



Hugh McDonald
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ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Arkansas Site Development Program Application FAQs - 2026

What is the program?

The Arkansas Site Development Program is intended to provide matching funding for site development improvement activities that will enhance industrial site readiness and competitiveness for job-creating projects.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include:

- Cities, towns, and counties in Arkansas
- An economic development organization
- A chamber of commerce

What sites are eligible for consideration?

- greenfield industrial sites
- minimum of 30 acres contiguous land
- Owned or optioned by an eligible applicant (optioned land must be owned by the applicant by the time the grant agreement is executed)
- Listed on the [Arkansas Site Selection Center Database](#)

What kinds of site development projects are eligible?

- Extension and improvement of public infrastructure to the site
- Right of way acquisition necessary for the eligible project
- Easement acquisition
- Soil borings and analysis
- Construction costs for site improvements including but not limited to:
 - o Drainage improvements
 - o Easements
 - o Dozer or dirt work
 - o Grading
 - o Site mitigation
 - o Site rehabilitation
- Costs associated with site due diligence studies
- Other site development related activities deemed necessary by the Commission to improve a site's competitiveness

What kinds of site development projects are NOT eligible?

- Purchase of property (except right of way or easements necessary for the site development project)
- Principal and interest on any financed debt
- Lease payments



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- Salaries or benefits for employees
- Marketing or advertising
- Routine site repair and maintenance
- Expenditures incurred prior to the grant award

What are the matching fund requirements and what is considered a matching fund?

An eligible applicant must invest a match that is at least a minimum of 5% of the overall project cost estimate. The matching fund can be in the form of cash, in-kind donations, or a combination of both. Cash matching funds can be in the form of funds appropriated by the local governing body or invested by an economic development organization, nonprofit or for profit entity. In-kind matches can include professional or skilled labor donated to support the site development project activity identified in the application.

How can I apply?

Interested applicants should submit their intent to apply for the Arkansas Site Development program by September 30, 2026, using the link found [HERE](#). After the intent to apply form is submitted, applicants will receive a unique link to submit your application and supporting documentation. Applications and supporting documentation are due by 5pm CT on Friday, November 6, 2026.

The application and list of supporting documents required can be downloaded [HERE](#).

How many sites will be selected?

The number of sites and amount of funding awarded will be determined by the program demand. Depending on the volume of eligible grant applications, applicants may not receive the entire amount of grant funding requested.

Timeline

Program Opens:	August 25, 2026
Express Intent to Apply and Receive Application Link:	August 25 – September 30, 2026
Deadline to Express Intent to Apply:	September 30, 2026
Applications Close:	November 6, 2026, 5pm CT
Semi-Finalist Sites Notified for Site Visits:	Week of December 7, 2026
Site Visits:	Week of January 11 or Week of January 18
Notice of Award	April 2026
Applicant Feedback	April/May 2026

What supporting documents are needed for my application?

- Arkansas Site Development Application Excel Sheet
- Project Budget (with total estimated costs, sources of funds, matching funds, and amount of funding requested)
- Any quotes or price comparisons for eligible project costs
- Notarized Affidavit for any in-kind match



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- Project Timeline with Milestones
- Topography Map
- Wetlands Map
- Floodplain Map
- Zoning Map
- Utility Map with lines and line sizes identified
- Transportation Map with roads and number of lanes identified
- Aerial photographs with site boundaries identified
- Parcel Map with all property in the site that is owned, leased, optioned, or has a right of first refusal
- Legal description of the property
- Deed of current ownership or option to purchase property, if applicable
- Copies of any due diligence studies

All supporting documents should be numbered and should clearly identify the Applicant and the type of document being submitted. For example: 1 Hope, Arkansas Project Budget.

How will my application be reviewed?

The applications will be date stamped and reviewed by the AEDC review committee in the order received. The application will be initially reviewed by the AEDC review committee and a third-party site selection consultant to determine that the application meets the eligibility requirements, is completed and signed, and that the sources and uses of the funds are sufficient to ensure the successful completion of the project. After initial eligibility is confirmed, the review committee will conduct a preliminary, desktop review of all applications using the rubric below. Based on that preliminary evaluation, the AEDC review committee will select applications that warrant further consideration for funding. Those selected applications will receive a site visit for the purpose of conducting on-site and community due diligence in January. Based on additional information gathered via those site visits, the review committee will then provide each application's final score and final recommendations for funding to the AEDC Executive Director.

Maximum Points	Category	Factors to consider
30	Site Conditions	<u>The applicant's site has favorable site conditions including but not limited to adequate size, favorable slope, minimal wetlands, outside of the 100-year floodplain, industrial zoning, compatible neighboring land use, and controlled access to the site.</u>
25	Utilities	<u>The applicant's site has proximity and capacity for: electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, and telecommunications.</u>
20	Transportation Infrastructure	<u>The applicant's site has proximity to paved roads, rail infrastructure, intermodal facilities, ports, or commercial airports.</u>



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10	Site Due Diligence	The applicant's site has undergone site due diligence studies in the last 5 years including but not limited to: geotechnical survey, environmental studies, endangered species survey, archeological survey, wetlands delineation, and soil borings.
5	Current Marketing Efforts	The applicant's site is actively being marketed for industrial use, the site has hosted prospects for site visits, the site is currently under consideration for an active economic development project, or both.
5	Local Match	The applicant's match is above the minimum 5% required for eligibility.
5	Site Certification	The applicant's site is currently a certified site or Competitive Communities Initiative (CCI) designated site.
100 Total Maximum Points Possible		

Who should I contact with additional questions?

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