

Executive Summary for the ARPA Steering Committee

August 29, 2022

Women & Children First - \$9,597,000

Women & Children First (WCF) is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization operating since 1978. It is the first and largest continually operating domestic violence shelter in the State of Arkansas. WCF serves victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. WCF staff answer the Statewide Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline and offer safe and secure emergency shelter and supportive services for all victims and their children. WCF provides shelter for women, men, children, and the disabled.

The proposed WCF-Family Peace Center will be a new shelter facility offering all the services needed by individuals and families seeking to end abusive situations and heal and rebuild their lives. It will include other agencies, public and private, which will co-locate on-site complementary services and programs, creating a one-stop-shop for participants seeking aid and assistance. The site, with its multiple collaborators, will provide easily accessible and safe assistance for the victims and children seeking help.

This program plan presents the project requested by WCF-Family Peace Center to construct a \$9.597 million dollar facility. This new building will be a multi-purpose community facility that, once constructed, will enable health monitoring, education, and work for a disproportionately impacted community — victims of domestic violence. The purpose of the building is to provide a wide range of critical services to its participants.

The program at WCF currently has 54 beds in their emergency shelter and houses the statewide Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline. The goal of the project is to create a new facility of 90 beds, based on the Family Justice Center concept, which has served as the national best practices model. The Family Justice Center model is being used at more than 130 operational centers across the U.S. The WCF-Family Peace Center will house its new emergency shelter and other support agencies and programs under the same roof to enable participants to travel to only one location for all the services that will allow the participant to put one's life back together. The onsite location of many service providers is particularly important to those participants who have already secured independent housing outside the shelter.

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Arkansas Tech University – Morton Hall - \$3,200,000

Arkansas Tech University (ATU) is a regional comprehensive university recognized across the river valley region for its service in providing entry level training for healthcare professionals. Programming ranges from short term nursing assistant certificates to a master's level education in nursing. The university is recognized across Arkansas for providing health care education and training to over 15 health care occupations. Arkansas Tech University is well-positioned to expand health care education and training at its Morton Hall site in Russellville, Arkansas.

Morton Hall is located at 1700 West C Street in Russellville, Arkansas and is strategically located next to Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center in addition to several other area health care providers, providing student convenience in clinical experiences. With its proximity to Arkansas Tech University, students can engage in all services that the university provides.

Additionally, the location of the facility is ideal to serve the education, workforce training and community health monitoring needs of individuals in Russellville and the Arkansas River Valley.

The proposed renovation of Morton Hall (19,700 square feet) expands the unused square footage (9,800 square feet) consisting of interior renovation. This capital project consists of heavy demolition and renovation to expand underroof space for health care program growth.

Additionally, the renovation includes mechanical, electrical, technology, and plumbing upgrades, meeting code requirements of the state of Arkansas. The renovation includes the addition of: exterior refinishing, new interior partitions, interior doorways, egress doorways, floor coverings, ceilings, lighting, casework, ramps, and handicapped accessible restrooms for ADA compliance. Minor updates of the current space in use (approximately 8,800 square feet) are also included in the project, to include: updates of windows, doors, floor covering and interior finishes supporting modernization of all interior spaces.

This capital improvement project is inclusive of a multi-purpose community structure (1,500 square feet) to be utilized for academic programming and community outreach activities.

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Black River Technical College - \$4,622,857

Black River Technical College (BRTC) is a two-year college proposing the construction of a short-term housing and training facility at a cost of \$4,622,857. The multi-purpose community facility will provide short-term housing for students and faculty during the accelerated training programs, will function as a regional response center, and emergency response center during disasters, and will serve as an overflow hospital during emergencies while addressing these critical needs of rural Northeast Arkansas. It offers a wide variety of community health monitoring and critical health services in partnership with Northeast Arkansas (NEA) hospitals, medical clinics, and health units. It also partners with the community and directly provides support services.

BRTC's short-term housing and training facility will provide a wide range of services, including but not limited to:

- Provide adequate short-term housing for students and faculty during the accelerated training programs and for the BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) 13-week program.
- A large venue to increase accelerated training for healthcare, emergency responders, and other large groups, including training during national emergencies, such as the COVID-19 public health emergency and serve as a FEMA disaster response command.
- A location for an existing EMS partner to base its local headquarters and provide training to students and community members while addressing services east of Black River.
- An additional venue to accommodate large community events, especially those which provide health care monitoring, such as vaccination clinics, health fairs, community classes such as CPR and first aid, accelerated training to large community groups.

