

RALLY POINT CONNECT REPORT

Arkansas Intel for Nonprofit Directors

Presented by Rally Point Nonprofit Council

Issue: Week of September 21, 2026.

Cutoff: Sunday, September 20, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Central.

Average read time: about 8 minutes.

If you are new to the role, start at ARKANSAS RULE OR DEADLINE.

If you already know the job, go to FUNDING and your region.

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THE WEEK IN BRIEF

This week is mid-month, after the August 1 corporate annual-report date and after the August 15 close of the current Community Assistance Grant Program application window. Awards from that window are expected later this fall. Heat, drought, and wildfire risk remain statewide. Families on the Community and Employment Supports waitlist received a new state framework for supportive living. The Arkansas Legislative Council approved a one-time Medicaid reserve transfer. National giving for 2025 set a new dollar high, while household hardship in Arkansas remains widespread.

- Confirm that the 2026 nonprofit corporation annual report is on file if it was not filed by August 1.
- If your fiscal year recently closed, calendar the charitable financial report due 180 days after fiscal year end.
- Review property, event, and volunteer coverage against current burn bans and drought conditions.
- Watch fall award timing for the Community Assistance Grant Program and keep 20 percent match documentation ready.

ARKANSAS RULE OR DEADLINE

Act 569 of 2007 requires nonprofit corporations to file an annual report with the Arkansas Secretary of State by August 1 of each year. There is no charge to file the nonprofit annual report online. The 2026 form is posted on the Secretary of State nonprofit page. If the report is late, file it now to protect good standing.

Arkansas Secretary of State, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/business-commercial-services-bcs/nonprofit-charitable-entities/>

A separate charitable-organization financial report is due no later than 180 days after the last date of the charitable organization's fiscal year. That report is different from the corporation annual report. Organizations that solicit contributions in Arkansas must also keep charitable registration current. The Secretary of State may grant an extension of up to six months upon a showing of need.

Arkansas Secretary of State, Little Rock, 2025, https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/SoS_-CharitableRegistrationInArkansas_1.pdf

Qualified small 501(c)(3) organizations with an annual operating budget under \$200,000 that perform charitable community-based services may apply to the Department of Finance and Administration for a limited sales and use tax exemption certificate. Motor vehicles, alcohol, tobacco, computers, construction materials, appliances, phones, all-terrain vehicles, and televisions are excluded.

Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Little Rock, 2025, https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/Whatsnew2025_1.pdf

The 60-day compliance calendar, Department of Human Services and Arkansas Economic Development Commission notices packet, and labor or insurance roll-up return on the first Monday of next month, October 5, 2026.

DEMAND AND POLICY

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These are working households that earn above the federal poverty line but cannot cover a basic survival budget. Of Arkansas's 1,232,610 households, 16 percent (196,766) were below the federal poverty level and another 27 percent (335,094) were ALICE, so 43 percent (531,860) were below the ALICE Threshold. The 2024 survival budget was \$27,276 for a single adult and \$71,052 for a family of four with two adults, an infant, and a preschooler.

United For ALICE / United Way of Northern New Jersey, Morristown, 2026, <https://unitedforalice.org/key-findings/arkansas>

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Department of Human Services Secretary Janet Mann announced a framework to offer supportive living services to families on the Community and Employment Supports Waiver waitlist. The program maximum enrollment is 8,233 people. The waitlist stood at 2,464. The Department estimated \$17 million to extend supportive living through fiscal year 2027, with services expected by January 2027 at the latest.

Arkansas Department of Human Services / Office of the Governor, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.kait8.com/2026/09/15/sanders-dhs-announce-plan-expand-supportive-living-services-ces-waitlist/>

Families and advocates asked for a special session to clear the waitlist itself. The announced framework extends one service rather than raising the waiver cap this week. Directors serving disability, family support, and respite programs should track how Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entities will operationalize the change.

