

OUR

INVESTMENTS

IN

EQUITY

AR EQUITY
2025

Economic Equity Investments

INCREASE WORK OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILD WEALTH



Economic equity will exist when all Arkansans achieve widely shared prosperity because everyone earns a living wage, participates in a thriving economy, and is able to build generational wealth.



Every Region Has A Vibrant and Growing Economy

Program-Related Investments [PRIs] - \$7,756,836 Total

Increase Access to Capital in Arkansas – Provide financial products and services to meet the short- and long-term financial needs of residents that seek to start or expand a business or grow household assets

- **Communities Unlimited** (due 2030) - \$500,000
- **Hope Enterprise Corporation** - \$1,000,000
- **Southern Bancorp, Inc.** (voting and non-voting shares) - \$5,256,836
- **Southern Bancorp Community Partners** - \$1,000,000

Aristotle Unified Communications [Loan Guarantee] - \$500,000

Increase Rural Broadband Access – Expand high-speed broadband in Arkansas Delta communities without access through traditional Internet providers

EAST Initiative [Professional Services Agreement (PSA)] - \$29,000

Exploring Innovative Problem Solving – Use geographically weighted regression (GWR) to identify opportunities, barriers, and strategies to support the Foundation’s strategic direction

AR Equity 2025 - Current Investments


As of December 2–3, 2021

	<p>Winrock International [Grant] - \$100,000</p>	<p>Pursue Equity through Opportunity Zones – Coordinate equitable development within opportunity zones in Arkansas</p>
	<p>COVID-19 Rapid Response [Grants] - \$565,000 Total Closed - \$340,000</p>	<p>COVID-19 Rapid Response Funding Strategy – Respond to immediate needs at the onset of COVID-19 crisis in Arkansas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Individual Assistance – Provide cash reimbursements up to \$1,000 to families in Northwest Arkansas for food, gas, rent/housing, and utilities through the <i>Hark</i> at Endeavor social services infrastructure<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Excellerate Foundation [Grant] - \$25,000● Nonprofit Assistance – Leverage individual and philanthropic funds to support nonprofit organizations actively responding to Arkansans in need<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Arkansas Community Foundation [2020 Grant] - \$100,000○ Arkansas Community Foundation [2021 Grant] – \$100,000
	<p>Delta COVID-19 Recovery and Rebuild Fund (Delta Owned) [Grants] - \$500,000</p>	<p>Advance Equity through Small Business Assistance in the Delta – Support small businesses in the Arkansas Delta region with flexible grants and technical assistance to sustain during and after the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Delta Circles [Grant] - \$85,000 - Delta Owned Project Coordination● Communities Unlimited [Grant] - Up to \$235,000 - Delta-Owned Fund and Technical Assistance for Business Owners

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonprofit Partners (<i>Delta Community Development and Law Center, East Arkansas Enterprise Community, Phoenix Youth and Family Services</i>) [Grants] - \$180,000
	<p>Delta Owned 2.0 [Grants] - \$220,000</p>	<p>Continue the Delta Owned Model to Strengthen Long-Term Entrepreneurial Ecosystem – Provide support to small businesses in the Arkansas Delta region and leverage an extended network of resource providers to grow the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Delta region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Technical Assistance from Nonprofit Navigators</i> – \$160,000 • <i>Small Business Assistance Grant Fund</i> – \$60,000
	<p>FHF Enterprises, LLC [PSA 2021] - \$62,000</p>	<p>Southeast Arkansas Health Council – Provide strategic consulting and technical assistance to support the implementation of the Arkansas Department of Health’s Office of Health Equity grant and development of a proposed Southeast Arkansas Health Council</p>
	<p>Andrea Levere [PSA] - \$15,000</p>	<p>Blueprint for Enterprise Capital – Develop a concept paper that outlines a philanthropic and public strategy for an enterprise capital fund in Arkansas</p>
	<p>East Arkansas Enterprise Community [Grant] - \$50,000</p>	<p>Research Access to COVID-19 Relief Funds – conduct research on how COVID relief funds in Arkansas were distributed to businesses and nonprofit organizations in response to the pandemic</p>