BRTC currently provides training for healthcare personnel and emergency responders; and their accelerated program has reduced the time needed to train nurses, respiratory therapists, EMS and other emergency responders aiding the workforce in recruiting eligible employees during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

BRTC is located next to the airport to assist with rapid transport of patients, supplies, and personnel during emergencies. It already has the healthcare, first responder, and emergency programs in place to address COVID-19 as well as having the partnership, expertise, and staff to provide accelerated emergency and health training. BRTC is within 3 miles of the projected future I-57 exit; is already perceived to be the regional response hub for health emergencies and natural disasters; and has the existing state connections and partnerships to engage the rest of Arkansas.

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National Park College - \$6,000,000

National Park College (NPC) located in Garland County, Arkansas seeks support to construct a multi-purpose Campus Community Center. The Campus Community Center meets the ARPA requirements with a publicly accessible library/media center, public wi-fi access, publicly accessible computer labs, Adult Education Center to distribute Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, healthcare services, mental health services, job counseling services, career services, and a cooperative workspace for entrepreneurs. In addition, the facility will house classrooms, office space, dedicated computer labs, and other instructional areas for NPC's computer science, networking and cybersecurity, digital and media arts, and studio arts academic programs along with tutoring services for the campus.

Objectives:

1. Provide community health services to students, neighboring businesses, and the underserved populations of the county, especially those located on the western side of the county and rural areas beyond.
2. Construct a new building to replace facilities that are 40-50 years old and cost-prohibitive to repair/remodel.
3. Offer opportunities for career services, including job counseling to students and community members.
4. Develop workspaces for students and community members with state-of-the-art technology and free wi-fi.
5. Encourage a collaborative educational space that brings together non-credit workforce training and for-credit academic programs, especially in areas such as computer science, digital media, and entrepreneurship.
6. Create a central location on NPC campus for students and community members to engage one another in a supportive and healthy environment.

As a community college that receives state and local funds and has a locally elected board of trustees, NPC's mission and vision call it to meet the needs of its community. Garland County, Arkansas has a population of approximately 100,000. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of the four census tracts surrounding NPC totals 26,621. This is predominantly a rural population that does not have nearby access to the services being planned for the Campus Community Center. The per capita income of the county is \$27,274, 15.7% of the population lives in poverty, and at least 12% of the over 65 population does not have health insurance. In addition, NPC serves three identified opportunity zones with a population of nearly 7,000 residents and a 43% poverty rate. The public services provided in the proposed 75,000 square foot Campus Community Center would benefit this population along with those students who access the college's Career Pathways and Adult Education programs. There is no facility in Garland County that currently offers this level of services to the community.

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Northwest Technical Institute - \$5,000,000

The NWTI Education Foundation was incorporated February 26, 2021 to support the needs of the Northwest Technical Institute. The NWTI Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to providing and promoting education opportunities for Northwest Technical Institute, its students, and its staff. The NWTI Education Foundation, in partnership with NWTI school administrators and the NWTI Board of Directors, has identified the need for a new NWTI medical educational facility to support the growth of the school as well as to meet the growing needs of the region's medical community.

For over 45 years, Northwest Technical Institute (NWTI) has offered a wide variety of career and technical educational offerings in the Northwest Arkansas region. NWTI recognizes the need for medical training in this region and to expand offerings of short-term trainings to place students in the workforce as soon as possible. NWTI is the only career and technical school in the state. The mission of NWTI is 'changing lives through education, training and skill development'. NWTI has partnered with regional healthcare facilities, including Washington Regional Medical Center, Northwest Health Systems, Mercy Medical Center, Arkansas Children's Hospital Northwest, UAMS, and other organizations such as the Northwest Arkansas Council, Springdale Chamber of Commerce, Benton, Madison and Washington County municipalities to provide training for entry and middle skill support staff. NWTI's focus is to expand and increase our medical offerings to meet the growing need for more medical support personnel in our region.

The NWTI Education Foundation is requesting \$5 million dollars to assist with the construction of a 50,000 sq. ft. Allied Health Facility on the Northwest Technical Institute campus located in Springdale, AR. (See attachment 1). This facility would accommodate NWTI's Licensed Practical Nursing Program, Surgical Technologist Program, Certified Nursing Assistant Program, Sterile Processing, and additional allied health programs being considered for future enrollment. Currently, NWTI's Allied Health programs make up over 45% of NWTI's overall enrollment. The Allied Health Department currently utilizes six classrooms and four labs for instructional delivery. Over the past five years, Licensed Practical Nursing, Surgical Technology and Certified Nursing Assistant programs are at maximum capacity.

