



Hugh McDonald
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Clint O'Neal
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

December 18, 2025

Arkansas Legislative Council
1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Gilmore and Representative Eaves,

On behalf of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, please accept our request to add the revised recommended report of the FY 2026 Community Assistance Grant Program to the agenda for the Arkansas Legislative Council scheduled for Friday, December 19th.

The attached report amends and replaces previously distributed reports for this program. Amendments to note include the addition of recommended funding for Children's Advocacy Alliance in Faulkner County, the reduction of recommended funding to 16 other children's advocacy organizations to accommodate that addition, and an increased funding recommendation to the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas earmarked for Arkansans served by the Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center.

The recommended projects have an urgent need for funding of critical services necessitating this item be added to the December agenda and preventing a delay to the January meeting.

We appreciate your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clint O'Neal", written over a series of horizontal lines.

Clint O'Neal
Executive Director, AEDC

FY26 Community Assistance Grant Program - Recommended Report

County Name	Grantee	Amount Requested	Recommended	Narrative Summary	State Representative	State Senator
Ashley County	CASA of the 10th Judicial District	\$400,000.00	\$80,000.00	CASA of the 10th Judicial District is requesting \$400,000 in funding for critical advocacy services for abused and neglected children in Southeast Arkansas.	Howard Beaty	Ben Gilmore
Benton County	Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County	\$1,236,215.77	\$598,108.00	Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County is requesting \$1,236,215.77 in funding to cover essential operating costs, staff training, employee benefits, utilities, technology, and general facility upkeep.	John Carr	Jim Dotson
Boone County	Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.	\$962,657.64	\$461,000.00	Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center, Inc is requesting \$962,657.64 in funding to support programing.	Ron McNair	Scott Flippo
Clark County	Percy and Donna Malone Child Safety Center, Inc.	\$829,880.49	\$395,500.00	Percy and Donna Malone Child Safety Center, Inc is requesting \$829,880.49 in funding to sustain and enhance its capacity to serve children and families impacted by abuse and trauma.	Richard Womack	Steve Crowell
Craighead County	Northeast Arkansas Children's Advocacy Center	\$1,005,231.94	\$480,000.00	The Northeast Arkansas Children's Advocacy Center is requesting \$1,005,231.94 in funding to support operations costs for essential administrative and direct service staff.	Johnny Rye	Dan Sullivan
Crawford County	Morgan Nick Foundation	\$1,131,607.70	\$282,902.00	The Morgan Nick Foundation is a non-profit entity requesting \$1,131,607.70 in funding to fund operations for essential case management team members and skilled K9 handlers.	Brad Hall	Justin Boyd
Crittenden County	Mending Hearts Child Safety Center of Eastern Arkansas	\$420,000.00	\$190,000.00	Mending Hearts Child Safety Center of Eastern Arkansas in funding for \$420,000 in funding to support general operations.	Lincoln E. Barnett	Reginald Murdock

Drew County	10th JD Prosecuting Attorney	\$83,212.00	\$83,212.00	The 10th JD Prosecuting Attorney's Office is requesting \$83,212.00 in funding for the operations costs for victims services with a 20% match.	Jeff Wardlaw	Ben Gilmore
Faulkner County	Children's Advocacy Alliance	\$601,786.33	\$200,000.00	The Children's Advocacy Alliance is requesting \$601,786.33 in funding to expand and sustain trauma-informed services for child victims of abuse and neglect across Central Arkansas.	Stephen Meeks	Missy Irvin
Garland County	Harbor House, Inc	\$498,862.00	\$127,000.00	Harbor House, Inc is a non-profit entity requesting \$498,862.00 in funding to construct a new building for transitional living for their female clients. 20% cash match is pledged.	Richard McGrew	Matt McKee
Garland County	Mission Clinical Services (Cooper-Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center)	\$854,720.00	\$407,000.00	Mission Clinical Services is requesting \$854,720.00 in funding to implement its core services for their Child Victims of Abuse project.	Bruce Cozart	Matt McKee
Independence County	Children's Advocacy Center of Independence County	\$303,302.06	\$131,651.00	The Children's Advocacy Center of Independence County is requesting \$303,302.06 in funding for operations and staff support.	Shad Pearce	John Payton
Jefferson County	The Children's Advocacy Center of Pine Bluff, Jefferson County	\$309,315.00	\$134,500.00	The Children's Advocacy Center of Pine Bluff, Jefferson County is requesting \$309,315.00 in funding to sustain and expand its Operational and Staff Support Project.	Kenneth Ferguson	Stephanie Flowers
Johnson County	Ozark Rape Crisis, Inc.	\$505,711.00	\$126,428.00	Ozark Rape Crisis Inc, is requesting \$505,711.00 in funding to continue its provision of comprehensive crisis intervention and advocacy services to primary and secondary survivors of rape and sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.	Aaron Pilkington	Gary Stubblefield

