



Half the Task is Just Knowing Who to Ask

Successful economic development is a result of – as much as anything – staying in touch with those who can help you. Through one-on-one contacts, attending conferences and meetings, and other means, community representatives can learn valuable tools and information that will open doors to opportunities.

The following list of resources was compiled by the economic development professionals at Teamwork Arkansas, the economic development office of Entergy Arkansas.

State Government

Arkansas state government offers abundant resources for local economic development. The Arkansas Department of Economic Development (ADED) is charged with marketing Arkansas to prospective business worldwide, aiding Arkansas communities with its economic development efforts, providing professional consultation and offering resources such as financing for local development projects. Visit the ADED office in Little Rock often and stay in touch with your designated community development liaison. By letting ADED know you are serious about community economic development and what your community has to offer, ADED will be better prepared to meet your needs. ADED can be reached at 1-800-ARKANSAS.

Public/Private

The Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) offers financing options for new or expanding business in your area. ADFA can be reached at 501-682-5905. Also, Arkansas Capital Corporation offers financing options for new and expanding business in Arkansas. ACC can be reached at 800-216-7237.

Private

Teamwork Arkansas, the economic development arm of Entergy Arkansas, offers many resources to communities served by Entergy. Project managers at Teamwork Arkansas are constantly searching for and recruiting prospective businesses looking to expand or relocate. Teamwork Arkansas staff members would be pleased to visit your community to see first-hand your accomplishments and needs. Call on them to help you plan a successful recruitment effort. Teamwork Arkansas can be reached at 888-301-5861.

Other private sources for assistance include service and manufacturing industries in your area. They all have a vested interest in seeing their community grow and prosper. Contact your local business and industry leaders and get them involved.

Colleges and Universities

Institutions of higher learning often offer help with new or existing research and other resources. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock houses the Institute of Economic Advancement and Arkansas State University is home to the Delta Center for Economic Development. Both offer research assistance, help with surveys and much more. The IEA can be



reached at 501-569-8541 and the Delta Center at 870-972-3000. Invite them to tour your community to gain a better understanding of your needs and your assets already in place.

Other education-oriented sources include the Association of Two-Year Colleges (501-371-2014) and the Arkansas Employment Security Department (501-682-3198). These entities are excellent resources for labor and workforce training issues. Arkansas Planning and Development Districts (501-676-2721) offers community economic development grant assistance and planning services. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (501-682-0821) can help with permitting and licensing.

Conferences

Arkansas Economic Developers (AED) holds an annual conference every August. The conference hosts expert individuals and panels who speak about current economic development issues, and it serves as an opportunity to network with your economic peers in other communities. Your membership in AED and attendance at the annual conference will place you in a position to help move your community ahead. But don't wait for the annual conference to get involved in AED. Volunteer for events during the year, ask about committees and offer suggestions. Contact AED at 501-377-6016.

Also consider the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce (501-374-9225) conference, the International Economic Development Council (202-223-7800) conference, the Southern Economic Development Council (800-969-7432) conference, and the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives conference.

Colleagues

Establish a relationship with another chamber official or economic development professional in a larger community within your state. Visit their shop and learn what "programs of work" they have in place, learn what they deem successful, and even learn from their mistakes. Do the same for a smaller community and one that mirrors yours. Smaller communities face challenges not experienced by larger communities. Most importantly, don't just send your colleague an email. Go see them, take them to lunch or dinner and host them in your community. Be proactive, not reactive, in finding solutions to your challenges.

"I find the harder I work, the more luck I have." Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826.

Professional networking and communicating, pursued with persistence, pay off. Make sure your community enjoys the benefits of staying in touch.

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