



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

TANF Contracts Unit – Initiatives and Programs

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT INITIATIVE

Act 252 of 2007, as amended, commonly referred to as “the Family Savings Initiative Act”, authorizes the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (“DWS”) to establish an Individual Development Account (IDA) program for the State of Arkansas.

Act 252 specifies four distinct purposes for establishing the IDA program:

1. Provide low-income families with an opportunity to accumulate assets.
2. Facilitate good saving habits.
3. Promote home ownership, microenterprise development, education, saving for retirement, and automobile purchase.
4. Stabilize families and build communities.

Who Can Participate in the Arkansas IDA Program?

To be eligible for participation, a household’s income cannot exceed 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, and their net worth cannot exceed \$10,000, excluding one automobile and the family’s primary residence. If the account holder’s income from all sources during a calendar year exceeds 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, they will not be eligible to receive the matching funds at the end of each year.

How the Program Works

For each \$1 contributed to the IDA savings account by the participant during the preceding calendar year, a match of \$3 will be made by DWS, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per IDA account holder or \$4,000 per household per year. If the amount of available matching funds is not sufficient to meet the match for all participants, the distribution matches will be reduced accordingly.

Funds deposited in an IDA savings account are not counted as income, assets, or resources for any State, Municipal, or Federal program that bases its eligibility on need.

IDA savings accounts may be used for the following qualified purposes (Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] matching funds are only allowed to be used on items A through D):

- A. Purchase of residence for first time home buyers.
- B. Major repairs on existing homes if paid directly to the company conducting the repair.
- C. Micro-enterprise development when handled through a business capitalization account through an insured financial institution.
- D. Post-secondary education expenses paid directly to the educational institution.
- E. Amounts paid directly to a retirement account or education IRA established pursuant to Federal law in the name of the account holder or an immediate family member.
- F. For the purchase or repair of an automobile, as long as that is not the sole approved purpose.
- G. Qualified emergency withdrawals.

FY11 Individual Development Account Vendors

Argenta Community Development Corporation

Shanta Nunn-Baro, IDA Program Manager
Phone: 501-374-0622
sbaro@argentacdc.org
Counties served: Pulaski

Central Arkansas Development Council

Teresa Harrison, IDA Program Manager
Phone: 870-234-6444
tharrison@cadc.com
Counties served: Pulaski, Lonoke, Saline, Hot Spring, Clark, Pike, Ouachita, Calhoun, Union, Dallas, Montgomery and Columbia

Chicot Housing Assistance Corporation

Joni Cannatella, Executive Director
Phone: 870-265-3237
jcannatella@att.net
Counties served: Ashley, Chicot, Desha and Drew

Crawford Sebastian Community Development Council

Karen Phillips, Program Director
Phone: 479-785-2303
kphillips@cscdcca.org
Counties served: Crawford and Sebastian

East Arkansas Enterprise Community

Judge Tom Catlett, Chairman
Phone 870-630-2005
eaec@sbcglobal.net
Counties served: St. Francis, Lee, Monroe, Cross and Crittenden

Economic Opportunity Agency of Washington County, Inc.

Aaron Randall, IDA Program Manager
Phone: 479-872-7479
arandall76@gmail.com
Counties served: Washington, Benton, Carroll, Madison, Newton, Boone, Baxter and Searcy

Healthy Connections

Bob Young, Executive Director
Phone: 479-243-0279
bob_young@health-connections.org
Counties served: Howard, Montgomery, Pike, Polk, Scott and Sevier

Southern Good Faith Fund

Karama Neal, Interim Director
kneal@southernqff.org
Phone: 501-392-4201
Counties served: Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Clark, Cleveland, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Garland, Grant, Hot Springs, Howard, Jefferson, Lee, Lincoln, Mississippi, Monroe, Montgomery, Ouachita, Phillips, Pike, Poinsett, Prairie, Pulaski, Saline, St. Francis and Union.

Universal Housing Development Corporation

Kim Miller, Marketing and Resource Development Manager
Phone: 479-968-5001
kmiller@uhdc.net
Counties served: Conway, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Perry, Pope and Yell