Lonoke County	Wade Knox Child Advocacy Center	\$307,479.00	\$135,000.00	The Wade Knox Children's Advocacy Center is requesting \$307,479.00 in funding to provide direct services and support to child victims of abuse and neglect, ages 3 to 18, along with their non-offending caregivers. Serving Lonoke, Prairie, and Monroe Counties.	Roger Lynch	Ricky Hill
Marion County	Into the Light	\$1,500,000.00	\$750,000.00	Into the Light is requesting \$1,500,000 in funding to provide services to victims of crime and construct a new building for their operations.	Robin Lundstrum	Joshua Bryant
Montgomery County	Montgomery County Arkansas Prosecuting Attorney	\$67,785.37	\$67,785.00	Montgomery County is requesting \$67,785.37 in funding to establish a full-time Victim Witness Coordinator position dedicated to assisting victims and witnesses of crimes against persons.	John Maddox	Terry Rice
Polk County	Polk County Prosecuting Attorney	\$203,722.48	\$101,861.00	Polk County is requesting \$203,722.48 in funding for their victims services unit within the prosecuting attorney's office.	John Maddox	Terry Rice
Polk County	Ouachita Children's Center Inc.	\$220,965.00	\$90,483.00	Ouachita Children's Center is requesting \$220,965.00 in funding to support the core operations of the Ouachita Child Safety Center, which provides critical, trauma-informed services to child abuse victims and their non-offending caregivers in rural Arkansas.	John Maddox	Terry Rice
Pope County	5th Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney	\$511,496.46	\$170,499.00	5th Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney is requesting \$511,496.46 in funding for their Victim Assistance Program focusing on creating a victim centered approach to serving victims.	Matt Duffield	Breanne Davis
Pope County	River Valley Child Advocacy Center	\$575,434.00	\$267,500.00	River Valley Child Advocacy Center is requesting \$575,434.00 in funding to implement direct services of trauma based therapy, advocacy and forensic interviews to child abuse victims and or their non-offending family members/caregivers.	Mary Bentley	Breanne Davis

Pulaski County	Women and Children First	\$1,500,000.00	\$900,000.00	Women & Children First: The Center Against Domestic Violence is requesting \$1,500,000 in funding to construct the Forest of Hope Family Peace Center.	Tara Shephard	Fredrick J. Love
Pulaski County	Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,020,000.00	Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas is requesting \$1,500,000 in funding to support a network of 18 advocacy centers across the state. \$200,000 earmarked for children in Arkansas counties served by the Texarkana CAC.	Tippi McCullough	Clarke Tucker
Pulaski County	Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries	\$1,000,000.00	\$500,000.00	Arkansas Baptist Children & Family Ministries is requesting \$1,000,000 in funding for a comprehensive Family Reunification and Stabilization project designed to strengthen families, reduce trauma, and increase permanency outcomes for children in Arkansas.	Joy Springer	Clarke Tucker
Pulaski County	Recovery Centers of Arkansas, Inc.	\$1,500,000.00	\$375,000.00	Recovery Centers of Arkansas is requesting \$1,500,000 in funding for the renovation of an existing building on our Sibley Center campus to create a new, state-of-the-art 32-bed residential treatment center for men suffering from substance use.	Richard McGrew	Clarke Tucker
Pulaski County	Our House, Inc.	\$1,500,000.00	\$900,000.00	Our House is requesting \$1,500,000 in funding for programing which is a transformative and comprehensive wrap-around service initiative designed to break the cycle of homelessness and financial instability for families and individuals in Arkansas.	Denise Ennett	Jamie Scott
Pulaski County	Our House, Inc.	\$1,500,000.00	\$900,000.00	Our House is requesting \$1,500,000 in funding to rehabilitate their shelter building which is an 80 bed dormitory that serves over 900 unique individuals experiencing homelessness annually, providing vital services and a pathway to stability.	Denise Ennett	Jamie Scott

