

Issue of Monday, October 26, 2026 · Source cutoff: Sunday, October 25, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Central · Read time: scan 7 minutes, deep read 18 minutes

What this report is: a weekly briefing for Arkansas nonprofit directors.
It collects the deadlines, funding windows, rule changes, and regional signals a director needs for the week ahead.
Every claim carries its source.
Start here: new directors start at the closing dates board.
Experienced directors go to Funding and their region.

1. NEXT 14 DAYS — MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

- **Mon Oct 26** — Judiciary Committee, Senate and House, 10:00 a.m., Room A, MAC Building. Public Health, House Health Services Subcommittee, 1:00 p.m., Room B, MAC. (Arkansas Legislature meetings calendar.)
- **Tue Oct 27** — ALC-JBC Budget Hearings, 9:00 a.m., Room A, MAC. ALC-JBC Personnel, 1:30 p.m., same room; the batch includes the Department of Human Services divisions, including Behavioral Health. (Arkansas Legislature meetings calendar.)
- **Wed Oct 28** — ALC-JBC Budget Hearings, 9:00 a.m., Room A, MAC. National First Responders Day (see the note below).
- **Thu Oct 29** — ALC-JBC Budget Hearings, 9:00 a.m., Room A, MAC.

- **Fri Oct 30** — Governor's EO 26-15 dyed diesel relief expires unless extended. Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance reentry applications close.
- **Mon Nov 2** — Public comment closes on the DHS Behavioral Health Services and Support for Medicaid rule. The first Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator cohort begins (Rally Point).
- **Thu Nov 5** — UCA Veterans Information Fair, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., McCastlain Hall Ballroom, Conway.
- **Fri Nov 6** — ALC-JBC Budget Hearings, Governor's Balanced Budget, 9:00 a.m., Room A, MAC (from a tentative agenda; the meetings calendar controls). Breakfast Equipment Expansion Grant applications due. Servant Leader Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Nonprofit Center of Excellence, Little Rock (Rally Point).

2. WEEK IN BRIEF

- **Applications closed.** The Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator application window closed at midnight Central Time on Friday, October 23. Four organizations will be selected from the applicants, and every applicant is notified by Wednesday, October 28. The cohort begins Monday, November 2.
- **ADFA ESG closed.** The Arkansas Development Finance Authority Emergency Solutions Grant application window closed Friday, October 23, at 5:00 p.m., as listed last week. The next regular ADFA board meeting is Thursday, December 3.
- **School nutrition equipment money announced.** The Governor and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture announced $564,267 in school nutrition equipment grants on October 21. Two application dates ride in Section 5.
- **Fire and drought remain the operational story.** Exceptional drought covers 19.4 percent of Arkansas, and wildfire danger stands extreme in 25 counties. The full readiness picture is in Section 11.

FROM RALLY POINT — REGIONAL CONNECT TABLES IN 2027

Rally Point is developing Regional CONNECT Tables for 2027: working meetings where nonprofit leaders bring a resource and a need, and leave with both answered or owned. Each table pairs the sourced picture of nonprofit coverage in its area with one practical skill session and structured follow up.

The table areas are set: **Little Rock** (Central), **Jonesboro** (Northeast), **Mountain Home** (North Central), **Forrest City** (East Central), **Clarksville** (River Valley), **Arkadelphia** (Southwest), and **Dumas** (Southeast). A call-in seat will stand at every table.

Dates and venues are not set yet. Introductory conversations come first, and each table's dates will be set with the leaders in its area. If you lead a nonprofit in one of these areas, watch this report as the tables take shape.

NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY — WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Wednesday, October 28 is National First Responders Day, the day set aside to honor firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, and dispatchers. Rally Point's work with first responder organizations continues through the Arkansas Wellness Network, and the First Responder Resource Database remains in development for its January 1, 2027 launch. To the responders who carry Arkansas communities on their hardest days: we see the work, and we are building to stand behind it.

A CLEARER PICTURE OF ARKANSAS NONPROFIT COVERAGE

Rally Point has completed the October 2026 statewide read of the NCRI, the Nonprofit Community Resiliency Index, built on the public IRS record. The read covers 16,404 Arkansas nonprofit records in the IRS Business Master File, with 14,571 resolved to a county. Of those records, 2,604 organizations sit in the high asset band, holding $54.36 billion in documented total assets, and 2,465 sit in the low band, holding $192.6 million. A further 11,335 records carry no usable asset figure and are counted apart, never blended into a band. The read counts 5,246 current e-filed returns across the state. On the Gap Score, 70 counties read Low and 5 read Moderate, and twelve counties carry the Equity Priority Flag. Capacity here means documented nonprofit presence and filing health. It does not mean any organization listed can respond to a disaster, has trained volunteers, or has agreements in place. Baseline describes; it does not grade.

