

ARDOT Newsletter

August 2023



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Construction Management Program
- Business Development Program
- Capability Statement Design
- Business Plan Development
- Technical Assistance

ARDOT Awarded \$25 Million Federal RAISE Grant

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has awarded a \$25 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant to the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT).

The RAISE grant funding will be used to reconstruct 3.5 miles of Highway 5 (Old Stagecoach Road) in Saline County between Highway 183 in Bryant and the Pulaski County Line. Plans include widening the highway to five lanes and adding a shared-use path and continuous sidewalks.

"This project will complete the widening of Highway 5 between Benton and Little Rock as well as provide improved bicycle and pedestrian access along the busy corridor," said ARDOT Director Lorie Tudor. "We appreciate the U.S. Department of Transportation for recognizing this project as one that will improve safety and mobility for the traveling public, and we thank the Congressional Delegation for advocating for Arkansas' infrastructure."

The RAISE Grant program was expanded under the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). During this funding cycle, the USDOT awarded \$2.2 billion in grant funding for 162 different infrastructure projects across the country. RAISE Grant funding prioritizes projects that improve safety, quality of life, mobility, community connectivity, and economic opportunity. The City of Russellville also received a \$23.7 million RAISE Grant this funding cycle for 13 miles of new multi-use trails and side paths.



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3 Reasons Contractors Should Hire More Women

National Center for Construction Education & Research findings highlight the critical roles of women in the industry

We need more of the right people for the construction industry to keep pace with project demand.

Statistics show that for every four people leaving the industry, only one enters. But keeping up is not just about numbers. Recent research shows that women bring unique qualities to the jobsite that will help contractors improve project outcomes.

The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) conducted focus groups in 2022 with 176 tradeswomen in the U.S. and Canada and gathered information from project management teams in separate focus groups. In addition, NCCER analyzed survey responses from 770 additional women in construction. This was followed by a 2023 survey conducted by Ambition Theory, a professional coaching and leadership development company, in collaboration with NCCER.

The research revealed several reasons that contractors might want to consider hiring more women.

1. Improve Productivity

Three strengths, which contribute to improved productivity, were identified in the research.

1. Attention to detail and following established processes.

Women tend to be more careful in executing their tasks with the required detailed specifications, which was mentioned in 69% of the focus groups. These qualities were corroborated by members of project management teams who participated in separate focus groups. One participant said: "Women are more likely to be perfectionists. We're way more likely to double check our own work. Another thing we bring to the table is the ability to follow process and pay attention to details."

Management team members agreed, stating that women are focused on following the prescribed work process as designed instead of relying on experience and physical strength.

2. Maintaining organized jobsites and taking care of equipment.

It's well known that downtime on the job is one of the factors that contributes to cost and schedule overruns. Often this is due to things beyond the individual field worker's control, such as late delivery of materials or equipment, project data resolution or coordination with other trades.

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About The ARDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on ARDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



CEI DBE Supportive Services

(800) 423-7058

www.arbdesupport.com