

ARKANSAS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

ISSUE NO 3 | MARCH 2023

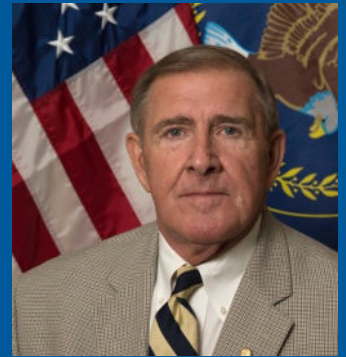


The WIOA State Plan outlines what Arkansas is doing to help Arkansans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers. The State Plan is the road map that addresses the State's goals and strategies to assist those populations needing assistance. As outlined in the law, it shows a unified front of all the core partners and their respective programs that work in correlation to provide what we call wrap-around services.

The major content areas of a State Plan include strategic and operational planning elements. WIOA separates the strategic and operational elements to facilitate cross-program strategic planning.

- The Strategic Planning Elements section includes analyses of the State's economic conditions, workforce characteristics, and workforce development activities. These analyses drive the required vision and goals for the State's workforce development system and alignment strategies for workforce development programs to support economic growth.
- The Operational Planning Elements section identifies the State's efforts to support the State's strategic vision and goals as identified in the Strategic Planning Elements section.

Board Chairman
Tom Anderson



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Goodwill (Reentry Program)

AWDB Social Media Links

Facebook— 71 followers
www.facebook.com/AWDBBoard

Twitter— 200 followers
[@AWDBBoard](https://twitter.com/AWDBBoard)



Breakdown of State Workforce Board Functions

The **Arkansas Workforce Development Board** is responsible for assisting the Governor in twelve specific activities that are outlined in the legislation (A.C.A. §15-4-3706). In each newsletter, we'll breakdown one of these twelve activities and explain in more detail the roles and expectations of Arkansas Workforce Development Board members and committees.

The Arkansas Workforce Development Board is responsible for assisting the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce in:

(1) The development, implementation, and modification of the state workforce development plan;

- **How often is the state workforce development plan submitted?**

⇒ The state workforce development plan must be rewritten every four years, and modifications to the plan must be submitted every two years. The last modification to Arkansas' WIOA state plan was in 2022.

- **Who develops the State Plan?**

⇒ Staff from the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS), Office of Employment Assistance oversee the writing and submission of the plan. In addition to the Office of Employment Assistance, sections of the agency such as Adult Education, Rehabilitation Services, Services for the Blind, Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Labor Market Information, are responsible for writing the parts of the plan that apply to their programs.

- **Who implements the State Plan?**

⇒ All of the partners under WIOA, including all the previously mentioned sections within ADWS, are responsible for implementing the State Plan. This is because each partner has goals and objectives to meet within their section and collectively as a State.

- **Who modifies the State Plan?**

⇒ All of the partners under WIOA, including all the previously mentioned sections within ADWS, are responsible for implementing the State Plan. This is because each partner has goals and objectives to meet within their section and collectively as a State.

- **Who approves the State Plan?**

⇒ Ultimately, the U.S. Department of Labor approves the State Plan. The plan must be submitted section by section according to their established deadlines. The Arkansas Workforce Development Board is not required to approve the State Plan, however, it is a good rule of thumb for the Board approve as it shows ownership and commitment to the plan. Prior to submission, the state must also post the plan for public comment for a period of thirty days. The state must make a public announcement and respond to any comments received during the public comment period.

- **Can/Should Arkansas Workforce Development Board members be involved in the process of writing the state plan?**

⇒ Yes. In accordance with the Board's by-laws, the members of the Strategic Planning Committee have this role. The state WIOA partners mentioned above handle the heavy lift; however, Board members are encouraged to participate. It also helps to have those state partners occupy seats on the Board.

Did Arkansas' labor force participation rate increase? Yes, but not because of what you think.

The Labor Market Information (LMI) unit within the Division of Workforce Services (ADWS) does what is called Annual Processing (an annual revision of data). Each February and March, the LMI unit re-estimates the last 5 years of Civilian Labor Force data. Under the guidance of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the LMI unit benchmarks Employment to the Covered Employment and Earnings data and pull updated Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims data. They also incorporate the latest Census Population data. This year, the new Census population updates revised Employment and the Labor Force Participation Rates up higher than originally estimated in real time.

