

Issue of Monday, October 19, 2026 · Source cutoff: Sunday, October 18, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Central · Read time: scan 7 minutes, deep read 20 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 — CLOSING DATES BOARD

Date	Item	Who acts
Mon Oct 19, 10:00 a.m.	Joint Performance Review, Room A, MAC. Energy Joint at 2:00 p.m. The Judiciary Committee, Senate and House, listed for today is cancelled.	Directors tracking agency performance
Tue Oct 20 – Thu Oct 22, 9:00 a.m.	ALC-JBC Budget Hearings, Room A, MAC. Personnel subcommittee Tuesday covers Veterans Affairs and Commerce. The ALC Higher Education Subcommittee listed Thursday is cancelled.	Directors tracking agency budgets

Tue Oct 20, 1:00 p.m.	Arkansas Full Table Fund RFA question and answer webinar, Arkansas Community Foundation. RFA means Request for Applications, the funder's formal invitation to apply.	Food security organizations
Tue Oct 20, 4:00–6:00 p.m.	Beyond the Grant session, Main Library, Little Rock. Details in the Training Radar.	Directors building grant skill
Wed Oct 21, 8:30 a.m.	ALC Executive Subcommittee, Room B, MAC. Budget hearings at 9:00 a.m. Special Language at 1:30 p.m. or after adjournment.	Directors tracking the budget process
Fri Oct 23, 5:00 p.m. Central	ADFA Emergency Solutions Grants 2026–2027 applications close. Firm deadline. Portal submission only.	Homelessness service providers
Fri Oct 23, midnight Central	Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator beta applications close. See the advertisement box and the Training Radar.	New and upcoming nonprofits
Wed Oct 28, 1:30 p.m.	ALC-JBC Special Language, Room A, MAC, or 15 minutes after the budget hearings adjourn.	Directors tracking appropriations
Fri Oct 30	Executive Order 26-15 expires unless extended. Dyed diesel is tax exempt fuel, dyed red, sold for off-road farm and forestry equipment.	Farm and forestry serving organizations
Mon Nov 2	DHS public comment closes on the proposed rule, Behavioral Health Services and Support for Medicaid.	Behavioral health providers

Sources for the board: Arkansas General Assembly meetings calendar; Arkansas Community Foundation; Central Arkansas Library System; ADFA; Arkansas Department of Human Services; Southwest Times Record, October 1, 2026.

Context for new leaders: ALC-JBC is the Joint Budget Committee of the Arkansas Legislative Council. Its fall budget hearings are where state agencies present their funding requests ahead of the legislative session that opens in January. The meetings sit at the State Capitol complex in Little Rock. MAC is the Multi-Agency Complex building there. Many nonprofits deliver services under agency budgets set in these rooms, so the hearings are worth a new director's attention even when no item carries your organization's name.

2. THE WEEK IN BRIEF

- Presession budget hearings run at the Capitol this week, three days, with agency personnel reviews on Tuesday. Follow your agency's slot, not the whole calendar.
- Fire weather is the operational story of the week. The Department of Agriculture reports burn bans in 50 counties and extreme wildfire risk in 25 southern counties. A Jefferson County wildfire destroyed homes, shops, and vehicles, and later reporting put the burn near 200 acres. Section 7 carries the full account.
- The coldest autumn air so far reached northwest Arkansas overnight. The Freeze Warning ran until 8:00 a.m. Monday and has expired. Central Arkansas stays clear and mild this week.
- The Arkansas Community Foundation's Full Table Fund holds its applicant webinar Tuesday. The fund carries a $10 million anchor grant from Walmart Foundation, with Tyson Foods and Cargill as named partners. The $10 million is the anchor grant only, not a combined fund total. Notice of Intent falls November 23. Applications close December 7.
- Executive Order 26-15, the dyed diesel relief, runs out October 30 unless extended. No extension was found at verification.

