AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE CONSORTIUM OF CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE

CENTRAL ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA

AND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2014

The Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area is comprised of Pulaski (excluding the City of Little Rock), Saline, Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe and Prairie Counties as designated by the Governor of the State of Arkansas. The Chief Elected Officials (CEOs) comprised of the County Judge of each County and the Mayor of all Cities of 1ST Class and/or the City of the largest population of the six designated Counties, are responsible for the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 907 of 2015 within the Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area.

The Chief Elected Officials, in accordance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 907 of 2015, have and agree to the following roles and responsibilities:

Designation of Grant Recipient and

Local Governmental Grant Sub recipient/Incorporated Fiscal Agent

The CEOs shall serve as the local grant recipient; and, therefore, shall be liable for any misuse of grant funds allocated to the local area. In the event that disallowed cost are levied by DWS/U.S. Department of Labor, due to misspent/misappropriated WIOA funds, the designated "Fiscal Agent", shall utilize Bonding Insurance and its "Reserve Funds" prior to the assessment of such liability to the Consortium of Chief Elected Officials. If the Consortium of Chief Elected Officials bare any financial responsibility, the percentage of such potential liability shall be assigned to each CEO jurisdiction based on the "per capita methodology" as currently used to determine the distribution of the cost of "membership" for each County and Municipal governmental jurisdiction in the Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area.

The Chief Elected Officials, in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 907 of 2015, in order to assist in the administration of grant funds, may designate an entity to serve as a local grant sub-recipient for such funds or as a local fiscal agent.

THEREFORE, the CEOs hereby designate the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc. (CAPDD) as the grant sub-recipient and fiscal agent of funds allocated to the Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area. The designation of CAPDD shall not relieve the CEOs of the liability of any misuse of grant funds.

Chief Elected Official's Financial Liability

- 1. The CEO is financially responsible for the use of WIOA funds, whether the CEO serves as the grant recipient, or another entity is designated to serve in that capacity. In the case of multiple CEOs, all CEOs are jointly and severally liable for any improper expenditures. This means that the political jurisdiction of the CEO is liable for any misuse of WIOA grant funds allocated to the local area and must repay the State using non-federal funds for any improper or unallowable expenditures.
- 2. The Chief Elected Official is the party authorized to sign agreements with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) under WIOA. The Chief Elected Official may delegate signature authority to another person(s).

Composition of and Designation of Workforce Development Board

- 1. The Chief Elected Official will establish and appoint a Workforce Development Board (WDB) to assist and carry out provisions of WIOA §§107 (d)(1-13)
- 2. Every effort will be made to balance the selection geographically throughout the Central Workforce Development Area as well as balance the selection of large and small business, and other related factors to as accurately as possible reflect the landscape of the Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area.

Modification of membership may be completed at any time by the LWDB once established, subject to the confirmation and concurrence of the Chief Elected Officials.

Designation of One Stop Services and other responsibilities:

As required by Section 121 (a) of WIOA, the Chief Elected Official in cooperation with the Workforce Development Board, shall develop, administer, and approve the Memoranda of Understanding in establishing One Stop Central in the Central Arkansas Workforce Investment Area.

The Chief Elected Official shall also:

- a. Review and approve the 4-year local plan developed by the local board, as required by WIOA § 108(a);
- b. Review and approve actions taken by the board to designate One Stop Operators as required by WIOA § 121 (d) (1);
- c. Review and approve monitoring activities by the local board as required by WIOA § 121 (a)(3);
- d. Review and approve the budget of the local board, as required by WIOA § 107(d)(12)(A); and
- e. Negotiate and reach agreement on local performance accountability measures with the local board and the Governor as required under WIOA § 107(d)(9).

A local organization may be selected or otherwise designated to perform more than one of the following functions: fiscal agent, local board staff, one-stop operator, direct provider of career

services or training services. If a local organization is performing more than one of these functions, there must be a written agreement with the local board and the CEO(s) to clarify how the organization will carry out its responsibilities while demonstrating compliance with WIOA and corresponding regulations, relevant OMB Circulars and the State's conflict of interest policy.

The CEOs, hereby certify that they will comply with the provision of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 907 of 2015, and regulations and policies issued by the Governor and the Arkansas Workforce Development Board.

Terms of Agreement:

This Agreement shall be effective from the date of signature and shall expire upon termination of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, dissolution of the Workforce Development Area, or future action taken by the CEOs to establish a new agreement.

ASSURANCES

Title 29 - Labor, Subtitle A - Office of the Secretary of Labor, Part 38
Implementation of the Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Subpart B - Recordkeeping and Other Affirmative Obligations of Recipients Assurances

- § 38.25 A grant applicant's obligation to provide a written assurance.
 - (a) *Grant applicant's obligation* to provide a written assurance.
 - (1) Each application for financial assistance, under Title I of WIOA, as defined in § 38.4, must include the following assurance:
 - (i) As a condition to the award of financial assistance from the Department of Labor under Title I of WIOA, the grant applicant assures that it has the ability to comply with the nondiscrimination and equal opportunity provisions of the following laws and will remain in compliance for the duration of the award of federal financial assistance:
 - (A) Section 188 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which prohibits discrimination against all individuals in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions, transgender status, and gender identity), national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, disability, or political affiliation or belief, or against beneficiaries on the basis of either citizenship status or participation in any WIOA Title I-financially assisted program or activity;
 - (B) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, which prohibits

discrimination on the bases of race, color and national origin;

- (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, which prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities;
- (D) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; and
- (E) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs.

WIOA EO Officer, Tina Roush P. O. Box 300

Lonoke, AR 72086

Telephone: (501) 676-2721 ARS: 1-800-285-1131

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement, effective December 12, 2024.

Judge, Doug Erwin Lonoke County

Judge Lawrence Holloway

Prairie County

Judge, Barry Hyde Pulaski County

Mayor, Jon Plafcan City of Carlisle

Mayor, Wayne McGee-City of Lonoke

Mayor, Bernie Chamberlain

City of Austin

Judge, P. K. Norman Monroe County

Judge, Allen Dodson Faulkner County

Judge, Matt Brumley Saline County

Mayor, David House City of England

Mayor, Ken Kincade City of Cabot

Mayor, Charles Gastineau

City of Ward

Mayor, Billy Hankins

Scott

City of Brinkley

Mayor, Roger Scott City of Des Arc

Mayor, Caleb Norris City of Maumelle

Mayor, Mary Jo Heye-Townsell City of Sherwood

Mayor, Tom Farmer City of Benton

Mayor, Diane Cunningham City of City of Clarendon

Mayor, Bart Castleberry City of Conway

Mayor, Jeff Elmore City of Jacksonville

Mayor, Terry Hartwick City of North Little Rock

Mayor, Chris Treat City of Bryant