If you are curious and want to know more, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) gives a very detailed explanation of how it all works: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/launews1.htm>

Revised Labor Force Participation Rate for Calendar Year 2022

	22-Jan	22-Feb	22-Mar	22-Apr	22-May	22-Jun	22-Jul	22-Aug	22-Sep	22-Oct	22-Nov	22-Dec
Labor Force Participation Rate Not Adj.	56.3	56.5	56.6	56.8	56.9	57.0	57.0	56.8	56.8	56.7	56.6	56.5
Labor Force Participation Rate REVISED	57.3	57.5	57.6	57.7	57.7	57.6	57.6	57.5	57.5	57.4	57.4	57.4

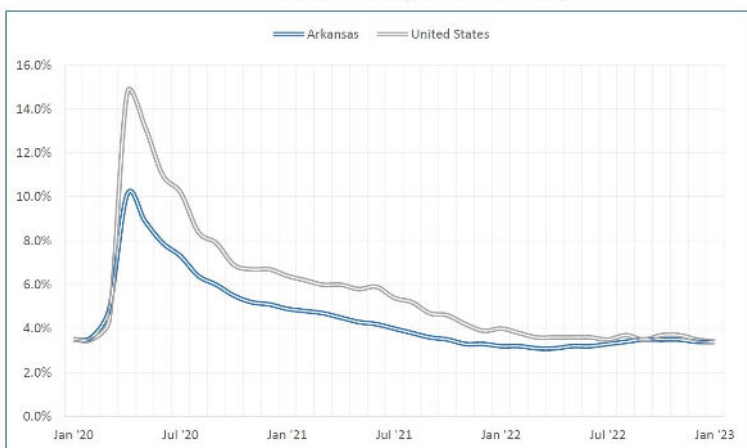
Revised Labor Force Participation Rate for January 2023

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

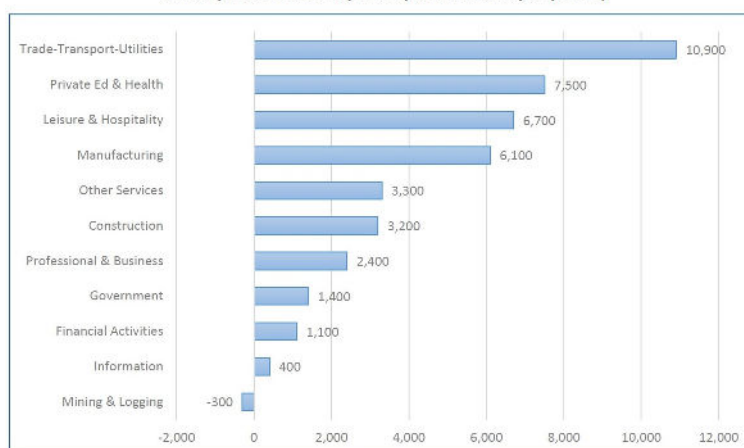
	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	Change from December 2022	Change from January 2022
Civilian Labor Force	1,373,511	1,373,033	1,359,125	478	14,386
Employment	1,326,923	1,325,681	1,315,324	1,242	11,599
Unemployment	46,588	47,352	43,801	-764	2,787
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.4%	57.4%	57.3%	0.0%	0.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
Arkansas vs. United States (3-Year Comparison)



Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors
January 2022 vs January 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Success Story



Commissioner Joseph Baxter, also an **Arkansas Workforce Development Board Member**, leads Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' (ARS) whose mission is to prepare Arkansans with disabilities to work and lead productive and independent lives.

ARS provides a variety of training and career preparation programs with 19 field offices across the state serving all 75 counties where individuals can receive assistance with accessibility and training needs that can lead to successful employment.

Contact ARS at [1-800-330-0632](tel:1-800-330-0632) or [501-296-1600](tel:501-296-1600) to find out how we can help you. To see which facility is closest to you, see the next page.