Arkansas Advocate, Little Rock, 2026, <https://arkansasadvocate.com/2026/09/16/families-of-arkansas-children-with-disabilities-say-more-action-needed-on-waitlist/>

LEGISLATIVE AND WEATHER WATCH

The 2026 fiscal session of the Arkansas General Assembly convened April 8, 2026, and adjourned April 29, 2026. The next regular session is scheduled for 2027. Interim work continues through the Arkansas Legislative Council. On September 18, 2026, the Council approved a request for \$200 million in restricted reserve funds to cover the state match for Medicaid. Finance and Administration Secretary Jim Hudson told members that Medicaid spending rose \$400 million from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, compared with the prior year. Medicaid covered nearly 840,000 Arkansans at the end of fiscal year 2026 at a cost of more than \$9.8 billion. Hudson said the \$200 million will not last through June 30, 2027, and asked lawmakers to keep the program fully funded.

Arkansas Advocate, Little Rock, 2026, <https://arkansasadvocate.com/2026/09/18/arkansas-finance-secretary-urges-lawmakers-to-keep-medic-aid-fully-funded-after-400m-spending-hike/>

Heat, drought, and fire risk remain the weather story. The National Weather Service reported hazardous heat and widespread drought into the week of September 21, with heat index values previously forecast between 105 and 109 degrees in much of the state and highs in the mid-90s to low 100s. A cooling front was expected to move through Monday into Tuesday, with limited rain.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette citing National Weather Service, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2026/sep/17/dangerous-heat-dry-weather-will-continue-for-much/>

The Arkansas Forestry Division listed all 75 counties at high wildfire risk as of September 20, 2026, 7:33 a.m. The Arkansas Division of Emergency Management, through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, received Chinook helicopter support from Mississippi and Oklahoma for the Bunker Fire in Calhoun County near East Camden, with missions beginning September 18, 2026. Governor Sanders also declared Marion and Searcy counties disaster areas for storm damage from May 28.

Arkansas Forestry Division, Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Little Rock, 2026, https://mip.agri.arkansas.gov/agtools/Forestry/Fire_Info/Wildfire_Danger?show_districts=False

Arkansas Division of Emergency Management, North Little Rock, 2026,
<https://dps.arkansas.gov/news/state-of-arkansas-receives-aviation-support-from-mississippi-and-oklahoma-for-calhoun-county-bunker-fire/>

INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS

The Internal Revenue Service lists 17,308 active tax-exempt organizations operating in Arkansas, including 14,223 organizations described in section 501(c)(3). Arkansas nonprofit organizations reported \$25.1 billion in revenue on their most recent tax filings compiled by ProPublica. Those figures are a public baseline for the size of the field. They are not a Rally Point count and should not be restated as a membership or network number.

ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer / Internal Revenue Service, New York, 2026, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/states/AR>

Giving USA 2026 reported that donors gave United States charities an estimated \$617.20 billion in 2025, up 5.7 percent in current dollars and 3.0 percent after inflation. Individuals gave \$394.2 billion. Foundations gave \$117.15 billion. Bequests rose to \$62.19 billion, up 16.6 percent after inflation. Human services received \$99.50 billion, up 2.6 percent after inflation. Education received \$92.01 billion, up 8.9 percent after inflation. The report is national. It does not isolate Arkansas. Use it as a climate reading, not a local forecast.

Giving USA Foundation and Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indianapolis, 2026,
<https://news.iu.edu/philanthropy/live/news/51662-giving-usa-us-charitable-giving-rose-to-61720>

Read together, a large statewide exempt-organization base, persistent household hardship at 43 percent below the ALICE Threshold, national giving concentrated among fewer larger gifts and bequests, and a strained state Medicaid match all point to the same operating problem: demand stays high while public and private dollars move more slowly and with more conditions.

FUNDING

STATE CONTRACTS AND PAYMENTS

The Community Assistance Grant Program application window opened July 1, 2026, and closed August 15, 2026. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations. The amount available to any one project in a state fiscal year shall not exceed \$1,500,000. Recipients must provide a 20 percent match of the awarded amount using cash, in-kind labor, in-kind materials, or in-kind land. In plain English, if an award is \$100,000, the organization must document \$20,000 of its own cash or donated labor, materials, or land. Community labor is valued at \$18.04 per hour. Notice of award is expected in fall or winter 2026. This cycle prioritizes childhood food insecurity, unemployment, education, resources for victims of crime, and housing, nutrition, or emergency services.

Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Little Rock, 2026,
<https://www.arkansasedc.com/community-resources/community-assistance-grant-program>

On July 13, 2026, the Governor and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission announced 88 grants totaling \$12,522,736 from the Community Development Block Grant and State Rural Community Grant programs for cities, counties, and communities.

Office of the Governor / Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Little Rock, 2026,
https://governor.arkansas.gov/news_post/sanders-aedc-announce-12-52m-in-funding-for-arkansas-communities/

The United States Small Business Administration continues Economic Injury Disaster Loans for private nonprofits affected by drought beginning November 1, 2025. Loans may be up to \$2 million. Interest for private nonprofits is listed at 3.625 percent, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue and payments are not due until 12 months after first disbursement. These are loans, not grants.

United States Small Business Administration, Washington, 2026,
<https://www.sba.gov/article/2026/04/10/sba-offers-relief-arkansas-small-businesses-private-nonprofits-affected-drought>

Arkansas Community Foundation, marking 50 years, announced more than \$1 million in grants to 47 nonprofit organizations in January 2026: nine Legacy Grants of \$50,000, nine Rising Nonprofit Grants of \$30,000, and twenty-nine \$10,000 affiliate grants. Giving Tree cycles are managed by local affiliates. Confirm current windows with the affiliate that serves your

county.

Arkansas Community Foundation, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.arcf.org/news-releases/arkansas-community-foundation-marks-50-years-of-philanthropy-by-making-more-than-1-million-in-grants-across-the-state/>

PEOPLE AND DELIVERY

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities are now licensed as long-term care facilities under the Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance, Office of Long-Term Care, following Act 636 of 2025. Administrator training is scheduled August 24, 2026, and November 16, 2026, at the Department of Human Services Central Building in Little Rock. An administrator exam is scheduled September 21, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Central. Licenses renew on or before January 1 each year.

Arkansas Department of Human Services, Little Rock, 2026, <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/divisions-shared-services/provider-services-quality-assurance/occupational-licensing/psychiatric-residential-treatment-facilities-prtf/>

Lawmakers and advocates continue to flag pressure on Arkansas Better Chance early-education slots after one-time federal recovery funds declined. Directors of child-care and after-school programs should treat state-rate conversations as unfinished business for the 2027 session rather than a closed file.

THV11 / Arkansas Appleseed Legal Justice Center briefing as reported, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KJXVWp6N7c>

GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Point your board calendar to two clocks. First, the corporation annual report due each August 1 and the charitable financial report due 180 days after fiscal year end. Second, regional calendars in the five CONNECT tables below. Interim legislative meetings this week include Bureau of Legislative Research staff work and a Governor's Office block on Friday, September 25. Full 60-day compliance, Department of Human Services and Arkansas Economic Development Commission notice packets, and labor or insurance items return Monday, October 5, 2026.

Arkansas State Legislature, Little Rock, 2026, <https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Calendars/Meetings?nonleg=1>

Rally Point CONNECT remains the public outreach arm of Rally Point Nonprofit Council. CONNECT convenes organizations, public agencies, and community leaders. It does not replace each organization's own board, counsel, or filing duties.

Rally Point Nonprofit Council, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.rallypointnc.org/rally-point-engage>

RISK AND LIABILITY REDUCTION

Wildfire and drought change the insurance conversation this week. High risk in all 75 counties means outdoor events, volunteer work days, donated land projects, and buildings near timber or grass need a fresh look at property, general liability, and volunteer accident coverage. Confirm whether burn bans apply to your site and whether your policy requires notice of a nearby wildfire or a change in occupancy if you host evacuees. Mid-year 2026 market notes from The Baldwin Group describe Directors and Officers conditions as still broadly favorable for well-governed organizations, with more underwriting attention on funding-gap decisions and restricted-grant handling. Property rates have moderated for many buyers, but catastrophe-exposed or poorly maintained sites still face pressure.