This newly constructed facility in health-related fields would have five major impacts:

1. Increase enrollment in current allied health programs.
2. Construct updated classrooms and labs to accommodate modern technology and simulation needed to reflect real life health-care environments.
3. Meet the growing needs of the Northwest Arkansas health professions community.
4. Serve marginalized communities in partnership with Upskill NWA.
5. Allow NWTI's Adult Education program to relocate back on campus and save \$87,706 paid in rent annually or allow additional classroom space to offer other courses.

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Philander Smith College - \$5,000,000

Philander Smith College, established in 1877, is the oldest Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in Arkansas. Our founding mission was to educate teachers and preachers for the newly freed slaves after the Civil War. Over the last 140 years we have maintained our alliance to that mission while expanding to reach the needs of that same community, as well as the broader community.

In September 2015, the College took the bold step to approve the Dr. Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health. Although it was unknown then, this was a timely move in that the pandemic of 2020 would affect the immediate and broader community that we have serviced for over 140 years. COVID-19 has impacted the underserved and minority communities at a much larger rate than the general public. The need for testing, vaccinations, mental health, and overall healthcare is at a peak. The Dr. Joycelyn Elders School for Allied and Public Health is prepared, with your assistance, to render to the underserved communities of Arkansas trained health care workers and access to health care from a trusted community partner.

Philander Smith College, with support from many of our community partners, has already began the process of responding to the pandemic. We have laid a firm academic foundation regarding our work in the Allied and Public Health space. We are prepared to expand this foundation in three areas: Licensed Practical Nursing Program (LPN), Certified Nursing Assistant Program (CNA), and the Panther Pantry and Fresh Market.

Program Objectives:

The Dr. Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health will be a multi-purpose community resource facility to address work, education, and health monitoring in the State of Arkansas. This will be accomplished with these primary objectives:

1. The creation of a CNA and LPN program to educate and provide additional health care workers in the State of Arkansas.
2. The expansion of the Elders Community Health Clinic to increase public health monitoring for underserved communities and as a pandemic resource support site.
3. The expansion of the Philander Smith College Food Pantry to the community served by the Elder's initiative.

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Southeast Arkansas College (SEARK) - \$3,000,000

SEARK College was created by Act 1244 of the 78th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, which was signed into law by the Governor on April 17, 1991. Prior to becoming a comprehensive community college, SEARK was born in 1959 as “Pines Vocational Technical School”. Today, in 2022, SEARK combines relevant technical education programs with general education studies to offer students more than forty-two degree and certificate options.

SEARK’s primary service delivery area encompasses six counties in southeast Arkansas, including: Jefferson, Grant, Lincoln, Cleveland, Desha, and Drew. These counties share similar characteristics such as higher unemployment/underemployment rates, geographic isolation, limited access to broadband Internet services, lower college attendance/completion rates, and limited opportunity for enhanced economic vitality.

This program plan presents the project requested by SEARK College to construct an approximate \$14 million Student and Community Center, with the addition of \$3 million acquired through these funds. The new facility will be a multi-purpose college and community facility that, once constructed, will provide job training and development, education services, health care monitoring and related services, and emergency services during a publicly declared emergency.

SEARK College’s Student and Community Center will offer workforce support services, credit and non-credit academic programs, health-related services and other services intended to lift individuals out of poverty. As an example of the disproportionate poverty rates, the rate of poverty in SE Arkansas, according to the United States Census Bureau is fifteen percent. Conversely, with approximately 41,000 residents, Pine Bluff, the largest population center in SEARK’s service delivery area, has more than a thirty-two percent poverty rate. The Student and Community Center is designed to provide the below spectrum of services through the five-year aware period.

Academic programming such as Cyber Security, Nursing and Allied Health programs such as Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA), Patient Care Technician (PTC), and Medical Assistant, all offer viable employment opportunities within a forty-five-minute drive time from SEARK’s campus. The Student and Community Center includes a walk-in health clinic for students, employees, and low-income individuals/families from throughout SEARK’s service delivery area—this type of access is critical for those who are unable to afford healthcare or lack transportation necessary to regional health care facilities.

