



NEWS
For Immediate Release

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**Women's Foundation of Arkansas selected for Regional
Women's Economic Mobility Hub project**

Women's Funding Network chooses Arkansas-based nonprofit for project promoting economic mobility for women and girls in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (June 16, 2020) — The Women's Foundation of Arkansas (WFA) has announced it will be included in the Women's Funding Network's Regional Women's Economic Mobility Hub project to increase funding and other resources critical in advancing economic opportunities among women and girls.

"This grant marks a groundbreaking advancement for our organization and our mission to promote economic growth for women and girls all across Arkansas," said Anna Beth Gorman, executive director of the WFA. "While we are still reeling from the impact that COVID-19 has had on the economic profile of our state and the wonderful women-owned small businesses that reside in it, this gives us an opportunity to look ahead to a brighter, more inclusive future."

The main objectives of the [Regional Women's Economic Mobility Hub](#) are to focus on creating local environments that identify and connect community assets to market demands that will build lasting livelihoods for women and their families. Each state hub will focus on crucial factors, such as the social, economic, health and environmental conditions that are necessary for women to thrive within their regions. The WFA and other entities within the cohort will go through a learning and organizing process in order to launch Regional Women's Economic Mobility Hubs in October 2020.

In April, WFA announced the creation of an \$80,000 fund to provide grants to women-owned small businesses experiencing economic hardship in the wake of COVID-19, which was a part of Women-Owned, a model developed by the foundation.

The new Arkansas Hub will be an expansion of the Women-Owned model that will allow the WFA to continue advocating small businesses within the state during the pandemic and moving forward. Recognizing that the entrepreneurial ecosystem has historically and systematically disadvantaged women and people of color, the model will educate the ecosystem on how to collaboratively and uniquely support women-owned businesses, serve as a bridge and create a fund from which women business owners can access critical capital.

To learn more about the Women's Funding Network's Regional Women's Economic Mobility Hub, please visit WomensFundingNetwork.org.

About the Women's Foundation of Arkansas

Women's Foundation of Arkansas' (WFA) mission is to promote and foster programs, activities and opportunities that expand and strengthen the roles of women and girls in Arkansas. It is the only statewide foundation that focuses solely on improving their academic, economic and social well-being. To fulfill this mission, WFA serves as a grant-maker, a convener and a resource on the status of women and girls. It is the WFA's belief that improving their lives not only advances gender equity, but also improves the health and wealth of families, communities and the state as a whole. Learn more at WomensFoundationArkansas.org.

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