The Baldwin Group, Tampa, 2026, <https://baldwin.com/insights/nonprofit-industry-report/>

Nonprofits Insurance Alliance has insured Arkansas 501(c)(3) organizations since 2010 and remains a sector-specific market to discuss with your broker. Do not change carriers from this page. Do ask your broker three questions: Is outdoor burning or open flame excluded while a county ban is in force. Does the property form require proof of maintenance during drought. Does Directors and Officers cover alleged mismanagement of restricted public grants.

Nonprofits Insurance Alliance, Santa Cruz, 2023, <https://insurancefor nonprofits.org/arkansas/>

TELLING THE STORY

When you describe need this week, use the ALICE Threshold rather than poverty alone. Forty-three percent of Arkansas households below that threshold is the clearer picture of working families who still cannot cover basics. When you describe scale, use the Internal Revenue Service and ProPublica field counts, not an invented network number. When you describe fire or heat response, name the county, the official source, and what your organization actually did. Avoid claiming statewide impact you cannot document.

United For ALICE / United Way of Northern New Jersey, Morristown, 2026, <https://unitedforalice.org/key-findings/arkansas>

WELLNESS AND REST

Heat and long fire weeks raise staff risk as much as program risk. Schedule outdoor work early. Keep water on site. Cancel or move events if a county burn ban or heat advisory makes the plan unsafe. Directors should take one protected block this week for rest, even if it is short. Tired judgment is a governance problem, not a private failing.

National Weather Service / Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2026/sep/17/dangerous-heat-dry-weather-will-continue-for-much/>

NORTHWEST REGION CONNECT TABLE

Benton and Washington counties have been listed in exceptional or extreme drought in National Weather Service Tulsa drought statements this month, with burn bans reported across northwest Arkansas. A cool front may lower highs in northern Arkansas into the upper 80s and low 90s early this week, with only a small rain chance. Confirm outdoor program plans against local burn bans before volunteers arrive. Arkansas Community Foundation Fayetteville-area affiliates remain the local Giving Tree contact. Quiet this week on new county-level grant closings beyond the statewide Community Assistance Grant Program window that already closed August 15.

National Weather Service Tulsa, Tulsa, 2026, https://www.weather.gov/media/tsa/DGT/DGT_TSA_09102026.pdf

NORTHEAST REGION CONNECT TABLE

National Weather Service Memphis drought products have shown exceptional drought persisting in extreme northeast Arkansas earlier this season, with severe to extreme conditions across much of the east. Forestry risk remains high in Craighead, Greene, Mississippi, Poinsett, and neighboring counties. Wildland firefighting classes continue September 21–22 in Independence County at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, 2221 White Drive, Batesville, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A later class is set October 10 in Craighead County. Quiet this week on new regional contract awards specific to this corridor.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division, Little Rock, 2026, <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/forests/training/>

CENTRAL REGION CONNECT TABLE

Little Rock remains the filing and hearing center this week. Secretary of State Business and Commercial Services is at the Victory Building, 1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 250. Department of Human Services administrator testing for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities is today, September 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Department of Human Services Central Building. The Arkansas Legislative Council completed the \$200 million Medicaid reserve action on September 18. Heart of Arkansas United Way reports that nearly 42 percent of Pulaski County residents fall below the ALICE threshold in its local presentation of the research.

Heart of Arkansas United Way, Little Rock, 2026, <https://heartaruw.org/alice>

SOUTHWEST REGION CONNECT TABLE

The Bunker Fire in Calhoun County near East Camden is the active regional incident. State and local crews have worked containment around Highland Industrial Park with multi-state aviation support coordinated by the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management. National Weather Service Shreveport fire-weather discussion for southwest Arkansas described mid-to-upper 90s, minimum relative humidity of 25 to 35 percent, and elevated fire danger into the weekend before a front near the first day of fall. Quiet this week on new southwest-only grant closings after the statewide August 15 Community

Assistance Grant Program deadline.

*Arkansas Division of Emergency Management, North Little Rock, 2026,
https://dps.arkansas.gov/news/state-of-arkansas-receives-aviation-support-from-mississippi-and-oklahoma-for-calhoun-county-bunker-fire/*

SOUTHEAST REGION CONNECT TABLE

National Weather Service Little Rock drought information has placed exceptional drought in portions of southeast Arkansas. Heat and low soil moisture continue to stress outdoor feeding, farm-worker, and housing programs. A Forestry Division wildland firefighting class is scheduled October 24 in Ashley County at the Court House Extension, 205 East Jefferson, Hamburg. Quiet this week on new southeast-only procurement awards in the public record reviewed for this issue.

