

Local Government Resources for Coronavirus Response

Local Governments play a crucial role in responding to the COVID-19 Coronavirus by working to control the spread of virus, providing accurate and reliable information to residents and business, and responding to the impacts of the virus in the community. The following resources are available to local governments and local leaders.

Support for Arkansas counties and municipalities:

These organizations provide state and national guidance through articles, collections of relevant news, and webinars. Many also offer e-newsletters as a way to stay current on COVID-19 topics impacting counties and municipalities.

Arkansas Municipal League (ARML) provides guidance for city leadership and has numerous resources to support municipal leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic. Available materials include best practices for law enforcement on the Governor's order to limit restaurant operations and a sample COVID-19 community statement.

<https://www.arml.org/>

Arkansas Association of Counties (AAC) publishes an online journal, "County Lines", whose most recent edition highlights county responses to COVID-19 including guidelines for counties, leadership in trying times, lessons learned, and COVID-19 employment issues. The AAC website also collects news relevant to Arkansas counties during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.arcounties.org/>

National Association of Counties (NACo) collects current information on Coronavirus activities in counties in the U.S. and funding related to the Coronavirus pandemic. NACo also hosts regular webinars on COVID-19 including topics like "Federal Covid-19 Response Efforts" and "Cyber Security in a time of Crisis." <https://www.naco.org/>

Crisis Leadership

The International City/County Management Association (IMCA) provides best practices for local government crisis leadership and also provides suggestions for responses to the Coronavirus pandemic. Some topics include "Tools and Techniques for Managing COVID-19 Recovery Costs" and "How to Encourage Community Building During the COVID-19 Crisis."

<https://icma.org/coronavirus-crisis-response-resources-your-community>

The Alliance for Innovation provides innovative ideas for local governments to address crises. Articles of interest include their commentary titled "During This Crisis Cities Must Think and Act Dramatically Differently." <https://www.transformgov.org/>

Access to Broadband

Many residents and businesses in rural areas of the state do not have access to Broadband, which is essential for commerce and information sharing.

The Federal Communications Commission provides an interactive map of all U.S. counties showing the speed and number of residential broadband providers. You can view the map here: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/>

The **2019 Rural Profile of Arkansas** provides additional information about broadband access in Arkansas counties. <https://uaex.uada.edu/ruralprofile/>

The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) provides up-to-date information on Internet Service Providers that provide discounted or free internet services. The NDIA website has information about if residents in your area may qualify for these discounted or free services. <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/>

More Information

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is working to support Arkansas businesses and communities with up-to-date information and guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have additional questions about how COVID-19 is impacting Local Governments in Arkansas, please contact Dr. Wayne Miller.

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