ADVERTISEMENT — FROM RALLY POINT NONPROFIT COUNCIL

Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator — Beta Class Applications Close Friday

The application deadline for the beta test Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator class closes at midnight Central Time on Friday, October 23.

New leader context: an accelerator is a structured training program. It helps new and young nonprofits build the foundations a durable organization needs: governance, finance, programs, and fundraising. A beta class is the first run of the program, kept small while the teaching is tested.

If you lead a new or upcoming nonprofit and you want to participate in this first of its kind program in Central Arkansas, get your application in now.

To request an application, send an email to Jeff at jeff@rallypointnc.org.

The beta class begins Monday, November 2, 2026. The class runs 12 weeks, remote, in six two week modules. There is no charge for the beta class. Participating organizations must be 501(c)(3) organizations, with proof of status on the application. One or two participants per organization. Applicants are notified within three business days of the close, by Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

3. ARKANSAS RULE OR DEADLINE

Two Secretary of State filings that Arkansas nonprofits confuse with each other. They are separate rules with separate clocks. Both verified on the Secretary of State's pages on October 19, 2026.

Rule one: the nonprofit corporation annual report. Act 569 of 2007 requires nonprofit corporations to file an annual report with the Secretary of State by August 1 of each year. This is the corporate report. The clock is the calendar.

Rule two: the charitable organization annual financial report. Act 137 of 2019 moved this filing off the old August 1 date. It is now due no later than 180 days after your organization's fiscal year end. File Form CR-03 with a copy of your IRS Form 990. Contributions over $500,000 and under $1,000,000 require an independent CPA review. Over $1,000,000 requires a full audit. Extensions of up to six months are available on request to the Charities Division.

Why it matters this week: any Arkansas nonprofit on a September fiscal year end is inside its 180 day window right now. Check your own date before the holidays take your board's attention.

Context for new leaders: Form 990 is the annual information return most nonprofits file with the IRS. Good standing means your state filings are current and the Secretary of State recognizes your corporation as active. Losing good standing can freeze grants, contracts, and banking until it is restored.

Compliance calendar: ADFA ESG closes October 23 and DHS comment closes November 2, both on the board. AEDC site development applications close November 6 for applicants who filed intent by September 30. Full Table Fund Notice of Intent November 23, applications close December 7.

4. UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

This box prints in every issue, including weeks with no corrections. Why it exists: facts change after an issue closes, and early reporting is sometimes incomplete. The correction runs in the open, in the next issue, where every reader can see it.

Verification 1 — ADFA ESG deadline, resolved. Carried as UNKNOWN in last week's sweep and the October 13 sample. Verified on ADFA's application document: Friday, October 23, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Central, firm. It prints on the board this week.

Verification 2 — Legislative cancellations, named. Monday, October 19: Judiciary Committee, Senate and House, cancelled. Thursday, October 22: ALC Higher Education Subcommittee cancelled. Source: the meetings calendar itself.

Verification 3 — AEDC site development deadline, filled in. The $25 million round is the Arkansas Site Development Program, third round. Applications close Friday, November 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Central. Intent to apply closed September 30, 2026.

Verification 4 — Secretary of State rules, stated separately. The August 1 date belongs to the nonprofit corporation annual report. The 180 day rule belongs to the charitable financial report. Section 3 states them separately.

Standing note — ADFA board. The next ADFA board meeting is Thursday, December 3, 2026, per the published 2026 schedule. No November meeting stands on that schedule and no special meeting notice was found at verification.

5. FUNDING

Context for new leaders: ESG is federal homelessness funding that flows through the state to local providers. A Continuum of Care is the regional body that coordinates homelessness services in an area. HMIS is the shared data system those providers use to record services. A NOFA is the funder's formal notice that funding is open, with the rules for applying. Site development money, in the second listing, prepares industrial land so a community can compete for employers. It does not fund programs, staff, or services.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), 2026–2027 — ADFA. Fit: street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, and HMIS, for Arkansas nonprofits and local governments inside a Continuum of Care. Maximum request $250,000. Suggested minimum range $20,000 to $25,000. One application per agency. Portal submission only. An agency without an ADFA Provider Number must request one before the deadline. Do not start the portal work on Friday. ADFA ESG application.