Pulaski County	Restore Hope	\$1,499,950.00	\$900,000.00	Restore Hope is requesting \$1,499,950.00 in funding for their Communities of Care Technology Ecosystem (CoC TE) is a proposed model that directly aligns with broader state goals and integrates existing initiatives into a cohesive, user-centered system.	Cindy Crawford	Jim Petty
Pulaski County	Children's Protection Center	\$1,472,264.42	\$716,132.00	Children's Protection Center is requesting \$1,472,264.42 in funding to provide comprehensive, trauma-informed services to child victims of abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and sexual assault in Pulaski County.	Joy Springer	Jamie Scott
Pulaski County	Arkansas Human Development Corporation	\$982,134.86	\$327,378.00	Arkansas Human Development Corporation is requesting \$982,134.86 in funding to partner with AEDC and community-based partners to operate the Delta Plus Youth Opportunity Network summer and a year-round youth work-based learning initiative.	Tippi McCullough	Clarke Tucker
Saline County	Central Arkansas Development Council	\$1,500,000.00	\$425,000.00	Central Arkansas Development Council is requesting \$1,500,000 in funding to implement a comprehensive suite of community-focused programs across its 19-county service area.	Tony Furman	Kim Hammer
Saline County	Arkansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	\$1,500,000.00	\$750,000.00	Arkansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is requesting \$1,500,000 in funding to increase quality of life for Arkansas families by providing comprehensive out-of-school time programming.	Tony Furman	Kim Hammer

Sebastian County	Hamilton Center for Child Advocacy	\$670,000.00	\$315,000.00	The Hamilton Center for Child Advocacy is requesting \$670,000 in funding to support operational costs for key frontline staff, including family advocates, forensic interviewers, and a development director, as well as essential program expenses.	Cindy Crawford	Justin Boyd
Sebastian County	12th Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney's Office	\$105,786.01	\$105,786.00	The 12th Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney's Office is requesting \$105,786.01 in funds to support operations of the victims services program.	Zack Gramlich	Justin Boyd
St. Francis County	First Judicial District Victim Witness Program	\$212,641.49	\$106,000.00	The First District Judicial Victim Protection Program is requesting \$212,641.49 in funding to continue to provide primary and secondary victims of crime from six Arkansas counties: Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis, and Woodruff.	Steve Hollowell	Ronald Caldwell
Union County	South Arkansas Children's Coalition	\$758,217.00	\$169,554.00	South Arkansas Children's Coalition is requesting \$758,217 in funding to oversee two vital child welfare programs.	Matthew Shepherd	Matt Stone
Union County	13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT	\$39,420.00	\$39,420.00	13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT is requesting \$39,420.00 in funding for its Victim Assistance Program. The 13th Judicial District, is comprised of six counties located in south-central Arkansas.	Matthew Shepherd	Matt Stone
Washington County	Children's Safety Center	\$924,713.08	\$442,000.00	The Children's Safety Center is requesting \$924,713.08 in funding to provide a welcoming space for victims of child abuse to tell their stories and receive the support they need.	Steve Unger	Clint Penzo

Washington County	Northwest Arkansas Rape Crisis, Inc	\$811,822.66	\$202,956.00	Northwest Arkansas Rape Crisis Center is requesting \$811,822.66 in funding for their prevention, advocacy and healing project.	Robin Lundstrum	Clint Penzo
White County	White County Children's Safety Center	\$1,250,288.19	\$625,000.00	White County Children's Safety Center, Inc is requesting \$1,250,288.19 in funding to sustain operational funding for their services for child abuse victims.	Les Eaves	Jonathan Dismang
Total		\$32,756,621.95	\$14,999,655.00			