 <p>All Arkansans Earn a Living Wage or Better</p>	<p>United Way of Northern New Jersey [Professional Services]</p>	<p>ALICE in Arkansas Phase II ABCs of Equity – Update the Arkansas ALICE data with 2018 data and to conduct an ALICE COVID Impact Survey</p>
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As of December 2–3, 2021

	<i>Agreement]</i> - Up to \$50,000	
	Asset Funders Network <i>[Match Commitment]</i> - \$200,000	Advance Policies to Support ALICE – Leverage local and national funds to support advocacy for a state earned income tax credit in Arkansas
	Faith Leaders Network <i>[Grants/PSAs]</i> - \$200,000 Total	Create Faith Leader Network for ALICE Advocacy – Build an infrastructure of faith leaders to engage in advocacy and moral leadership to advance the narrative of economic equity in Arkansas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fractured Atlas, as fiscal sponsor for Faith Matters Network - \$75,000 ● Auburn Theological Seminary - \$50,000 ● Methodist Foundation for AR - \$50,000 ● Ryan Davis Consulting - \$25,000

 <p>All Arkansans Can Save and Grow Assets</p>	Asset Funders Network <i>[Grant]</i> - \$40,000	Philanthropic Infrastructure for Equity – Build a coalition of funders to make the case for economic equity in Arkansas
	Reallocation of Program Related Investment Funding Pool <i>[Grants]</i> - \$750,000 Total	Grow AR Own through Equitable Access to Capital – Invest in new models for equitable distribution of capital in Arkansas and in networks that can wield their collective influence and leverage to bring models to scale and drive systemic change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KIVA - \$210,000 ● Financing Ozarks Rural Growth and Economy (FORGE) - \$300,000 ● Southern Bancorp Community Partners - \$150,000 ● Arkansas Asset Funders Network - \$90,000
	People Trust Community Loan	Access to Capital in Central Arkansas – Expand consumer and business microlending in

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	<p>Fund [Grant] - \$60,000</p>	<p>southwest Little Rock and the 12th Street Corridor through cutting-edge technology</p>
	<p>Urban League of Arkansas [Grant] - \$160,000</p>	<p>Urban League of Arkansas – Provide core support for its mission to create economic opportunity for people of color in Arkansas through policy, partnerships, research, and services</p>
	<p>Women’s Foundation of Arkansas [Grant] - \$150,000</p>	<p>Women’s Foundation of Arkansas – Provide core support for its mission to support women and girls in Arkansas to realize and achieve their full potential</p>
	<p>Proper Southern Strategies [Professional Services Agreement 2021] - \$55,000</p>	<p>Add Capacity in our Relentless Pursuit – Provide strategic consulting and technical assistance to advance the Foundation’s economic equity strategy</p>
	<p>People Trust Community Loan Fund [Grant] - \$150,000</p>	<p>Build Capacity for Increased Impact – Support Arkansas’s only Black-owned Community Development Financial Institution through internal capacity building to stimulate expansion and growth</p>
	<p>Deborah Temple [PSA] - \$5,000</p>	<p>Building the Capacity of Arkansas Community Development Financial Institutions – Coordinate the Arkansas CDFI Network</p>
	<p>Torch Enterprises, Inc. [PSA] - \$25,000</p>	<p>Building a Black Wealth Initiative in Arkansas – Conduct the initial phase of a landscape analysis around building a Black wealth initiative in Arkansas</p>
	<p>Evictions Assistance [Grants/PSAs] - \$225,000 Total</p>	<p>Building Collective Impact for ALICE Families – Co-invest in a coalition of diverse organizations providing direct support, organizing, and resources for ALICE workers facing evictions and housing instability</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association [Grant] - \$25,000● Arkansas Community Institute [Grant] - \$50,000● Arkansas Justice Collective [Grant] - \$25,000● Center for Arkansas Legal Services [Grant] - \$50,000● Hope Enterprise Corporation [Grant] - \$25,000● KWilkins Consulting Group [PSA] - \$50,000● Potluck and Poison Ivy (The Yarn) [Grant] - \$25,000
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Educational Equity Investments

ADVANCE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY



Educational Equity will exist when all Arkansans can attain the skills and education needed to support their families and communities, especially those striving to move out of poverty.



