

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – ARKANSAS CENTERS FOR RURAL EDUCATION IN AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES

Joseph E. Steinmetz, Chancellor

ENABLING LAWS

Act 210 of 2016

INSTITUTION HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The purpose of Arkansas Centers for Rural Education in Autism and Related Disabilities is to create 5 rural autism centers that will utilize existing Arkansas state of the art technology to educate and train high quality autism professionals across the state. The centers will merge best practices in autism clinical treatment, the training of families, teachers and service providers in evidenced based practices, and technology for training and supervision in rural America. The level of technology allows for state of the art autism-training center for rural America that does not exist anywhere in the nation.

The identified goals are:

- Development of a state center to provide autism training and support across Arkansas
- Development of four satellite centers across the state (AHECs, Universities, Etc.)
- Provide training to professionals and families across the lifespan.
- Provide consultation to service providers and families
- Investment in a center that serves all agencies and families

The sustainability of the project is based upon grant funds for development of infrastructure at both the state and federal level. Once the infrastructure is developed, research grants will be sought at both the state and federal level.

GENERAL REVENUE REQUEST

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board has recommended \$2,500,000 in general revenue funds for the program. These funds will be used to create the rural autism centers and provide training to professionals and families across the state.

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PERSONNEL REQUEST

No additional positions over authorized have been requested.