HEALTHCARE INTERNET TRANSPORTATION WATER LABOR FORCE DIVERSITY WORKFORCE TRAINING EDUCATION EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT MARKETING LIBRARIES RETAIL COMMUNITY GARDENS ARTS FESTIVALS RESTAURANTS

ACCESS

Arkansas Cultural and Community Economic Strength System

A BENCHMARK FOR ARKANSAS COMMUNITIES

In the modern economy, community leaders and citizen stakeholders seek innovative ways to increase their economic and cultural prosperity. Put another way, each community seeks to become a better version of themselves.

Arkansas Cultural and Community Economic Strength System (ACCESS) provides a free, nonjudgmental benchmarking tool for communities interested in improving their economic development opportunities, quality of life, and public services.

ACCESS focuses on three areas: Physical Resources, Human Resources, and Cultural Resources. In fact, each one could be seen as one part of a three-legged stool. While all are important, no single one is strong enough by itself to provide a sustainable and solid base.

FOCUSING ON...

Physical Resources

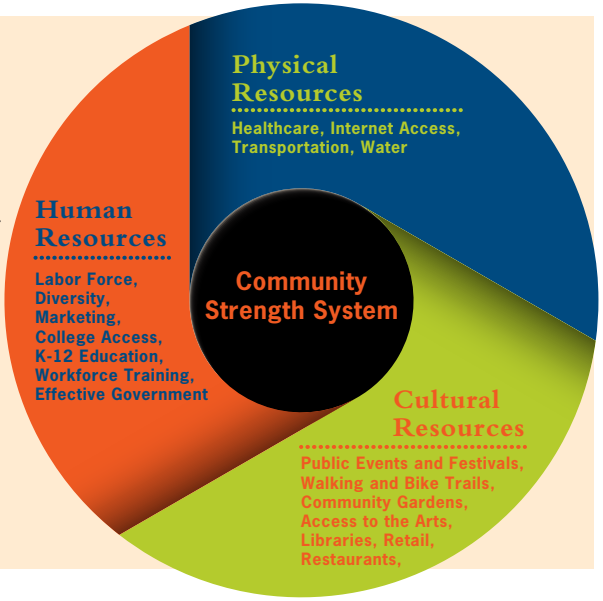
ACCESS evaluates a Community's Employers, Transportation System, Medical Facilities, Fire and Police; Disaster Preparedness, and Water Treatment.

Human Resources

ACCESS measures Population Trends, K-12 Education, Higher Education, Labor Shed, and Skill Sets of the Existing Workforce.

Cultural Resources

ACCESS considers an Area's Community Gardens, City Parks, Nature Trails, Public Festivals and the Arts, Libraries, Internet Access, and a Vibrant Retail and Restaurant Sector.



HOW IT WORKS...

Assessment

- Meet with Stakeholders
- Community Survey
- Community Evaluation
- Survey Analysis

Action

- Community Meeting
- Presentation of Results
- SWOT Analysis
- Create a Plan

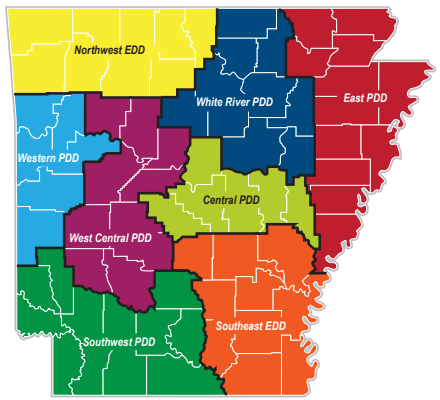
Application

- Research and Information Gathering
- Transparency and Accountability
- Implementation

Arkansas Planning and Development Districts

ACCESS will be conducted in partnership with the Arkansas Planning and Development Districts and supports their initiatives for Economic Development in Arkansas:

- Create and Retain Jobs
- Foster Vibrant Communities
- Promote a Supportive Regional Environment
- Produce a Quality Workforce
- Ensure Infrastructure that Supports Community and Business Activity



- Central PDD
- East PDD
- Northwest EDD
- Southeast EDD
- Southwest PDD
- West Central PDD
- Western PDD
- White River PDD

aedi Arkansas Economic Development Institute

The Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) was created in 1955 by the University of Arkansas as the Arkansas Industrial Research Center. It's purpose then as now, is to provide research, technical assistance, and training to the state's leaders, public and private, that supports and enhances the economic development of our state. The Arkansas Legislature has provided funding to the Institute since its inception to carry out its mission.

AEDI's 3 Areas of Focus:

1 Community Economic Development and Strategic Assessment

Strategic planning and analysis to assist in designing and facilitating community development plans and initiatives.

2 Economic Research and Forecasting

Providing economic impact analysis, research, and forecasting for community's focused on the future.

3 Arkansas Census State Data Center and Geographic Information Systems Laboratory

The source for the distribution of census, economic, and demographic data and its analysis.

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