

# Community & Economic Development Strengthening Arkansas Communities

## **CED Programs and Resources**

#### Leadership:

- A. Available to provide presentations and workshops on leadership development topics such as: effective meetings, parliamentary procedure, leadership principles, board governance, facilitation skills, ethics, conflict resolution, consensus building, effective communication and listening, issue prioritization, and team building. We can build a workshop to fit your individual needs.
- B. Provide assistance in developing, conducting, and evaluating a comprehensive adult or youth leadership program.
- C. Assistance for Quorum Courts and City Councils on issues such as streamlining meetings, reviewing operating procedures, agenda development, and engaging businesses, residents and other stakeholders.
- D. LeadAR (Lead Arkansas), statewide leadership program. See fee-based programs below.
- E. Annual Breakthrough Solutions Conference focused on assisting community and regional leaders to create vibrant, sustainable communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

### **Nonprofit Organizations:**

- A. Available to provide workshops or presentations on topics such as board development and structure, issue prioritization, effective meetings, or other local training needs.
- B. Assist organizations with becoming a legal nonprofit.

#### **Strategic Planning for Community and Economic Development:**

- A. Work with communities and organizations to conduct asset-based strategic planning.
- B. Breakthrough Solutions, a visioning and strategic planning process. See fee-based programs below.
- C. Assist communities in assessing economic conditions, trends and opportunities.
- D. Work with local governments to analyze revenue streams, spending patterns and trends.
- E. Breakthrough News, an electronic newsletter on success stories, new opportunities and resources for community and economic development.

#### **Business:**

- A. Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center (APAC), a program to provide training and oneon-one assistance for businesses that want to sell products or services to the government through federal, state (Arkansas) and local government contracts.
- B. Assistance in developing a youth entrepreneurship program.
- C. Provide guidance to farmers and others interested in agritourism development.
- D. Work with local governments to explore policy options for supporting entrepreneurial development.
- E. Provide information about strategies to attract retirees to your community.
- F. Operation JumpStart, a microenterprise development program. See fee-based programs below.

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its program to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



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### **Public Policy Center:**

- A. Provide educational materials on statewide ballot issues.
- B. Assist communities in developing educational program on local ballot issues. Previous projects have involved local sales tax initiatives to fund jails, hospitals, and economic development, as well as a wet/dry issue.
- C. Work with communities and state agencies to encourage public involvement on public policy issues.
- D. Work with local organizations on understanding and interpreting new laws and regulations.
- E. Coordinate stakeholder engagement and public awareness of water pollution issues in watersheds deemed critical by state agencies.

#### Fee Based Program:

- A. True Colors, a copyrighted personality assessment used to assist with self-assessment and communication skills. Fee based on material used; ranges \$12-25 per person.
- B. Intensive, multi-session leadership programs. Fee based on role of local extension office and sponsorship. Recent program includes six-session Cross County Visionaries sponsored by Cross County Chamber of Commerce.
- C. Breakthrough Solutions, an intensive strategic planning process for communities or regions that is asset based, community driven, and technology enabled. Recent examples are Harrison CORE, DTEC (Delta Technology Educational Center, Dumas) and ARCO (Polk, Scott and Montgomery Counties).
- D. Operation Jump Start, a copyrighted micro-enterprise program to help entrepreneurs assess business feasibility. Very intensive, 36 hours of training. Recent program was in Izard, Fulton and Sharp Counties. Fee based on what is included.
- E. Hispanic Entrepreneurship. Adult entrepreneurship program taught in Spanish (recently conducted in DeQueen and Danville). Program can be tailored to meet the needs of local entrepreneurs.
- F. Income Tax Schools. Intensive two day trainings held in multiple locations throughout state to provide continuing education credit for people preparing income taxes that need continuing education. Fee in 2012 was \$220.
- G. In-depth analysis of regional socio-economic conditions, opportunities and strategies for development. Some topics include: development capacity, changing economic base, cluster industries, economic and fiscal impact, enhancing retail trade, and retiree inmigration. Examples include NCARED Target Industry Study, Economic Opportunities for the ARCO Region, Economic Contribution of Agriculture, Rural Profile of Arkansas.
- H. LeadAR (Lead Arkansas), a two-year statewide leadership development program featuring seminars around the state as well as national and international study tours. Tuition \$3,000.

Website: http://www.arcommunities.org

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