Arkansas Site Development Program, third round — AEDC. Fit: industrial site readiness for communities and economic development organizations holding a site. The round totals $25 million statewide. Eligible costs include infrastructure extension, right of way and easement acquisition, soil borings, grading, drainage, mitigation, and due diligence. Property purchase, debt, leases, salaries, and marketing are not eligible. Match of at least 5 percent required. The site must be owned or optioned, and owned outright by grant agreement signing. Scored on a 100 point scale, reviewed in order received. The intent gate closed September 30, so this round serves applicants already in line. AEDC program announcement.

Arkansas Full Table Fund — Arkansas Community Foundation. Fit: food insecurity work across Arkansas. Webinar Tuesday. Notice of Intent November 23, applications close December 7, awards expected February 2027. This is Arkansas Community Foundation, a separate organization. It is not an RPNC program and no partnership exists.

Demand signal — Levitt festival grants. Up to $5,000, closing November 20. Small money, narrow lane. Fits a community that already runs an outdoor music event.

6. GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Board Minute: no Board Minute this week.

Governance caution, from the public record: the founders of 2nd Milk were sentenced on October 14 in a federal fraud case involving the organization. The lesson for boards is plain. Restricted funds, founder control, and board oversight are the three places small nonprofits get hurt. If your board has not reviewed who can move money and who checks them, this is the week to put it on an agenda. Source: Talk Business and Politics, October 2026.

Partnership signals, stated as signals only. **AmeriCorps VISTA** host site applications open November 2 through Campus Compact. Context for new leaders: AmeriCorps VISTA is a federal service program. Members serve full time with a host organization on anti poverty work, and the host gains a year of capacity it could not hire. The **Public Works Are First Responders** town hall runs October 28, RSVP by October 24. Public works departments run the roads, water systems, and emergency support in most communities, which is why they stand in the first responder conversation. Regional CONNECT Tables stand planned for January 2027. No table has met. No partnership claim prints.

7. REGIONAL WATCH

Regional items verified at page level on October 19, 2026, from the publishers named in each block. A regional item prints as information for directors working in that region. It is not an RPNC program claim.

Central. The Capitol sets the region's week. Presession budget hearings run Tuesday through Thursday in Room A of the MAC. Tuesday's personnel subcommittee takes up the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Commerce, including the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, along with Game and Fish and ARDOT batches. Directors who follow a state agency should find their agency's day before they plan around the hearings. Two public sessions sit inside the same week: the Full Table Fund applicant webinar Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., and Beyond the Grant at the Main Library Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sheridan, in Grant County, stands in AEDC's 2026–27 Retail Academy cohort, named October 8. The Retail Academy is a structured program that teaches smaller communities how to recruit retail. Weather is mild in the metro, highs in the mid to upper 70s, with no alerts at check time. The fire posture is a different matter: both Pulaski and Saline counties stand under burn bans, Pulaski since August 14 and Saline since August 18, on the county map that reads the Forestry Division list. Mild weather does not lift a burn ban. Only the county judge does.

Northeast. Arkansas State University in Jonesboro has received a $2.1 million federal award from the National Institute of Standards and Technology to expand artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing work at its Center for Advanced Materials and Steel Manufacturing. The award buys a GPU accelerated computing cluster, a Gleeble 3800 thermomechanical simulator that replicates industrial steel processing, and added modeling software. The project is led by Dr. Robert Fleming and serves the region's growing steel sector, which anchors employment in Mississippi County and across the northeast. For nonprofit directors, the read is workforce: the region's largest industry is investing in research capacity that will need trained people at every level. A-State news release, October 15, 2026. A second award points the same direction: $249,000 under an ARDOT research program to study roadside seeding and plant diversity (KAIT, October 15, 2026). Craighead County Emergency Management held earthquake drills on Thursday, October 16, for International ShakeOut Day, the annual worldwide earthquake drill, in a region inside the

New Madrid Seismic Zone. Pocahontas and Helena-West Helena both stand in the Retail Academy cohort.