3. ARKANSAS RULE OR DEADLINE

DHS Behavioral Health rule comment closes Monday, November 2. The Department of Human Services public comment period on the Behavioral Health Services and Support for Medicaid rule runs October 4 through November 2, 2026. Organizations that deliver behavioral health services under Medicaid and have not commented have one week left. (Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services rule page.)

Standing Secretary of State rules, checked again this week. No change stands on the Secretary of State nonprofit and charitable entities page (checked October 25). The two standing rules from last week hold: the nonprofit corporation annual report is due August 1 each year, and the charitable organization annual financial report is due within 180 days after the organization's own fiscal year end.

4. UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

- **Full Table Fund closing date.** A third-party summary lists a December 10 closing for the Arkansas Community Foundation Full Table Fund. The Foundation's own Apply page and the fund RFA control: applications close December 7, 2026, with the Notice of Intent recommended by November 23, 2026, and awards in February 2027. Plan on December 7.
- **EO 26-15 expiry stands.** No extension of the dyed diesel relief order was found in this week's check. The relief expires Friday, October 30, unless the Governor extends it.
- **ADFA ESG.** Listed as open in last week's issue with an October 23 close. It closed on schedule; see Week in Brief.

5. FUNDING

Bureau of Justice Assistance, Second Chance Act Community-based Reentry Program. Applications close Friday, October 30, 2026. Federal grants up to $1,000,000 for community-based organizations and tribal governments providing mentoring and transitional services to people returning from adult correctional facilities, assessed at moderate to high risk of recidivism. Nonprofits with and without 501(c)(3) status are eligible. No cost share. Fit test: a strong fit for Arkansas nonprofits running reentry mentoring or transitional services, and a short runway: the window closes this Friday. (Source: Grants.gov opportunity O-BJA-2026-172717, read October 26.)

Breakfast Equipment Expansion Grant. Applications due Friday, November 6, 2026. Part of the $564,267 school nutrition equipment package announced October 21 by the Governor and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. Competitive selection for schools in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, funding equipment that improves preparation, storage, and service and increases use of Arkansas-grown products. Fit test: schools and school districts only on the face of the announcement; a nonprofit that operates a school nutrition program should confirm eligibility on the Department's page before building an application. The companion USDA Equipment Assistance Grant is due November 20, 2026. (Source: Governor and Department of Agriculture release, October 21, 2026, read October 26.)

Arkansas Full Table Fund, carried. Notice of Intent recommended by November 23, 2026. Applications close December 7, 2026. Awards February 2027. Fit test unchanged from last week: Arkansas food security work with a clear county footprint. (Source: Arkansas Community Foundation Apply page, checked October 25.)

Arkansas National Guard Foundation scholarships. Seventy-five scholarships of $1,000 each for the 2027-28 year. Fit test: not an organizational grant; ride this to Guard families your organization serves. (Source: Arkansas National Guard Foundation, 2026.)

ADE Transportation Modernization Grant Program, cycle 2. Closes November 13, 2026, just outside this window. The ADE commissioner's memo governs eligibility; nonprofits appear among the entities ADE may deem eligible on the memo's face, and any nonprofit considering it should confirm its eligibility in the memo before spending application time. (Source: Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner's Memo, 2026.)

6. GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Board Minute: no Board Minute this week.

Budget hearings week at the Capitol. The ALC-JBC budget hearings run October 27 through 29 and again November 6, when the Governor's Balanced Budget is heard. The October 27 Personnel batch includes the Department of Human Services divisions. For directors: budget hearings are where next year's state funding posture first becomes visible. A director who follows one agency should read that agency's hearing materials this week, while the record is fresh. (Source: Arkansas Legislature meetings calendar, checked October 25.)

Two DHS rule hearings stand ahead, on November 10. Proposed rules on Sedation Dental Coverage (10:00 a.m.) and Medicaid Service Delivery in Mobile Units (10:30 a.m.) hold public hearings Tuesday, November 10. The comment period end dates for both rules stand UNKNOWN in this issue; the hearing dates and times are verified on the DHS public hearings page. (Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services, checked October 25.)

