

RALLY POINT CONNECT REPORT
Arkansas Intel for Nonprofit Directors
Presented by Rally Point Nonprofit Council
Issue: Week of October 12, 2026
Cutoff: Sunday, October 11, 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

Charitable organizations that solicit contributions in Arkansas must file an annual financial report with the Secretary of State no later than 180 days after the end of their fiscal year. Arkansas Secretary of State, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/SoS_CR-

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03_AnnualFinancialReportForm.pdf. The Emergency Solutions Grants application deadline is firm at 5 p.m. Central on October 23, 2026. Arkansas Development Finance Authority, Little Rock, 2026, https://adfa.arkansas.gov/2026-2027-esg-notice-of-funding-availability-nofa/. Elevated wildfire danger continues across much of the state, with burn bans in 50 counties. Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Little Rock, 2026, https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/.

ARKANSAS RULE OR DEADLINE Charitable organizations registered to solicit in Arkansas file an annual financial report no later than one hundred eighty days after the last day of the fiscal year. The report includes the completed form, a copy of the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 series return, and an audit if contributions exceeded one million dollars. Extensions of up to six months may be requested for good cause. Arkansas Secretary of State, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/SoS_CR-03_AnnualFinancialReportForm.pdf. Nonprofit corporations also file an annual report with the Secretary of State by August 1 each year. Arkansas Secretary of State, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/business-commercial-services-bcs/nonprofit-charitable-entities.

DEMAND AND POLICY
Arkansas has the highest food insecurity rate in the nation at 19.4 percent according to a 2025 United States Department of Agriculture report. Arkansas Community Foundation and Walmart Foundation, Springdale and Bentonville, 2026, https://arkansasadvocate.com/2026/09/25/10m-grant-announced-to-address-arkansas-food-insecurity/. The Arkansas Full Table Fund, supported by a ten million dollar Walmart Foundation grant, is accepting applications from October 1 through December 7, 2026, for projects that improve access to federal nutrition programs, strengthen food systems, or test community ideas. Awards range up to two hundred thousand dollars in the Advocate and Strengthen categories and one hundred thousand dollars in Innovate. Arkansas Community Foundation, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.arcf.org/full-table-fund/.

LEGISLATIVE AND WEATHER WATCH The Arkansas Legislative Council approved a request for two hundred million dollars in restricted reserve funds on September 18, 2026, to address a Medicaid shortfall after a four hundred million dollar increase in claims. The next regular legislative session begins January 11, 2027. Arkansas Legislative Council, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/. National Weather Service Little Rock forecasts above-normal temperatures near the lower 90s, low afternoon relative humidity, and gusty southwest winds for Monday, contributing to elevated wildfire danger across northwest to central and southern Arkansas. Rain chances increase midweek ahead of a cold front. National Weather Service, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.weather.gov/. Burn bans are in effect in 50 counties as of October 11, 2026, and the entire state remains at high wildfire risk. Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Little Rock, 2026, https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/.

INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS The Internal Revenue Service lists 17,380 active tax-exempt organizations operating in Arkansas, including 14,293 organizations designated under section 501(c)(3), to which contributions are generally tax-deductible. These organizations reported 25.2 billion dollars in revenue on their most recent tax filings. ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, data updated September 23, 2026, https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/states/AR. Hospital and health system revenues dominate the highest-earning organizations. Medicaid enrollment and cost pressures continue, with the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me

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program facing potential changes and a requested two-year extension still pending federal decision as of early October. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Little Rock, 2026, https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/.

FUNDING STATE CONTRACTS AND PAYMENTS The Community Assistance Grant Program application window closed August 15, 2026. Eligible applicants included cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations. Recipients must provide a 20 percent match using cash, in-kind labor, materials, or land. Awards were expected in early fall 2026. Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Little Rock, 2026, https://governor.arkansas.gov/news_post/applications-open-for-2026-community-assistance-grant-program-on-july-1/. The Emergency Solutions Grants Notice of Funding Availability for program year 2026-2027 has an application deadline of 5 p.m. Central on October 23, 2026. Maximum request is two hundred fifty thousand dollars per applicant. Funding period is March 1, 2027, through February 29, 2028. Arkansas Development Finance Authority, Little Rock, 2026, https://adfa.arkansas.gov/2026-2027-esg-notice-of-funding-availability-nofa/. Public comment on the 2025 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan Substantial Amendment 1 closes at 4:30 p.m. on October 15, 2026. Arkansas Development Finance Authority, Little Rock, 2026, https://adfa.arkansas.gov/.

PEOPLE AND DELIVERY The Arkansas Department of Human Services released an outreach toolkit on September 24, 2026, for providers and community organizations to explain new work and community engagement requirements for Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me recipients. Requirements take effect with consequences beginning January 1, 2027. Affected individuals ages 19 through 64 who are not exempt must complete at least 80 hours per month of qualifying activities. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.deltaplexnews.com/local-news/arkansas-expands-outreach-for-medicaid-work-requirements-starting-in-2027/.

GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS Review your organization's fiscal year-end calendar for the 180-day charitable financial report and the August 1 nonprofit corporation annual report. Confirm board meeting schedules and policy review dates for the remainder of 2026 and early 2027. The 60-day compliance calendar, Department of Human Services and Arkansas Economic Development Commission notices, and labor or insurance items return the first Monday of next month.

RISK AND LIABILITY REDUCTION Directors and officers liability insurance protects board members and officers against claims alleging wrongful acts in governance, such as breach of fiduciary duty. Arkansas law allows articles of incorporation to limit certain personal liability of directors, but not for third-party claims or intentional misconduct. Nonprofits Insurance Alliance has insured 501(c)(3) organizations in Arkansas since 2010. Nonprofits Insurance Alliance, 2023, https://insurancefornonprofits.org/arkansas/. Review coverage limits and exclusions before the next renewal. Confirm workers' compensation and general liability remain current, especially for organizations operating programs outdoors during elevated wildfire conditions.

TELLING THE STORY Organizations addressing food insecurity may highlight participation in or awareness of the Arkansas Full Table Fund opportunity. Clear descriptions of services,

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outcomes, and local partnerships help funders and the public understand impact. Document numbers of households served and pounds of food distributed where applicable, as seen in partner reports from the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas. Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, Jonesboro area, 2026, https://thewynneprogress.com/city-seeking-aedc-grant-for-access-road-drive-through-at-good-shepherd-center/.

WELLNESS AND REST Sustained high temperatures and dry conditions increase fatigue for staff and volunteers working outdoors or in unairconditioned spaces. Schedule breaks, ensure access to water, and monitor heat-related symptoms. Board and staff members benefit from protected rest time after intense grant application periods.

NORTHWEST REGION CONNECT TABLE Quiet this week in this region. Statewide items on wildfire risk and funding opportunities apply. Confirm local burn ban status with your county judge.

NORTHEAST REGION CONNECT TABLE Quiet this week in this region. The City of Wynne continues work related to the Good Shepherd Center facility and related grant requests. Statewide funding and weather guidance apply.

CENTRAL REGION CONNECT TABLE Quiet this week in this region. Legislative Council actions and Department of Human Services outreach toolkits are relevant for organizations serving Medicaid-eligible populations. Confirm local burn ban status.

SOUTHWEST REGION CONNECT TABLE Quiet this week in this region. Statewide elevated wildfire danger and burn bans in multiple counties require attention for outdoor programs.

SOUTHEAST REGION CONNECT TABLE Quiet this week in this region. Statewide items on food systems funding and weather conditions apply. Confirm local burn ban status with county officials.

WHAT TO WATCH Monitor the October 23 Emergency Solutions Grants application deadline and the October 15 close of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery public comment period. Watch for early fall announcements of Community Assistance Grant Program awards. Track federal decision on the requested two-year extension for the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me program. Prepare for work requirement outreach beginning in earnest ahead of January 1, 2027. Continue fire weather awareness through the week.

FOR DIRECTORS THIS WEEK Confirm the status of your organization's most recent annual financial report filing with the Secretary of State if you solicit contributions. Review eligibility and prepare materials if applying for the Emergency Solutions Grants program by October 23. Check county burn ban status before any outdoor burning or large outdoor events. Share the Department of Human Services work requirement toolkit with relevant staff if your organization serves the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me population.

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THIS WEEK'S CONCEPT Fiscal year-end reporting creates a natural rhythm for nonprofit organizations. The 180-day window after the close of the fiscal year gives time to complete the books, prepare the Internal Revenue Service return, and file the Arkansas charitable financial report. Organizations that maintain a simple internal calendar of key dates—board approval of the Form 990, audit completion if required, and the state filing—reduce the risk of late submissions. Late filings can interrupt the ability to solicit contributions until corrected. Building the habit of reviewing the prior year's report against the current year's activity also surfaces questions about restricted funds, program expense allocation, and board oversight. These questions strengthen governance before external reviewers ask them. The same discipline supports stronger applications when funders request recent financials. Directors who treat the fiscal year close as a planning moment rather than only a compliance task leave the organization better prepared for the next twelve months. Arkansas Secretary of State, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/.

SOURCES Arkansas Secretary of State, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/ Arkansas Development Finance Authority, Little Rock, 2026, https://adfa.arkansas.gov/ Arkansas Economic Development Commission and Governor's Office, Little Rock, 2026, https://governor.arkansas.gov/ Arkansas Community Foundation, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.arcf.org/ ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, 2026, https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/states/AR National Weather Service Little Rock, 2026, https://www.weather.gov/ Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Little Rock, 2026, https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/ Arkansas Legislative Council, Little Rock, 2026, https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/ Arkansas Department of Human Services, Little Rock, 2026, https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/ Arkansas Advocate, Little Rock, 2026, https://arkansasadvocate.com/ Nonprofits Insurance Alliance, 2023, https://insurancefornonprofits.org/arkansas/ Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas reporting via Wynne Progress, 2026, https://thewynneprogress.com/

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