

Theory of Change



HOME REGION PROGRAM: ARKANSAS-MISSISSIPPI DELTA

Economic Asset Building

WORKFORCE AND SMALL BUSINESS

Residents need access to relevant job skills and training to succeed—and to drive economic growth across the Delta. But right now, workforce systems are under-resourced, and too few people are being prepared for the jobs of the future. Small businesses also face obstacles when it comes to accessing capital.

Through 2030, we will support local organizations who support small business and workforce development, preparing residents for in-demand jobs and creating a resilient and thriving small business ecosystem.

What we plan to do



Support small business development.



Encourage workforce collaboratives.



Bolster sector-specific workforce initiatives.

How we plan to do it



Partner with organizations that provide technical assistance to small businesses with a focus on access to capital, financial management and resilience.



Strengthen connections between workforce development entities, community colleges and regional employers.



Provide job training opportunities that emphasize credentialing and immediate job placement within targeted, growing local industries.

Why we do it



Coordination between employers and educators is critical to creating a workforce pipeline ready to meet the needs of the local economy.



Access to job-specific training and credentialing is necessary to connect residents with employment opportunities in high-demand industries.

Small businesses are essential to the Delta's economy, but the region faces some of the lowest lending activity in the South. Access to capital and financial support will encourage more residents to start and grow businesses in the region.