Southeast. Fire is the region's story, and it is not abstract. A wildfire that began Thursday afternoon, October 15, along McFadden Road and Highway 79 in Jefferson County, reportedly sparked by a train car on a railroad track, burned through the weekend. The Pine Bluff Commercial reported Friday that about 100 acres had burned, with two homes, two shops, several vehicles, and farm equipment lost. Later reporting put the burn at about 200 acres, threatening around 20 homes, with the Arkansas Division of Forestry and every fire department in Jefferson County on the response and gusts near 25 miles per hour. The acreage figures differ by report date and are carried with their dates because the count moved as the fire grew. Daily Dispatch report, October 19, 2026. Jefferson is one of 25 counties at extreme wildfire risk. The southeast counties on that list include Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, and Lincoln. The Department of Agriculture reports 1,700 fires suppressed statewide this year, affecting 39,000 acres, and asks residents to report a wildfire at 1-800-468-8834. Department of Agriculture release. Hamburg, in Ashley County, stands in the Retail Academy cohort.

Southwest. The southwest shares the southeast's fire posture. The extreme risk list for the region includes Calhoun, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Sevier, and Union counties, with a Red Flag Warning issued for southern Arkansas and burn bans in effect. El Dorado and Texarkana both stand in the Retail Academy cohort. Site development money is the longer thread: the Economic Development Corporation of Clark County, in Arkadelphia, has authorized up to $1.5 million in local funding to match a state grant for continued dirt work at the Southwest Arkansas Mega Site near Gum Springs, where earlier AEDC rounds funded the first 40 acre soil replacement and a second 40 acres is planned. That is the local shape of the state program in Section 5. The Arkadelphian, September 24, 2026. The dyed diesel relief under Executive Order 26-15 matters most in this region's forestry work and expires October 30 unless extended.

Northwest. The first hard freeze of the autumn reached the northwest counties overnight. NWS Tulsa carried a Freeze Warning until 8:00 a.m. Monday for Benton, Carroll, Boone, and Marion counties, with a Frost Advisory for Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian counties, and its discussion called for lows in the 20s in colder prone areas, the coldest air of the season so far. The warning has expired. Harrison Estates Senior Housing opens today in Harrison, Boone County, ribbon cutting at 11:00 a.m. at 851 Highway 123. It is the first affordable senior housing development in the area in more than a decade: an $11 million development carried in part by a $1.5 million Affordable Housing Program grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, provided through Arvest Bank, with ADFA staff among the participants. For housing organizations, the structure is the lesson: a federal home loan bank grant, a member bank, and a state housing finance agency in one stack. Business Wire advisory, October 14, 2026. In Fayetteville, the Windgate Foundation has given $1.5 million to the University of Arkansas College of Education and Health Professions to establish the Windgate Endowed Chair in STEAM Education (Northwest Arkansas Business Journal, October 15, 2026).

8. CONVENINGS AND COALITIONS — NEXT 60 DAYS

- Arkansas Counseling Association conference, November 11–13, North Little Rock. The association is the professional body for Arkansas counselors.
- UCA Veterans Day exhibitor invitation, November 5. The Feed lead carried a link to an older event page. Year and link status read UNVERIFIED at draft time. It does not print as a listing until the current page is confirmed.
- Public Works Are First Responders town hall, October 28. Sits in Section 6 as a partnership signal.