All Children Reading on Grade Level By 3rd Grade

Arkansas Community Foundation [Grant] - \$1,000,000

Excel by Eight (formerly the Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading) – Support the operations, fundraising, and continued implementation of the *Excel by Eight* birth-to-eight equity strategy

Arkansas Community Foundation [Grant] - \$200,000

Building Power to Transform the Early Childhood System – Build the power of early childhood professionals and parents and support a long-term, coordinated campaign to achieve transformative change in Arkansas’s early childhood system



A High Impact Teacher in Front of Every Child, Every Day

University of Central Arkansas [Grant] - \$150,000

Disrupt the Teacher Preparation System – Partner with the Harvard Disruptive Equity Education Project (Harvard DEEP) to launch UCA DEEP to examine inequity and system disruption within the UCA teacher-preparation program and other programs statewide



Arkansas Education Policy Supports

ForwARd Arkansas [Grant] - \$1,200,000

Support ForwARd’s Mission & Reenvisioned Strategies – Accelerate the innovative and equitable transformation of Arkansas's Pre-K to 12 education system to deliver excellent outcomes

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Excellence for All Kids and Communities	ForwARd Arkansas <i>[Grant] - \$250,000</i>	State of Education in Arkansas Report – Support the research needed to assess the current challenges in Arkansas’s P-12 education system and articulate opportunities for post-pandemic changes for more equitable academic outcomes
	Rural Community Alliance <i>[Grant] - \$200,000</i>	Engaging Rural Voices in the Pursuit of Educational Equity – Carry out the Rural Community Alliance’s mission to help rural schools and communities thrive through parent and youth organizing, parent and resident engagement, and education advocacy
	Little Rock Public Education Foundation <i>[Grant] - \$150,000</i>	Parent Engagement in LRSD Community Schools – Support parent engagement as the City of Little Rock and its partners implement community schools within the Little Rock School District

Social, Ethnic, & Racial Equity Investments

BUILD A MOVEMENT



Social, Ethnic, and Racial Equity will exist when all Arkansans can live in an equitable and productive state free from historic and systemic barriers, and legacies of unfairness have been addressed and eliminated.



Arkansas Eliminates Legacies of Unfairness

Social Justice Institute at Philander Smith College [Grant] - \$100,000

Strengthen Social Justice Leader Pipeline – Leverage national resources to build the capacity of social justice leaders and advocates. Southern Bancorp Capital Partners serves as the fiscal agent for this grant

2021 Capacity Building for AR Equity 2025 Partners [Professional Services Agreements]

Grantee Technical Assistance – Provide technical assistance and capacity building to Arkansas partners in support of the Foundation's strategic direction

- **Bax & Associates** [PSA] - \$5,100
- **Chrysalis Consortium LLC** [PSA] - \$25,000
- **Great Lakes Institute** [PSA] - \$30,000
- **Glenn Nishimura** [PSA] - \$30,000
- **Kimberly A. Aaron** [PSA] - \$1,500
- **Relationships Matter Now** [PSA] - \$21,000
- **TLB Enterprises Inc.** [PSA] - \$8,500

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Capacity for Equity Fund [Board Approved, Staff Directed Grants] - \$150,000 (approved 2019); \$250,000 (approved 2020)

Capacity for Equity Fund –

Dedicate quick-response, staff-approved support for the development of nonprofits working on WRF’s new strategic direction; current investments are:

