

New Arkansan Resource Networks

Overview

New Arkansan Resource Networks aim to assist immigrants become part of the local community through employment and immigration assistance.

- This demonstration grant was awarded to Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (formerly Arkansas Employment Security Department or AESD) in July 2005, and is expected to conclude in June 2008.
- Arkansas will establish new full service New Arkansan Resource Networks in Rogers, Russellville and Malvern. A fourth location is tentatively planned in Little Rock.
- A third-party evaluator will evaluate the employment and citizenship impacts of services provided in the New Arkansan Resource Networks.

Purpose

The purpose of this demonstration project is to prepare immigrants for employment in high-growth industries, meet local workforce needs, and promote civic integration.

Goals

The goals of the demonstration are to:

- Speed the transition of new Americans into communities,
- Promote stability and rapid employment with good wages, and
- Enhance economic development.

Major Innovations

New Arkansan Resource Networks will be located within existing local One-Stop Career Centers, and will maximize partner collaboration formed around a consolidated service approach to educate individuals and employers. Together, these partners will provide services in areas such as immigration, citizenship training, workforce development, small business programs, and economic development strategies.

Summary of Services

New Arkansan Resource Networks will provide job placement, community service referrals, translation, language and occupational training, resettlement assistance, supportive services, and technical and legal assistance concerning documentation, civic responsibilities and other appropriate services.

For specific information about the New Arkansan Resource Networks, please contact **Mike Kennedy**, Office of Employment Assistance Division Chief at 501-682-3142 or Mike.Kennedy@arkansas.gov.

For additional information about the demonstration project and evaluation, please contact Michelle Ennis, Employment and Training Administration, at (202) 693-3636 or ennis.michelle@dol.gov.



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