The Student and Community Center will also serve as an Emergency Operations Center when a publicly declared health emergency, or similar emergency is encountered. SEARK College has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Jefferson County where both entities will co-locate during a publicly declared health, or similar, emergency, providing access to a facility which can be quickly transitioned to offer space dedicated to quarantine/screening, mass vaccinations, co-locating first responders and federal/state entities who are responding to a publicly-declared health, or similar emergency in a one-stop environment.

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University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) - \$3,000,000

UAPB has a history of educating and serving those living at life's margins, particularly those from the Delta region, demographically one of the most disadvantaged areas in the nation. The university ranks #1 in the state of Arkansas in Addiction Studies, #2 in Best Value for School Affordability, and ranks #11 overall as one of the Top Public Schools in US News and World Reports of Colleges in the South. More than 40 Degree Programs are offered, and students enjoy a 14:1 student/teacher ratio. UAPB students hail from 37 states and 20 countries from across the globe. Over the last few years, UAPB has dramatically increased its student 6-year graduation rate from 23.3 percent to 40 percent. UAPB's student success outcomes have been recognized in each of the five years of the state's productivity formula and rewarded with appropriations adding up to more than \$1 million. In addition, UAPB has worked diligently to hold down tuition and fees, while maintaining a low average net price.

The University provides a challenging student-focused and learning-centered education designed to meet the changing needs of a diverse and rapidly growing student population. In advancing efforts to address that need, the university has completed an assessment of facilities and resources that require structural or technological modernization. Among the many pressing needs in bringing the university forward into the 21st century is a multi-purpose Student Engagement Center ("SEC") that combines access to health care, technology, academic support, career planning support, and recreation to meet the needs of today's students and the State of Arkansas. As such, it is critical that the UAPB construct a new Student Center to replace the current facility, which was constructed in 1951. A marvel of its time, especially among campuses of historically black institutions, the UAPB Student Union was featured in a July 1952 magazine feature story, "Dixie College Hits New High," highlighting the functionality and charm of the structure. While well maintained for more than 70 years, it does not include many of the features and characteristics of the modern 21st century student union. As a result, UAPB seeks funding to assist in developing the financial resources necessary to construct a facility that would provide common areas for public health fairs and assemblies as well as student social engagement, co-curricular learning, technological upgrades, and extracurricular activities needed to allow UAPB to remain competitive with its peer institutions and grow its educational impact throughout the state and region.

The facility will serve as a catalyst in linking students – many of whom are the first in their immediate families to attend college – who hail from the Delta and other impoverished regions of the state and nation with the type exposures necessary to prepare them to be competitive in a highly technical society.

This program plan presents the project requested by UAPB to construct a \$35 million multi-purpose facility that would centralize the space for student health and wellness activities, food service outlets, various other student engagement outlets, including the Student Success Center, the Career Services Center, and a Graduate and Professional School Resource Center.

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University of Arkansas at Monticello - \$6,000,000

The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) is an open-access, accredited, four-year public university in the state's southeast corner. UAM's mission as an open-access institution is to provide educational opportunities for students who might not otherwise have the chance to attain a post-secondary education. Our campus is unique because we also have two Colleges of Technology that serve students from adult education (GED) to technical certificates needed for students to enter the workforce immediately upon completion. Under UAM's program offerings, a student can enter the university to earn a GED through a master's degree.

UAM is seeking capital funding to upgrade the HVAC systems in the Science Center, which was constructed in the 1960's and has not received significant upgrades since it opened. This facility is home to courses that nearly every student on the main campus is required to take and poses substantial challenges in terms of the spread of Covid-19 on our campus and the community. Due to serving many general education courses, the large class sizes, and the lack of air circulation, this facility is more conducive to viral spread.

This project will allow UAM to install all new HVAC equipment to generate better circulation throughout the facility with a fresh air system. There will be significant upgrades to bring everything up to code and install the new mechanical and plumbing systems necessary. All new air handling equipment will be installed with MERV 13 filtration. The project will upgrade the building from a two-pipe hydronic system, which only allows for heating or cooling of the facility and not the simultaneous operation of both. This allows for proper dehumidification and better control of space temperatures. Proper lab pressurization controls will also be installed to ensure all building occupants will be safe in their respective learning environments. Mitigating the number of students, faculty, and staff exposed keeps everyone safe at work or in the classroom, so learning is uninterrupted.