Partnership signals, stated as signals only. The **UAFS Center for Nonprofits** now publishes a resources page offering downloadable toolkits and planning guides, information on mini grant opportunities, and meeting space for member nonprofits at the Center for Economic Development in downtown Fort Smith. What it means: the River Valley gains a funded capacity house with small grant information attached, and western River Valley leaders hold a local first stop for tools and space. **AFP Arkansas** convenes the sector on November 5 for National Philanthropy Day (Section 8). What it means: the state's fundraising community gathers in one room in Little Rock, and recognition there signals where donor confidence currently sits. The **Arkansas Pathways** coalition continues its local forum pattern, most recently Community Impact Day in Pine Bluff on September 26, joining employers, health care, and community organizations in one public day. What it means: the poverty focused coalition is building its statewide self

sufficiency model from local rooms upward, and county level listening is active in the Delta now.

7. REGIONAL WATCH

- **Central.** Budget hearings at the MAC Building all week (Section 6). No weather alerts for Little Rock at check time Sunday evening.
- **Northeast.** Extreme drought expanded across northern Arkansas in the October 22 Drought Monitor release. Fire danger follows the drought; see Section 11.
- **Northwest.** Dry and above average temperatures through early next week per the National Weather Service in Tulsa, with locally enhanced grassland fire spread northwest of Interstate 44. Rain chances return late in the window.
- **Southeast.** The southern third carries the state's worst drought, the worst since 2012 per National Weather Service Little Rock reporting, with exceptional drought across the south. Clark County entered exceptional drought this past week.
- **Southwest.** Exceptional drought developed and expanded across southern Arkansas in the October 22 release. Wildfire danger stands extreme across much of the south (Section 11).

8. CONVENINGS AND COALITIONS

- **Festival of Philanthropy 2026, with the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon and Awards.** Thursday, November 5, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton, 424 West Markham Street, Little Rock. Host: AFP Arkansas Chapter. The luncheon runs 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; luncheon only tickets listed at $150 on the AFP chapter page. Some full conference tiers showed sold out on the ticket page at check time, October 26, 2026. Register early.
- **UCA Veterans Information Fair.** Thursday, November 5, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., McCastlain Hall Ballroom, University of Central Arkansas, Conway. Held with the university's Veterans Day celebration honoring service members. (Source: University of Central Arkansas, 2026.)
- **Veterans Day regional sites.** The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs selected its 2026 Veterans Day regional sites; in Arkansas, the City of Springdale is the selected site. (Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2026.)
- **Lunch and Learn: Grow Your Nonprofit.** Wednesday, December 9, 2026, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Workflow by Evo, North Little Rock. Free. Registration required. Capacity building and funder connection session led by Shunqetta Cunningham of KHARIS Group with Brazier Watts of the Arkansas Arts Council. In person, not recorded.
- **Tax Education for Clergy, three regional sessions.** Tuesday, December 1, 2026, Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Jonesboro. Tuesday, December 8, 2026, First United Methodist Church, Magnolia. Tuesday, December 15, 2026, First United Methodist Church, Rogers. Host: Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. Free, lunch provided, pre registration required. Registration stays open through Monday, November 16, 2026.
- **Watch line.** The Arkansas Pathways to Self Sufficiency Good Trouble series, hosted by ACAAA, held its last public session on Wednesday, September 30, 2026. No next session date stands published on ACAAA public pages as of October 26, 2026. The date reads UNKNOWN and will print when the host publishes it.

9. TRAINING RADAR

- **Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator, first cohort begins Monday, November 2.** Twelve weeks, fully remote, six modules. Applicants are notified by Wednesday, October 28 (Section 2).
- **Servant Leader Luncheon, Friday, November 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Nonprofit Center of Excellence, Little Rock.** Quarterly, hosted by Rally Point. (Of record; ticketing detail stands as last published.)

10. MOVEMENT

Movement prints sourced, dated sector changes: arrivals, departures, mergers, closures. **No movement items to report this week.**

11. SEASONAL AND DISASTER READINESS

The fire picture holds. Wildfire danger stands extreme in 25 counties and high across most of the rest of the state (Arkansas Forestry Division wildfire map, checked October 25; the Department of Agriculture release corroborates the extreme count). The Governor's wildfire emergency, EO 26-13 as amended by EO 26-14 on September 18, 2026, remains the standing state declaration behind the fire picture.