At 36 years old Richard Robinson was diagnosed with dyslexia, ADHD, and test anxiety. These disabilities brought him to ARS in 2019 in search of tuition assistance to earn his bachelor's degree. He was provided with assistance while in the Dental Hygienist Program at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

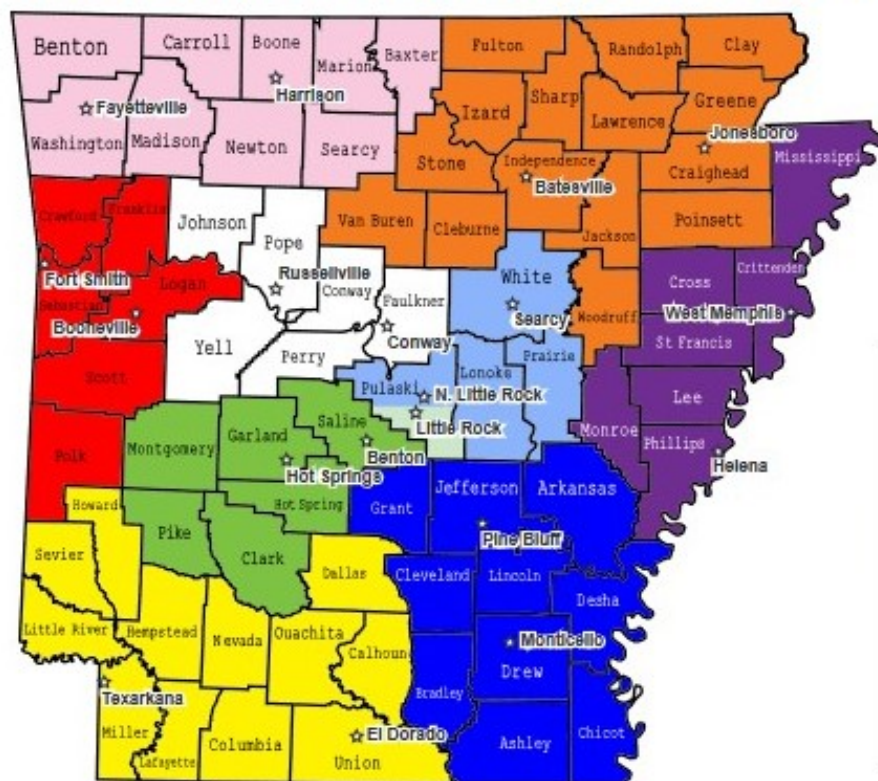
In May of 2022, Robinson graduated from UAMS and was hired as a Dental Hygienist at Arkansas Family Dental in June. Having worked there the last 6 months, he says he loves his job but still has bigger dreams and desires to obtain.

While talking with his counselor, Richard explained his career choice saying, "My exciting career as a Dental Hygienist allows me to provide preventative care to my patients by educating them on the importance of oral health and it also provides me personally with independence."

As for his future goals, Richard says "I'm currently establishing a scholarship with the College of Health Professions Dental Hygiene program at UAMS that will benefit minority students." His decision to do this is personal. He went on to say, "During my time at UAMS, I realized a gap in the student body and came to understand that it's mostly due to lack of knowledge about allied health programs in general, and particularly Dental Hygiene. I've made it my mission to bridge that gap and create a pathway for a deserving student to receive an education with scholarship relief."

Richard feels that bridging the gap is important to him because of how ARS helped him bridge the gap by providing tuition assistance. He wants to encourage others to utilize ARS services. He says, "Working with ARS was an amazing experience. The entire staff were extremely professional by provided me with the tools I needed to attend college and have an exciting career!"

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Field Office Map



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services



Field Services Leadership

Carl Daughtery, Chief of Field Services
Gaye Jones-Washington, Deputy Chief of Field Services
Vacant, Deputy of Field Operations
Kimberly Clayborn, Deputy of Field Operations
Kristen Sutterfield, Rehabilitation Program Manager

Region 1
Amy Jones, Rehabilitation Area Manager
Fayetteville: 479-582-1286
Harrison: 870-741-7153

Region 2
Kim Childress, Rehabilitation Area Manager
Jonesboro: 870-972-0025
Batesville: 870-793-4153

Region 3
Everett Adamson, Rehabilitation Area Manager
West Memphis: 870-735-4725
Helena: 870-338-2753

Region 4
Dana Byrum, Rehabilitation Area Manager
Fort Smith: 479-755-3300
Booneville: 479-675-3835

Region 5
Andrea Gilliam, Rehabilitation Area Manager
Russellville: 479-890-5751
Conway: 501-730-9725

Region 6
Kimberley Baker, Rehabilitation Area Manager
Hot Springs: 501-623-4479
Benton: 501-317-1390

Region 7
Robin Hunt, Rehabilitation Area Manager
North Little Rock: 501-833-1490
Searcy: 501-268-4542

