



EAST ARKANSAS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
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PRESS RELEASE

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East Arkansas Planning and Development District Awarded \$2.6 Million HUD Grant for Regional Planning

Jonesboro, November 21, 2011: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a \$2.6 million grant award today to East Arkansas Planning and Development District (EAPDD) for regional planning across 12 counties. HUD's Regional Administrator Don Babers announced this morning from EAPDD's board room that the organization is one of 29 regions across the nation receiving this grant.

Judge Gary Howell, Clay County Judge and acting EAPDD Board Chairman said, "This is a wonderful opportunity to for our communities to work together to plan for housing, transportation, workforce development, economic development, and all the qualities that make our hometowns prosper. We have already taken steps to organize the East Arkansas Regional Planning Partnership to initiate a regional strategy for our future, because in times like these it is more critical than ever that we work together to maximize outcomes."

Melissa Rivers, EAPDD Executive Director, added, "This grant affords us an unprecedented opportunity to give communities a voice in addressing the unique challenges that face our region. It will position our region to compete in our global economy and ensure our workers and families have access to education and jobs."

EAPDD is a non-profit, regional planning and development agency, serving a 12 county area of east Arkansas. With a land area as large as New Jersey, the District stretches from the Missouri state line to the north, through the Memphis metropolitan area, to the southern end of Crowley's Ridge at Helena.

The District's purpose is to promote and support the economic development of the region. It does this by providing technical assistance to the cities, counties, businesses, and other development organizations in the area, and by networking extensively with state and federal resource agencies.

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