



Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

<https://arcareereducation.org/about/arkansas-rehabilitation-services>

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division (ARS)

Business and Industry services

Job Retention Services were provided to **527** individuals allowing them to keep their jobs and ensuring Arkansas businesses did not lose a valued employee due to disability.

Assistive Technology at Work (AT@Work)

AT@Work is an assistive technology service designed to assist ARS counselors to ensure their clients receive the maximum benefit from assistive technology in their quest to achieve educational, employment and independent living goals. Assessments are designed to identify the appropriate technology that best benefits the client and provides the counselor with the sources and costs for obtaining the recommended technology.

Increasing Capabilities Access Network – ICAN

ICAN is the Arkansas statewide Assistive Technology program designed to make technology available and accessible for everyone who needs it. Assistive technology (AT) is any kind of device or tool that helps people live, learn, work, and communicate more independently. Our goal is to help you bridge the gap between ability and disability using AT. ICAN offers a number of services to help Arkansans of all ages find the AT tools they need for home, school, work and getting around in the community. These FREE services are for any Arkansan with health issues or disabilities without regard to age, disability type, income, geographic area, or eligibility for any other program.

Stay at Work/ Return to Work (SAW/RTW)

SAW/RTW is designed to provide support to employers when assisting employees that experience injury or illness that results in disability in remaining at work or returning to work as soon as it is safe and medically feasible. Specialized assistance can help identify accommodations and assistive technology in the workplace or determine potential assignments for transitional employment.

Transition Employment Program (TEP)

Continued growth in TEP with 70 students from 57 high schools participating. TEP is a comprehensive pre-employment training service designed to prepare 11th grade students for future employment. TEP meets all mandated cores of WIOA: Job Exploration; Work-Based Learning, Workplace Readiness, Post-Secondary Counseling, and Instruction in Self-Advocacy.

Business Engagement

117 MOUs with business and industry are currently signed.

During fiscal year 2019 Business Engagement staff worked with 940 businesses either in long-term partnerships or “real-time” interactions.

Business Partnerships include:

SAF Holland

- ARS, Adult Education, DWS, and NATF partnered to provide pre-apprenticeship training leading to Registered Apprenticeships.

Alma Health Care and Methodist

- ARS, Adult Education, DWS, and NATF collaborated to provide pre-apprenticeship training that led to employment as registered apprentices.

Wilson Electric

- ARS/ACDC provided construction technology and electric core training, Wilson electric provided an unpaid internship that has led to employment for one of our students as a registered apprentice.

Arlington Hotel Hot Springs

- The Arlington seeks to incorporate people with disabilities to strengthen businesses human capital strategies, expand the businesses pool of talent, skills, and creative business solutions.
- The Arlington Hotel has provided multiple unpaid internships for students in our construction trades training area. Currently two students with disabilities are interviewing for paid positions in the Arlington's maintenance department.
- One fifth of the Arlington's staff has been qualified as people who have disabilities.
- Arlington was recognized at National Disability Awareness Month(NDEAM) for successfully meeting WIOA standards for employing people with disabilities. One employee has been successfully employed for over 30 plus years.
- The Arlington has employed three of ARS clients since the NDEAM event.
- ARS has provided tax incentives to the Arlington such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit for hiring people with disabilities.
- ARS will provide Etiquette and Inclusion training for the Arlington management in the spring.

Marshalls Store LR

- ARS is continuing to build strong relationship with ARS & Marshalls, Store Director Jon Taylor, a member on the SRC board. He understands our mission and objective to employee clients with successful outcomes.
- Business Engagement Team continues to identify clients with talent that are able to perform the job effectively and since partnering 6 months ago ARS has successfully placed 2 clients in position as they are nearing on their 90 days of successful employment.
- Having such a strong relationship with Marshalls allows Jon to reach out to his respectful BER to address any concerns that an individual that is a client for ARS may be experiencing while on the job. ARS looks forward to the continued partnership and assisting our clients with our business customers in the near future.

TJ Maxx LR/Bryant

- ARS Business Engagement Team has established a strong business culture with TJ Maxx and it continues to gain momentum.
- In collaboration with our ARS Counselors, we have identified some of our very talented clients and connected solid roots to our business customer. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month TJ Maxx's staff joined ARS at the State Capitol to launch our kickoff celebration for NDEAM.
- Through strong efforts and partnership, representing their chain was their District Manager, Assistant Store Manager and Sales associate who is a successful placed client of ARS.

Project SEARCH

- Training sites at Arkansas Children's Hospital-Little Rock; UAMS-Little Rock; Ouachita County Medical Center-Camden; St. Bernard's Medical Center- Jonesboro; St. Mary's Medical Center, Russellville; Washington Regional Medical Center, Fayetteville; Embassy Suites-Rogers.
- Each site requires extensive collaboration with the host business partner, a disability training provider, and ARS in order to provide skills training and internships that connect to employment within the community or at the host business. This allows the business to meet its staffing needs while providing a hands-on opportunity for clients to train.