

Center on Self-Employment

National Center on Self-Employment, Business Ownership, and Telecommuting

ARKANSAS STARTUP RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1. Forge Fund

A nonprofit community lender that provides loans to entrepreneurs.

<https://www.forgefund.org/lending>

2. Imani Fund

Provides loans of \$5,000 to \$25,000 to under resourced entrepreneurs in Arkansas.

<https://www.forgefund.org/lending>

3. Kiva Northwest Arkansas

A local branch of a global microlending firm that provides loans up to 10K for disadvantaged entrepreneurs.

<https://www.kiva-nwa.org>

4. Lift Fund Arkansas

Lender to disadvantaged small businesses including women, minorities, and startups on a national basis including in Arkansas; offers startup loans of up to \$50,000 and small business loans up to \$250,000.

<https://www.liftfund.com/locations/arkansas>

5. Communities Unlimited

A local source of loans for low-income individuals and families. Offers loans of \$1,000 to \$100,000.

<https://www.communitiesu.org/apply-for-a-loan>

The National Center on Self-employment, Business Ownership, and Telecommuting is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (Grant#H263E200005). The ideas, opinions, and conclusions expressed do not represent recommendations, endorsements, or policies of the U.S. Department of Education. Virginia Commonwealth University, Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (VCU-RRTC) is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation, or disability. If special accommodations are needed, please contact Teri Blankenship at tcblanke@vcu.edu.



6. Arkansas Small Business Guaranty Program

ADFA provides a loan guarantee to lenders up to 80% of the first \$200,000 loan amount with maximum loan guarantee of \$160,000. Lenders then provide capital through loans to small businesses to adequately finance their working capital needs.

<https://adfa.arkansas.gov/program/arkansas-small-business-guaranty/>

7. BioVentures Life Science Business Incubator at University of Arkansas

Provides business incubation services to the biotech sector.

<https://bioventures.uams.edu/business-incubator/>

8. Arkansas Research & Technology Park

Provides funding to Arkansas technology firms.

<https://artp.uark.edu/prospective-affiliates>

9. People Trust Loan Fund

A non-profit community lender focused on Arkansas.

<https://www.peopletrustloans.org>

10. Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

Provides loans of up to 50K to rural entrepreneurs in Arkansas.

<https://www.arkansaslandcan.org/local-resources/Rural-Microentrepreneur-Assistance-Program/36564>

11. Arkansas Technology Development Program

Provides funding of up to 100K for emerging technology companies.

<https://www.arkansasedc.com/community-resources/financial-resources/equity-support-programs>

12. Little Rock Venture Center

Designed for companies with annual revenues of 25K to 100K.

<https://www.venturecenter.co/entrepreneurs/programs/spark/>

13. Little Rock Technology Park

A resource center for technology firms in Arkansas.

<https://www.lrtpa.com/>

14. Catalyst Innovation

Business incubator for northeast Arkansas.

<https://catalystinnovation.org/incubator-program/>

15. Fuel Accelerator Tech Incubator

Provides support for tech companies in NW Arkansas. One of the firm's partners was a senior Walmart executive.

<https://www.fuelaccelerator.com/program>

16. Arkansas Grants for African Americans

Offers 25K grants for African Americans in Arkansas.

<https://www.arcf.org/apply/nonprofits/building-black-communities-fund/>

17. Hope Credit Union Diverse Community Capital Program

Was funded by Wells Fargo from 2015 to 2020 for \$175 million; is now funded by Hope Credit Union. Provides funding to small businesses run by people of color, women, and veterans and loans of up to \$250,000 to all small businesses.

[Business Loans | Hope Credit Union \(hopecu.org\)](#)

18. Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center

Provides marketing and business planning services for small businesses including those in the tech sector in Arkansas.

<https://asbtdc.org>

19. Arkansas Women's Business Center

Provides mentoring, support, and a business incubator for women-owned businesses in Arkansas.

<https://winrock.org/work/enterprise-incubator/arkansas-womens-business-center>

20. Winrock Enterprise Incubator

Provides support for small farmers, technology firms, and small businesses in Arkansas via a business incubator.

[Winrock International » Enterprise Incubator](#)

21. Wallace Center

Provides support for food-based businesses in Arkansas.

[Winrock International » Wallace Center](#)

22. Arkansas State Independent Living Council

Provides general programs and support for people with disabilities.

[ARSILC - Arkansas State Independent Living Council](#)