- **Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families** - \$10,000 - Support for gubernatorial advocacy and outreach in 2022 for Alliance for Early Success's state team
- **Arkansas Black Mayors Association** - \$30,000 - Develop a strategic plan, identify operational goals, and engage in resource development in support of their mission
- **Arkansas Judicial Council, Inc.** - \$20,000 - Support organized listening sessions for state judges to hear community members speak on the nature and elements of systemic bias present within the justice system
- **Arkansas Rural Health Partnership** - \$10,000 - support the ARHP to engage every rural hospital in South Arkansas to create a shared vision for equity and strategies to better meet the needs of rural Arkansans
- **Arkansas United Community Coalition**, as fiscal sponsor for **Conexión de Negocios Latinos** - \$30,000 - Support CNL in building internal capacity, with the goal of forming a Latinx-led and -serving entrepreneur support organization based in Northwest Arkansas
- **Brandon House Cultural & Performing Arts Center** - \$30,000 - Support the

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		<p><i>growth and development of creative entrepreneurship in Central Arkansas through a collaborative Creative Economy Business Academy and Business Therapy model</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Credit Counseling of Arkansas - \$4,000 - <i>Support a train-the-trainer partnership with Canopy NWA to better assess and address the financial needs of refugee residents in Northwest Arkansas</i> ● Derek Lewis Foundation - \$25,000 - <i>Establish the Arkansas Black Philanthropy Collaborative (ABPC)</i> ● KUAF 91.3 FM - \$30,000 - <i>Produce a 5-part radio/podcast series and panel discussion titled “The Movement That Never Was: A People’s Guide to Anti-Racism in the South and Arkansas”</i> ● Southern Bancorp Capital Partners - \$25,000 - <i>Provide administrative support to process grant payments as part of the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) CARES Act grant program for nonprofit organizations providing COVID relief services in low wealth communities</i> ● University of Central Arkansas Foundation, Inc. - \$25,000 - <i>Supporting the implementation of the LatinX Entrepreneurs And Families (LEAF) Initiative in collaboration with The Conductor</i> ● Village Place - \$30,000 - <i>Support a youth-led, community-driven movement that will utilize a community newspaper to inspire movements and challenge dominant narratives</i>
	<p>Movement Innovation Grant</p>	<p>Movement Innovation Grant Fund – Dedicate staff-approved support to high-impact activities</p>

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	<p>Fund [Board Approved, Staff Directed Grants] -</p>	<p>that disrupt inequitable systems and create new opportunities for community-driven change. MIGs are a subset of the Capacity for Equity Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arkansas Coalition for the Marshallese/ Reimagine Arkansas - \$15,000 (MIG) - Support a year-long digital campaign to develop, test, and share tactics and strategies rooted in the voices and lived experiences of Arkansas’s Marshallese residents ● Central Arkansas Harm Reduction Project, as fiscal sponsor for inTRANSitive - \$15,000 (MIG) - Support organizing, mobilization, and digital art campaigns to advance equity for the LGBTQ Community in Arkansas ● Northwest Arkansas Equality - \$30,000 (MIG) support an emerging HIV reform coalition in Arkansas to challenge inequitable policies that criminalize HIV in Arkansas
	<p>Essential Workers Fund [Grant] - \$75,000 to Arkansas United as intermediary</p>	<p>Advocacy for ALICE Workers – Support the organizing infrastructure in Arkansas for long-term structural economic reform and bring awareness to barriers faced by ALICE workers in the state’s essential worker population</p>
	<p>HBCU Sustainability - [Grants/PSAs] - \$240,000 Total</p>	<p>Strengthen Minority Serving Institutions – Reimagine the long-term infrastructure needed to ensure the sustainability of the state’s four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arkansas Baptist College [Grant] - \$50,000 ● Philander Smith College [Grant] - \$50,000 ● Shorter College [Grant] - \$50,000


