

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS (CEOs)
AND THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
OF EASTERN ARKANSAS**

The CEOs in a Workforce Development Area shall enter into a CEO Partnership Agreement with the Local Board as required by Arkansas Code §15-4-3709(g)(2). The Partnership Agreement shall be signed by all CEOs and the Board Chair. The CEOs have designated the Workforce Development Board of Eastern Arkansas (WDBEA) as the grant recipient and fiscal agent/administrative entity. The CEOs and the Workforce Development Board of Eastern Arkansas (WDBEA) share a vested interest in assuring that workforce development decisions will be made transparently and with the best interests of area employers and jobseekers. Workforce Development of Eastern Arkansas consists of five counties which are Crittenden, Cross, St. Frances, Phillips, and Lee County.

CEOs Role

- To appoint a CEO Chairman to act on behalf of all Eastern Arkansas CEO's. -
- To work with the Governor to appoint and certify a Local Workforce Development Board.
- To revoke the appointment of WDBEA members if necessary.
- Fill WDBEA Board vacancies within 60 calendar days of the effective date of the event causing the vacancy.
- To act directly as the grant recipient and fiscal agent or to designate an alternative entity to act as grant recipient and fiscal agent on their behalf.
- To ensure the WDBEA complies with all Federal and State WIOA requirements, including applicable Federal uniform administrative requirements and cost principles.
- To assume ultimate liability for any misuse of grant funds and/or disallowed costs.
- Approve an annual WDBEA budget.
- Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) required to be negotiated with the partners.
- Approve Local WIOA plans, and modifications as required under WIOA and State policy and practice.
- Establishment of WDB by-laws consistent with the Federal and State Policy.

WDBEAs Role

- WDBEA will focus its efforts to ensure that effective services are provided that meet the needs of employers and job seekers in the Workforce Development Area.
- WDBEA will request input and guidance from the CEOs regarding all major decisions.
- WDBEA and its committees will give priority attention to their oversight responsibilities under the WIOA by effectively overseeing program costs and results.
- To direct disbursements of WIOA funds according to the plans and budgets approved by CEOs.
- To adopt and abide by the by-laws in compliance with the specific code of conduct and other requirements Of WIOA.
- To promote participation of all members, especially private sector representatives, and establish rules of meeting attendance and removal for non-attendance.
- To seek outside funding opportunities, such as grants and donations.
- To provide for mandated public input on the development of the Local Plan prior to its submission.
- To participate in regional planning.

It shall be the responsibility of the WDBEA to provide governance over the programs and operations referenced in the Act, in partnership and with the approval of the CEOs. The activity of the Local Board will be discussed and reviewed by the CEOs during quarterly meetings and feedback will be shared. The WDBEA governance will also include monitoring and reporting on the Unified Plan once the Plan has been approved by the Governor.

The WDBEA is authorized to hire staff to assist in the business of the WDBEA. The LWDB will prepare reports, budgets, and other required documents as requested. The WDBEA staff will assist the Board and CEOs in the solicitation and review of other grant opportunities. The WDBEA will ensure that Arkansas Workforce Centers are operated within in the Eastern Workforce Development Area as best fits the program operations within the area along with ensuring a certified center is established as required by the WIOA

The CEOs and WDBEA hereby certify and assure that they will comply with all provisions in the Act, applicable regulations, the policies, and directives established by the Governor and the State Workforce Development Board.

Chief Elected Officials/WDBEA Chair signature page for Partnership Agreement

LEE COUNTY:

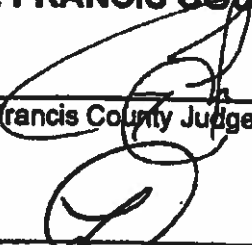


Lee County Judge – Terry Sandefer

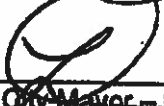


Marianna Mayor – Ora Stevens

ST. FRANCIS COUNTY:



St. Francis County Judge – Craig Jones



Forrest City Mayor – Larry Bryant

PHILLIPS COUNTY:




Phillips County Judge – Clark Hall



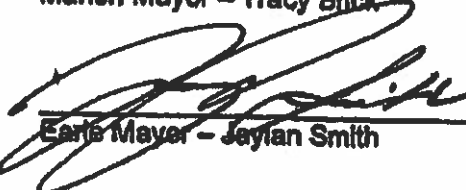
Helena Mayor – Christopher Franklin

CRITTENDEN COUNTY:


Crittenden County Judge – Woody Wheeler

West Memphis Mayor – Marco McClendon


Marion Mayor – Tracy Brick


Earle Mayor – Jaylan Smith

CROSS COUNTY:


Cross County Judge – Lynn Blake



Wynne Mayor – Jennifer Hobbs

BOARD


Board Chair – Robert Thome

CRITTENDEN COUNTY:

Crittenden County Judge – Woody Wheelless



West Memphis Mayor – Marco McClendon

Marion Mayor – Tracy Brick

Earle Mayor – Jaylan Smith

CROSS COUNTY:

Cross County Judge – Lynn Blake

Wynne Mayor – Jennifer Hobbs

BOARD

Board Chair – Robert Thorne