eight EDA-funded Development Districts and our strategic partner, Heartland Forward.



Outreach & Collaboration

Foster relationships with organizations already working with Rural, Hispanic, and Marshallese populations. Identify opportunities and outlets for outreach to communities and individuals where little to no relationship exists.

Examples: Partner with us to reach underserved communities through meetings, trainings, and outreach activities to connect your resources to the districts and communities.



Leadership and Professional Development

Utilize True Colors model for understanding district personalities to foster greater collaboration and engagement. Teach local government officials to engage and network professionally on mutual values, purposes, and goals to achieve a shared vision.

Examples: Identify individuals and local officials who are interested in collaborating and using their positions of leadership to promote economic and workforce priorities locally.



Grant Writing Training

Conduct hands-on, effective grant writing training for communities and organizations and convey the importance of partnering and collaborating with your district for successful proposals and projects.

Examples: Attend, promote, and co-host a grant writing workshop in the community that will help city, county, and nonprofit professionals build stronger, more collaborative proposals that foster community growth.

Strategic Planning/Doing Process



Utilize this approach with multiple community stakeholders and your staff to collaborate quickly, move towards measurable outcomes, and adjust along the way. Support internal district planning activities and needs with EDA University Center staff.

Examples: Join us at the discussion table, whether as a participant or co-hosting meetings in region that bring multiple stakeholders together towards action-oriented goals and plans.

SAM.gov Support



Provide APEX Accelerators referrals to Arkansas-based businesses interested in procurement and government contracting technical assistance. Explore the development of tools such as an “Annual SAM Renewal” checklist or offer trainings for new community and government officials.

Examples: Assist with providing business referrals to the APEX Accelerator program who are ready to compete in government contracting or promote local training opportunities and tools for SAM.gov registration produce by the Center.

Data Analysis and Interpretation



Inform district staff or communities on ways to use data and tell the story of need, impact, and success in your continued work.

Examples: Co-host and attend community trainings on our Labor Market Observatories and other reports produced in partnership with Heartland Forward.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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