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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff [Grant] - \$50,000 • Network for Good [PSA] - \$40,000
	<p>UA Clinton School of Public Service, Center on community Philanthropy [Grant] - \$120,000</p> <p>Delta Circles [Grant] - \$150,000</p> <p>Advancing Black Entrepreneurship [Grant] - \$100,000</p>	<p>Equity Infrastructure in Arkansas - Provide general operating support to Arkansas organizations that are critical to the equity infrastructure in Arkansas.</p>
 <p>Public Policy in Arkansas Creates the Conditions for All Residents to Participate, Prosper, and Reach Their Full Potential</p>	<p>Arkansas Delivering on the Dream [Grants] - \$150,000 Total \$50,000</p>	<p>Arkansas Delivering on the Dream (DOTD) Fund – Provide matching funds to support Arkansas’s DOTD collaborative that seeks to build and sustain the capacity of immigrant-led and -serving organizations to build power and advocate for policy change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arkansas Community Foundation (DOTD VI) [Grant] - \$150,000 approved in 2020
	<p>Arkansas United [Grant] - \$100,000</p>	<p>Build Leadership Infrastructure for Immigrants – Build and sustain the capacity of immigrant-led and -serving organizations that center immigrant voice through leadership development and power building</p>
	<p>DecARcerate [Grant] - \$80,000</p>	<p>Leading Systems Change – Empower leaders to create a policy agenda to decriminalize poverty and confront systems of injustice</p>
	<p>Think Social Impact [Grant] - \$300,000</p>	<p>Strengthen Movement Building Infrastructure – Deepen the capacity of the Black/Brown</p>


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		<p>Power Coalition infrastructure that centers community voice through leadership development and power building</p>
 <p>Narrative Change Amplifies Voices</p>	<p>Gates Foundation - Asset Funders Network [Grant] - \$100,000</p>	<p>Voices for Economic Opportunity Challenge – Leverage national resources to shift perceptions about poverty, economic mobility, and wage equity in Arkansas</p>
	<p>Arkansas Community Institute [Grant] - \$50,000</p>	<p>Amplify Community Power and Voice – Develop community-driven problem-solving and strengthen narrative capacity of grassroots leaders engaged in challenging the root causes of inequity</p>
	<p>Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families [Grant] - \$225,000</p>	<p>Reimagine Arkansas – Grow public will and narrative change infrastructure to support movement building for Arkansas families</p>
	<p>Crystal C. Mercer [Professional Services Agreement] - \$45,000</p>	<p>ALICE Storytelling – Support WRF to create a shared vision for equity informed by the experiences of grassroots organizers, creatives, and everyday Arkansans</p>
	<p>Orchid Communications [Professional Services Agreement 2021] - \$30,000</p>	<p>Narrative Change – Deepen WRF’s capacity to remain innovative and nimble in WRF’s narrative strategy</p>

Intersectional Investments

The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation envisions an equitable Arkansas in which all Arkansans have jobs that pay a livable wage, a quality education, and the chance to thrive and prosper.

 <p>Collaborative Infrastructure Building</p>	<p>Rural Community Alliance [Grant] — \$200,000</p>	<p>Support Grassroots and Rural Advocates — Deepen the capacity of nonprofits organizing power in marginalized communities.</p>
	<p>LGBTQIA+ Fund [Grant] — \$200,000</p> <p>Arkansas Black Philanthropy Collaborative [Grant] — \$150,000</p> <p>Arkansas Impact Philanthropy [Grant] — \$100,000</p> <p>Housing Connective Care & Action Network [Grant] — \$100,000</p> <p>Delivering on the Dream [Grant] — \$150,000</p>	<p>Build Philanthropic and Nonprofit Infrastructure — Strengthen the coalitions, collaboratives, and common tables advancing policy change on behalf of ALICE families</p>
	<p>A/B Partners [PSA] — \$200,000</p>	<p>Narrative Change & Place-Based Community Engagement — Shift underlying narratives and belief in status quo and influence localized movements for equity</p>

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