

**Faulkner County
American Rescue Plan Application**

Organizational information:

Name or organization: The Salvation Army

Physical address: 2125 Harkrider Street, Conway, AR 72032

Mailing address: PO Box 1897, Little Rock, AR 72203

Email: ashley.hooten@uss.salvationarmy.org

Phone: 501-329-1712

CEO or Executive Director information:

Name: Major Bill Mockabee

Email: bill.mockabee@uss.salvationarmy.org

Phone: 501-374-9296

Brief qualifications statement: Trained as Salvation Army officer with appointments throughout the southern territory since 2005.

Financial Officer or Director information:

Name: Veronica Dockery

Email: veronica.dockery@uss.salvationarmy.org

Phone: 501-374-9296

Brief qualifications statement: Employed by The Salvation Army as an accountant for 29 years.

Who is the contact person for this application:

Name: Ashley Hooten

Email: ashley.hooten@uss.salvationarmy.org

Phone: 501-213-8395

Entity type or IRS registration: (501(c)3, LLC, sole proprietorship, etc)

501(c)3, Tax ID: 58-0660607

Brief history of the organization:

The Salvation Army began in 1865 in London, England. Founded by William Booth, The Salvation Army served the needy and vulnerable in England and soon made its way to America. In fact, The Salvation Army has been operating in Central Arkansas since 1895. Area Commander Major Bill Mockabee leads efforts to serve the homeless and underserved in Faulkner County as well as in seven other Central Arkansas counties: Pulaski, Saline, White, Perry, Van Buren, Cleburne and Lonoke. In 2021, The Salvation Army in Central Arkansas served 11,010 people, provided 23,686 meals, 3,914 grocery/food boxes and 3,058 nights of shelter.

Financial information:

Have you received other state or federal grant funds in the past three years? If so, list the grant name, the organization from whom it was received, the amount of funding received, and the status of the grant expenditure. (see attached for federal grant detail).

Attach your organization's audits from 2019 and 2020 if available. (see attached)

What is your organization's annual budget? Please attach a copy of your 2020 and 2021 budgets. (see attached)

The applicant certifies that any funds received through this Faulkner County granting program are fully subject to federal regulations and affirms that the funds will be properly spent in compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The applicant further affirms that financial controls are in place such that each expenditure under the grant will be fully documented and that such documentation will be open to the public and submitted to the County for audit. The applicant understands that all aspects of their use of the grant are open to the public and subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

About your request:

Please indicate under which category of eligibility under ARPA your organization is applying:

- Public Health and Economic Impacts – Responding to COVID-19
- Public Health and Economic Impacts – Responding to Negative Economic Impacts
- Premium Pay
- Revenue Loss
- Investments in Infrastructure – Water and Sewer
- Investments in Infrastructure – Broadband

Briefly and clearly state how your project responds to the COVID-19 crisis.

Our project will provide rent/utility and food assistance to residents of Faulkner County who are struggling to make ends meet due to “pandemic poverty.” Covid-19 has made a large impact on minority communities as well as the “working poor” in our society. Through Faulkner County ARPA funds, The Salvation Army will enable families to stay in their homes through food and rent/utility assistance instead of becoming homeless. The resulting family stability will make Faulkner County a stronger, more healthy community.

Does your project have a county-wide impact? If so, describe.

Yes, The Salvation Army serves residents of Faulkner County. Even though we are located in Conway, we are able to serve any resident of Faulkner County who needs food or rent/utility assistance through our social services office.

Please describe your project including the following information (in any order): What will this project accomplish? How will those goals be measured? How to these goals relate to the goals of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)?

If this proposal is funded, The Salvation Army in Conway will be able to provide more rent/utility and food assistance to Faulkner County residents in danger of becoming homeless.

The Salvation Army receives an estimated 80 -100 calls per month from Central Arkansas residents requesting immediate help with rent payments, utility assistance and food. In accordance with our mission, we turn no one away, nor do we leave anyone behind. Yet, the increasing demands due to the Covid-19 pandemic have stretched our budgeted resources beyond what we can do to offer sufficient services for those in need. The Salvation Army distributed \$250,000 in rent/utility assistance this past fiscal year, and we forecast this amount could at least double this year. The ARPA funding will enable The Salvation Army to build the capacity of its resources to meet the demands so that we are able to serve significantly more needy families and individuals in Faulkner County. In this critical time when the needs and demands are much greater, we need more resources to “*do the most good*” for those in need.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, our management system data indicates the clients in need of our services have fallen at least six months or more behind on their rent payments due to job loss and the loss of family stability. Prior to the pandemic, the families we served were usually only two to three months behind in rent payments. The average number of requests for rental assistance per month totals 75, and most of these requests are from women with children. In addition, national data indicates a majority of African Americans are experiencing higher-than-normal unemployment rates due to the Covid-19 pandemic. People of color, especially African Americans, are affected disproportionately by the pandemic in the areas of illness and death rates, which are much higher than in other populations, according to the data. Our focus on preventing homelessness is effective in stabilizing families and is cost-efficient. The trauma that comes from homelessness is severe, causing and compounding mental health issues. Homelessness affects the individual and family as well as the social well-being of our communities. ARPA funds will allow The Salvation Army to enable more people to stay in their homes, thereby strengthening families and communities.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, more than 425,000 Arkansans are behind on rent, and roughly half reported having zero confidence that they can pay next month’s rent. The Salvation Army in Central Arkansas receives an average of 80 to 100 calls per month from those seeking rent and utility assistance. Our waiting lists for rent/utility assistance are two to three months in length. ARPA funds will allow The Salvation Army to provide housing stability through rent and utility assistance for clients in

Faulkner County. We would like to earmark \$200,000 per year for the next two years for rent/utility assistance in Faulkner County. While enabling at least 150 Faulkner County families per year to stay in their homes, these rent/utility funds will remain in Faulkner County, supporting Conway Corp and local apartments.