Drought deepened. In the U.S. Drought Monitor release of October 22, 2026 (data valid October 20), exceptional drought covers 19.4 percent of Arkansas and extreme drought 57.8 percent, with the southern third the hardest hit.

No warning, no rain yet. No Red Flag Warning is in effect from the National Weather Service in Little Rock (checked October 25). No rain is expected through the work week. Rain chances return over the Halloween weekend, which may ease surface conditions without ending the drought.

For organizations with outdoor work this week: hold outdoor burning to your county's rules, keep water at any equipment work, and check the Forestry Division map before any field day. Dry fuels and low humidity keep the risk live even without a warning in effect.

12. WHAT TO WATCH

- **November 10 DHS hearings.** Comment end dates for the Sedation Dental and Mobile Units rules stand UNKNOWN; watch the DHS hearings page.
- **AEDC Site Development Program.** The $25 million industrial site round's deadline and eligibility stand UNKNOWN on the official record gathered to date; nothing prints until an AEDC page carries them.
- **November 6 Balanced Budget hearing.** The agenda behind the listing stands tentative; the Legislature's meetings calendar controls.
- **EO 26-15.** Watch for an extension before Friday's expiry.
- **Full Table Fund.** The Notice of Intent date, November 23, is four weeks out. Organizations planning an application should hold the date now.

13. FOR DIRECTORS THIS WEEK

- 1. If your organization runs reentry work, the BJA window closes Friday. Decide by Wednesday whether the application is real.
- 2. If Medicaid behavioral health touches your mission, the DHS comment closes Monday, November 2. A short, specific comment beats a long, general one.
- 3. If state funding touches your budget, read your agency's ALC-JBC hearing materials this week.

- 4. If your teams work outdoors, brief the fire picture at Monday's huddle. It takes five minutes and it is the live risk.

14. THIS WEEK'S CONCEPT: NOTICE OF INTENT

A Notice of Intent is a short, early signal to a funder that your organization plans to apply. It is not the application. It usually asks for the organization's name, the project in one or two sentences, and the amount you expect to request. Funders use it to plan their review load and, sometimes, to tell an organization early that it is outside the fund's scope, which saves the applicant the full application work. When a funder recommends a Notice of Intent by a date, as the Full Table Fund does on November 23, treat the recommendation as a working deadline. The notice costs an hour. Missing it can cost the application.

15. SOURCES

Arkansas Legislature, meetings calendar, checked October 25, 2026. Grants.gov, BJA FY 2026 Second Chance Act Community-based Reentry Program, opportunity O-BJA-2026-172717, read October 26, 2026. Governor and Arkansas Department of Agriculture, school nutrition equipment grants release, October 21, 2026, read October 26, 2026. U.S. Drought Monitor, release of October 22, 2026, data valid October 20, 2026, read October 25, 2026. Arkansas Forestry Division, wildfire danger map, checked October 25, 2026; Arkansas Department of Agriculture release on extreme wildfire risk counties, October 2026. Governor of Arkansas, EO 26-13 (August 21, 2026) and EO 26-14 (September 18, 2026), governor.arkansas.gov, checked October 25, 2026. National Weather Service, Little Rock forecast and alerts, checked October 25, 2026. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health rule page and public hearings page, checked October 25, 2026. Arkansas Community Foundation, Apply page and Full Table Fund RFA, checked October 25, 2026. Arkansas Secretary of State, nonprofit and charitable entities page, checked October 25, 2026. Arkansas Development Finance Authority, 2026 board meeting schedule. University of Central Arkansas, Veterans Day celebration and information fair, 2026. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2026 Veterans Day regional sites, 2026. Arkansas National Guard Foundation, scholarships, 2026. Arkansas Department of Education, Commissioner's Memo, Transportation Modernization Grant Program, 2026. AFP Arkansas Chapter, Festival of Philanthropy and National Philanthropy Day Luncheon, checked October 26, 2026. Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, Tax Education for Clergy, checked October 26, 2026. UAFS Center for Nonprofits resources page, checked October 26, 2026. The ACAAA Launch Pad, September 21 to 25, 2026 issue, checked October 26, 2026.

Reader intake: questions, corrections, and items for a future issue come through the Contact Us form on the Rally Point website. Items are triaged weekly. The source cutoff for each issue is Sunday, 11:59 p.m. Central.