

ARDOT Newsletter

February 2023



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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



Award Recipients Announced For Grant Program

The Arkansas Department of Transportation has announced award recipients for the Transportation-Related Research Workforce Development Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2023.

Act 705 of 2017 established the distribution of highway revenue interest income from the State Highway and Transportation Department Fund to create the Future Transportation Research Fund and the Transportation-Related Grant Program (TRRGP). Act 884 of 2021 added workforce development to the grant program, modifying the fund and program to the Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development Fund and Transportation-Related and Workforce Development Grant Program (TRRWDGP), respectively.

The purpose of the TRRWDGP is to support the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation and support industry training, apprenticeship, and educational programs to foster skills required for transportation related personnel development. Eligible recipients of funds are limited to publicly funded institutions of higher education. ARDOT awarded three TRRWDGP projects for a total of \$615,100 for Fiscal Year 2023.

[Read More →](#)

Happy New Year?

Business planning in a year of uncertainty

Business planning for 2023 might feel similar to an idyllic island getaway — complete with tiki huts, white sand beaches and a slight breeze blowing across the shoreline.

However, just on the horizon, there are dark clouds billowing and the local weather forecaster doesn't seem to have an accurate projection on the storm's trajectory. Will the storm hit, or will it just float on by? Do we board up the tiki bar, or keep the patrons fully served?

Similarly, the construction world is coming off another round of high-performing years. There were certainly headwinds in the form of material shortages, fuel price increases and the ever-present labor woes, but the contracting world persevered. The only cause for pause was the continual threat of recession or economic pullback. Inflation drove costs up, interest rates rose, and, in some cases, there was the expected "cooling off" relative to construction starts.

So, where does this leave a construction business owner developing an effective strategy for the year(s) to come? Is it time to batten down the hatches and expect the worst, or is it time to play offense?

Preparation Begins Well Before the Storm

If a storm were raging on that picturesque island, would the islanders say to themselves, "Maybe we should slap up some plywood ..." or would they have prepared themselves well in advance, shoring up their village and ensuring they had emergency provisions?

It is intriguing to think of how many contractors thought to look at their balance sheet, collections, etc., at the beginning of the pandemic — as if in the middle of a wholesale business stoppage the world had never seen before, the balance sheet would mystically add zeros to weather an extended weak economic cycle.

The same concept holds true for this economic cycle: Even if the market continues to falter, preparations should have been made well before. Put another way, don't be caught in a raging typhoon, hanging boards on the wall of a house while the wind is whipping the ladder out from underneath you. Preparation should begin today — not tomorrow, not another month, but immediately to be acted upon.

[Read More →](#)

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