National Weather Service Little Rock, North Little Rock, 2026, https://www.weather.gov/media/lzk/DGT/DGT_LZK_08272026.pdf

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch three clocks. First, Community Assistance Grant Program award notices expected in fall or winter 2026. Second, Community and Employment Supports supportive-living start no later than January 2027 and the waiver renewal filing planned for February. Third, Medicaid funding through the rest of fiscal year 2027 after the \$200 million reserve action. Also watch whether additional rain arrives after the Monday–Tuesday front. Without it, fire danger may rise again later in the week.

FOR DIRECTORS THIS WEEK

1. Confirm the August 1 corporation annual report is filed. 2. If you solicit in Arkansas, confirm the 180-day charitable financial report date for your fiscal year. 3. If you applied to the Community Assistance Grant Program, assemble 20 percent match files now. 4. Ask your insurance broker the three drought and Directors and Officers questions in RISK AND LIABILITY REDUCTION. 5. Move or staff outdoor work for heat and burn bans. 6. Place October 5, 2026, on the calendar for the next full compliance packet.

THIS WEEK'S CONCEPT

A match is not a tip. In the Community Assistance Grant Program, a 20 percent match means the state will not carry the full cost of the project you proposed. If the award is \$100,000, you must show \$20,000 that is yours: cash in the bank, labor your people or neighbors actually give, materials that arrive, or land with a documented value. The state values donated community labor at \$18.04 an hour. That number is not a suggestion. It is the figure reviewers will use unless you document professional rates. Boards sometimes treat match as a later problem. It is a now problem. Bank statements, affidavits, appraisals, and quotes belong in the file before the award letter, not after. If the match is weak, either reduce the request or find a partner who can carry part of the 20 percent. A clean match file is part of governance. It is also how you keep the next cycle open for organizations that come after you.

SOURCES

Arkansas Secretary of State, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/business-commercial-services-bcs/nonprofit-charitable-entities/

*Arkansas Secretary of State Charities guidance, Little Rock, 2025,
https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/SoS_-CharitableRegistrationInArkansas_1.pdf*

*Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Little Rock, 2025,
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*Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Little Rock, 2026,
https://www.arkansasedc.com/community-resources/community-assistance-grant-program*

*Office of the Governor, Little Rock, 2026,
https://governor.arkansas.gov/news_post/applications-open-for-2026-community-assistance-grant-program-on-july-1/*

*Office of the Governor, Little Rock, 2026,
https://governor.arkansas.gov/news_post/sanders-aedc-announce-12-52m-in-funding-for-arkansas-communities/*

Arkansas Department of Human Services, Little Rock, 2026, <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/>

ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, New York, 2026, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/states/AR>

United For ALICE, Morristown, 2026, <https://unitedforalice.org/key-findings/arkansas>

Giving USA Foundation and Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indianapolis, 2026, <https://news.iu.edu/philanthropy/live/news/51662-giving-usa-us-charitable-giving-rose-to-61720>

Arkansas Advocate, Little Rock, 2026, <https://arkansasadvocate.com/>

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.arkansasonline.com/>

National Weather Service, multiple offices, 2026, <https://www.weather.gov/>

Arkansas Forestry Division, Little Rock, 2026, https://mip.agri.arkansas.gov/agtools/Forestry/Fire_Info/Wildfire_Danger?show_districts=False

Arkansas Division of Emergency Management, North Little Rock, 2026, <https://dps.arkansas.gov/>

Arkansas Community Foundation, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.arcf.org/>

United States Small Business Administration, Washington, 2026, <https://www.sba.gov/>

Arkansas State Legislature, Little Rock, 2026, <https://arkleg.state.ar.us/>

The Baldwin Group, Tampa, 2026, <https://baldwin.com/insights/nonprofit-industry-report/>

Rally Point Nonprofit Council, Little Rock, 2026, <https://www.rallypointnc.org/>