Region 8
LaVennier Brown, Rehabilitation Area Manager
Texarkana: 870-773-2807
El Dorado: 870-862-5451

Region 9
Sterling Hughes, Rehabilitation Area Manager
Pine Bluff: 870-534-2404
Monticello: 870-367-9669

Region 10
Darlene Owens, Rehabilitation Area Manager
Little Rock: 501-686-2800

Field Offices: Counties Served

Batesville: Independence, Cleburne, Van Buren, Stone, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Woodruff, Fulton

Benton: Saline

Booneville: Logan, Franklin, Polk, Scott

Conway: Conway, Faulkner, Perry

El Dorado: Ouachita, Calhoun, Dallas, Union, Columbia

Fayetteville: Benton, Washington, Madison

Fort Smith: Crawford, Sebastian

Harrison: Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton, Searcy, Carroll

Helena: Lee, Phillips, Monroe

Hot Springs: Clark, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Garland, Pike

Jonesboro: Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Poinsett, Randolph

Little Rock: Pulaski [south]

Monticello: Ashley, Desha, Bradley, Lincoln, Chicot, Drew

North Little Rock: Pulaski [north], Lonoke, Prairie

Pine Bluff: Jefferson, Cleveland, Grant, Arkansas

Russellville: Johnson, Yell, Pope

Searcy: White

Texarkana: Howard, Lafayette, Nevada, Hempstead, Miller, Sevier, Little River

West Memphis: St. Francis, Crittenden, Cross, Mississippi

ANNOUNCEMENT: Apprenticeship Employer Forum

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS EMPLOYERS GROWING TALENT THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER FORUM

May 4, 2023
8:30AM-NOON

SAVE
THE
DATE

This is a **free event** sponsored by the
Office of Skills Development
LOCATION: El Dorado Conference Center,
311 S West Ave, El Dorado, AR

- Hear from industry leaders using apprenticeship as a talent development solution.
- Ask questions and network with subject matter experts.
- Find out about financial assistance and other resources available to assist your company in starting an apprenticeship program.
- Request individual follow-up to learn more!

REGISTER NOW >



For more information contact:
Mark.Mcmanus@arkansas.gov



Partnering Organizations:



Sponsored by the Office of Skills Development

ANNOUNCEMENT: If you know someone who fits

this category.

REENTRY SERVICES



Goodwill provides services to individuals who are reentering the workforce and community after a period of incarceration. Our staff understands the challenges and offers a supportive environment. Services include:

- Building a resume.
- Obtaining community support services.
- Gaining job readiness skills.
- Acquiring Career Readiness Certification.
- Receiving job search assistance and leads.

TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (TEO)

TEO participants can gain marketable skills and develop positive work behaviors to help prepare for competitive employment.

The TEO program offers:

- 16-week paid job training program.
- Resume and letter of explanation development.
- Barrier assessment and removal strategies.
- Career planning and job search assistance.
- Employability assessment.
- Soft skills training.
- Referral services to community resources and programs.



**ELIZABETH BLATY | 4 YEARS AT GOODWILL
TEO GRADUATE
DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY AT GOODWILL**

BATESVILLE
3209 HARRISON STREET

BRYANT
5914 AR-5

CONWAY
245 OAK STREET
2425 SANDERS ROAD

EL DORADO
1403 NORTHWEST AVENUE

FAYETTEVILLE
3105 M.L.K. JR. BOULEVARD

FORT SMITH
3225 SOUTH 74TH STREET

HOT SPRINGS
205 GARRISON ROAD

JACKSONVILLE
1309 T.P. WHITE DRIVE

JONESBORO
1515 SOUTH CARAWAY ROAD

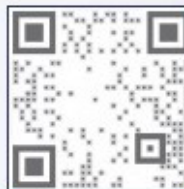
LITTLE ROCK
7400 SCOTT HAMILTON DRIVE
109 MARKHAM PARK DRIVE

PARAGOULD
2808 WEST KINGSHIGHWAY

PINE BLUFF
2514 WEST 28TH AVENUE

ROGERS
1301 NORTH DIXIELAND ROAD
4301 SOUTH DIXIELAND ROAD

SPRINGDALE
5252 WEST SUNSET AVENUE



Interested in enrolling in
our TEO program?
Complete our interest
form. Scan or visit
GoodwillAR.org/reentry.

To make an appointment, contact us at TEO@GoodwillAR.org or

877-372-5151 | GoodwillAR.org/reentry