

2021 ARKANSAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AGENDA



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The objective of the annual event is to provide participants with the opportunity to gain a working knowledge about a variety of programs and services that are available to assist communities and their leaders with development, planning and revitalization efforts. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) Division of Rural Services and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission are committed to providing the most up-to-date information in a relaxed environment conducive to learning and sharing. The goal of this annual event is to provide participants with the information and resources to help their communities.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The Arkansas Rural Development Conference is designed for anyone interested in improving the quality of life in Arkansas' rural communities. Its target audience includes state legislators, mayors, county judges, rural firefighters, local community leaders, and community development professionals who are interested in the future development of our state. Arkansans who are genuinely interested in attaining a better quality of life and who are willing to work for change are strongly encouraged to attend.

CONFERENCE FEE INFORMATION

Attendees who register before September 19th can take advantage of the early-bird rate of \$125 per attendee. For those who register after September 19th, conference fees are \$150 per attendee. Exhibit space is \$400 and provides two complimentary registrations (any additional person pay regular registration). Registration fees cover all conference materials as well as entertainment activities, receptions, breaks and meals. Cancellations will be subject to a 50% charge. Registration is also available online at ArkansasEDC.com/Rural-Services.

Please make checks payable to:

Arkansas Economic Development Commission
Attn: Rural Services
1 Commerce Way, Suite 601
Little Rock, AR 72202
RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel accommodations start at \$96 per night and are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Jonesboro Embassy Suites as soon as possible by calling 1-870-619-4482. Discounted room rates expire on September 19th.

Remember to tell them you are with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to receive the special block rate.

ArkansasEDC.com/Rural-Services | 1-888-RuralAR | 1 Commerce Way, Suite 601, Little Rock, AR 72202

9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Set-up

11:00 a.m. Conference Registration Convention Center Lobby

1:00 p.m. Welcoming Session: Mayor Harold Copenhaver

2:00 p.m. Legislative Committee Meeting (TBD)

2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session 1: Broadband Development in Rural Arkansas

Session 2: Cyber-Security in Rural Arkansas

4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens

6:00 p.m. Dinner & Tour of ASU
Football Stadium

TUESDAY
10/19/21

8:30 a.m. Conference Registration/Exhibit Break

9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session 3: Resources for Minority and Women Owned Businesses

Session 4: Pathway to Treatment and Peer Recovery Program

10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting: State Agencies and Governmental Affairs

11:00 a.m. Exhibit Break

11:30 a.m. Rural Development Commission Luncheon Keynote: Dr. Shane Speights, Dean of NYIT Medical School, ASU.

1:00 p.m. Exhibit Break

2:00 p.m. Session 5: Political Roundtable Moderated by Roby Brock, Talk Business & Politics

4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
Dinner on your own

8:00 p.m. Karaoke & Dancing

WEDNESDAY
10/20/21

8:30 a.m. Conference Registration/Exhibit Break

9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session 6: Workforce Resources for Employers

Session 7: CDBG Grants Administration 101

10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting (TBD)

11:15 a.m. Exhibit Break

11:30 a.m. Governor's Luncheon
Governor Asa Hutchinson
State of Arkansas

THURSDAY
10/21/21