The intensive case management services we offer will address underlying critical needs hindering family stability. Individuals and families will have the opportunity to increase their knowledge of budgeting, money management and life skills. They will be referred to federal assistance programs as needed. We will refer jobless clients to community resources that offer workforce development training and career counseling. These resources will help to ensure a revenue stream to empower individuals and families to maintain their homes, become stable and offer brighter futures for their children. Our goal is to stop the cycles of hunger and poverty by empowering individuals and families to become self-sufficient.

Process for Distribution of ARPA Funds

Clients participate in detailed phone screenings with our case managers to express their needs for support. The case managers provide guidance to determine the priority needs to be addressed with the funding available. The goal of the assessments is to determine the best use of the funds to resolve priority and critical needs. Our case managers are highly skilled, experienced and trained to assess client eligibility and to administer funds in the most ethical and appropriate manner.

We have established the following eligibility requirements for families to receive ARPA funds for rent/utility assistance.

- Most updated lease agreement or utility bill in client's name.
- W-9 from leasing or utility company.
- Proof that client is behind on rent or utility payments.
- Confirmation that the landlord would be willing to accept payment from The Salvation Army (if applicable).

Rent: The Salvation Army will pay up to three months past due plus current month.

Utilities: The Salvation Army will bring the client's balance up to date by paying the past due amount as well as the current month's bill.

Pantry of Hope

The Salvation Army provides 250 food boxes per month to needy and vulnerable families in Faulkner County. Many of the families we serve are in desperate socioeconomic conditions and must choose between purchasing food or paying rent and utility bills. The Salvation Army's Pantry of Hope is a public food

pantry that serves as a significant component of our homeless prevention program. The need for food has risen because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Through ARPA funding, we would like to allocate \$50,000 per year for two years to our Pantry of Hope food program.

Our aim in the Pantry of Hope food program is to address root causes behind the need for service while providing nutritional, client choice food boxes that can feed a family of four up to two weeks. Currently, food is provided to the Pantry of Hope through the USDA at no cost to The Salvation Army. We would like to grow our food pantry program to be able to consistently provide more food based on our clients' needs. While we are thankful for USDA, many times the food provided through this resource is not varied enough and doesn't meet our clients' needs. The ARPA funds would enable us to provide better quality food and case management that will not only fill stomachs for a moment but provide the opportunity for lasting change and improved health.

Through the provision of robust food boxes, each client has the opportunity for case management to help address root causes such as loss of employment, lack of childcare, need for enrollment in social security, lack of connection to needed mental and physical health issues and lack of opportunity. We have a wealth of partnerships and connections to help address root causes while meeting tangible needs. According to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, across the United States those who are considered low income are struggling with employment and income, economic well-being and physical and mental health.

The city of Conway has very little access to low income housing. Those living on fixed income or with limited options due to lack of education have become dependent on the food provided through our Pantry of Hope. The Salvation Army intends to help those who are most vulnerable reach sustainability through healing-centered engagement with a case manager to help address unmet needs. Through the food we provide to community members, we are addressing a physical need with the hope of being able to provide resources and connections to help change lives.

Case management through the Road to Sustainability program will be provided to each client to address root causes and provide an abundance of resources. When clients enter the homeless prevention program, they enter a pathway of hope by implementing a progressive plan with their case managers to meet specific, individual goals weekly. Success on the Road to Sustainability is defined as engaging with at least two of our five transformational platforms: mental health, physical health, spiritual health, life skills classes and workforce education. Client goals are tailored to meet their individual situations and address the root causes of their need.

Please attach a project budget. If the project includes construction or third-party services, please provide their estimates. (see attached)

Are other funds part of the budget besides ARPA funds? If so, please list other sources of funding and a copy of their funding commitment, if available. (No other funds for this project.)

Please describe the organization's financial management practices that will ensure audit compliance.


The Central Arkansas Area Command located in Little Rock is audited at least twice per year, once internally and once externally. Our financials are overseen by a qualified accountant as well as a finance team at our divisional headquarters located in Oklahoma City.

What is the total dollar amount that is being requested from Faulkner County?

\$600,000

Have you received other ARPA funds? If so, how much have you received? No

Authorized Representative: The signature indicates that I have been authorized to submit an application requesting funding for the proposed project and to the best of my knowledge and belief, all data contained in this application is true and correct. If the application is approved for funding, I am authorized to sign any applicable documents on behalf of the applicant.

<u>William O Mockabee</u>	<u>Area Commander</u>	Type
Name Title		
<u></u>	<u>3/14/22</u>	
Signature Date		

When completed return by mail or drop-off
to: Faulkner County Judge's Office
801 Locust Street

Conway, AR 72034