



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

DATE: August 12, 2026
TO: All Interested Persons
FROM: Arkansas Economic Development Commission
SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of the Arkansas Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Matching Grant Program Rules

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please find attached or available by electronic publication the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's (the "AEDC") proposed Amendment of its Arkansas Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Matching Grant Program Rules.

Pursuant to the Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act, NOTICE is hereby given that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held on August 26, 2026, at 10 a.m. in the Diamond Mine Room on the second floor of the offices of the Arkansas Department of Commerce, 1 Commerce Way, Little Rock, AR 72202.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to determine whether the AEDC should amend the existing rules for the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Matching Grant Program incentives under Ark. Code Ann. § 15-3-701, et seq. AEDC is proposing the amendment in order to add provisions to include Small Business Technology Transfer grants; remove references to the Division of Science and Technology; clarify that eligible business applicants must be in good standing with the Arkansas Secretary of State's office; add a definition for "Principal Business Office;" remove restrictions on the number of times companies can apply; remove an unneeded definition of "Small Business Innovation Program;" remove references to AEDC internal grant administration procedures that were not accurate and were unnecessary; add Arkansas Freedom of Information Act language and guidance for applying companies; and effectuate other miscellaneous language cleanups.

All interested persons are encouraged to send their comments, statements, or opinions to the address below or to attend the Public Hearing and present, orally or in writing, statements, arguments, or opinions on the proposed repeal. The record will remain open for public comment until the close of the 30-day period outlined in the Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act; in this instance, September 11, 2026

Persons who wish to testify or make comments are requested to submit intended statements in writing in advance of the Public Hearing. Inquiries should be directed to: Brian Black, Counsel – Arkansas Economic Development Commission, email: brian.black@arkansasedc.com. A copy of the proposed amendments may be obtained or viewed at <https://www.arkansasedc.com/data-reports/rules>.



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Sincerely,

Brian D. Black
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Arkansas Economic Development Commission