9. TRAINING RADAR

- **Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator, beta class, Rally Point Nonprofit Council.** Applications close Friday, October 23, at midnight Central. The class begins Monday, November 2, 2026, runs 12 weeks, remote, in six two week modules, at no charge for the beta class. Open to 501(c)(3) organizations, one or two participants per organization, with proof of status on the application. Request an application by email to jeff@rallypointnc.org. The advertisement box after the Week in Brief carries the full notice.
- Beyond the Grant, Tuesday, October 20, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Main Library, Little Rock. Source: Central Arkansas Library System.
- Full Table Fund RFA webinar, Tuesday, October 20, 1:00 p.m. Attend before you write.
- Grow Your Nonprofit, December 9, North Little Rock, Eventbrite listing. The organizer name does not render in the Feed lead. Organizer reads UNKNOWN. Confirm the organizer before paying or sending staff.

10. MOVEMENT

What Movement is: this box tracks arrivals, departures, mergers, and closures across the Arkansas nonprofit sector. A new organization opening. A leader arriving or departing. Two organizations merging. A program closing. Each item is sourced and dated, with no commentary.

No movement items to report this week.

11. SEASONAL AND DISASTER READINESS

Context for new leaders: a Red Flag Warning means weather conditions, low humidity, dry fuel, and wind, can spread a fire fast. A burn ban is a county order that makes outdoor burning illegal until the county judge lifts it. ARVOAD is Arkansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, the state coalition of disaster response organizations.

- Fire weather leads. Burn bans in 50 counties. Extreme wildfire risk in 25 southern counties. Avoid outdoor burning, including open flame grilling in affected areas. Source: Arkansas Department of Agriculture, October 15–16, 2026.
- Freeze season has opened in the northwest. The Sunday night Freeze Warning has expired. Pipes, plants, pets, and people checks belong in facility routines from here to spring.
- Standing guidance: do not self deploy. The readiness declaration tracker and the volunteer signal line are not active. ARVOAD currency is not confirmed.

12. WHAT TO WATCH

- Whether the Governor extends Executive Order 26-15 before its October 30 expiry.
- Budget hearing outcomes for Veterans Affairs and Commerce out of Tuesday's personnel subcommittee.
- Whether ADFA posts final week ESG guidance before the Friday close.
- First frost dates for central Arkansas as the northwest pattern moves south.

13. FOR DIRECTORS THIS WEEK

- If your organization serves people experiencing homelessness, decide on ESG today, not Thursday. The portal and the Provider Number step take longer than the writing.
- Put the two Secretary of State clocks on your compliance calendar as separate lines.
- If your board has not reviewed who can move money in the last year, schedule the review.
- Check your county's burn ban status before any outdoor event this week.

14. THIS WEEK'S CONCEPT

The fit test is a kindness, not a gate. A funder publishes eligibility rules so the wrong organizations do not spend scarce hours writing applications that cannot win. The AEDC site program states its hard edges in plain words: file intent by the intent date, own the site, bring a 5 percent match. An organization that reads those three lines in September saves itself a November of wasted work.

Run the same test in reverse on your own programs. State your hard edges in plain words, early, where an applicant or a partner can read them before they invest. Who is eligible. What it costs. What it never covers. Clarity at the front door is stewardship. It protects your staff's time and your neighbor's time at once.

RPNC brings structure. The community brings knowledge. Together they determine what makes sense.

15. SOURCES

Arkansas General Assembly meetings calendar, checked October 19, 2026. ADFA ESG application and NOFA and 2026 board schedule, checked October 19, 2026. AEDC Site Development Program announcement and FAQ, checked October 19, 2026. Arkansas Secretary of State charitable entities pages and Form CR-03, checked October 19, 2026. Arkansas Department of Human Services, checked October 18–19, 2026. Arkansas Community Foundation Full Table Fund, checked October 18, 2026. Arkansas Department of Agriculture fire release, October 15–16, 2026. National Weather Service Little Rock and Tulsa products, checked October 18–19, 2026. Southwest Times Record, October 1, 2026. Talk Business and Politics, October 2026. Regional Watch additions: Arkansas State University; KAIT, Jonesboro; The Pine Bluff Commercial; Daily Dispatch; Business Wire; The Arkadelphian; Northwest Arkansas Business Journal.

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.