

Arkansas Research Matching Fund
2010 Report
Arkansas Science & Technology Authority
March 31, 2010

This is the sixth biennial report for the Arkansas Research Matching Fund (ARMF) and is submitted pursuant to Arkansas Code 15-3-201 through 15-3-208 (Act 1545 of 1999).

ARMF is intended to provide state matching funds for specific federal awards to Arkansas colleges and universities. The legislation designates the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority as administrator of the fund and requires that the Authority submit a report on investments from ARMF to the Governor and the Arkansas General Assembly by April 1 of even numbered years.

The goal of the Arkansas Research Matching Fund is to improve the state's federal research and development ranking by helping to build university-based research infrastructure and competitiveness for federal research funds. Success means that Arkansas universities are better able to compete for federal research funding and conduct more research.

This report covers state fiscal years 2009 and 2010 through March 31, 2010.

During the reporting period, **no state funds** were available through ARMF. However, the Authority is pleased to report that other state funds were made available to match federal awards.

In fiscal year **2009**, the Authority invested \$292,653 of General Revenue Funds in three projects from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and National Science Foundation (NASA EPSCoR for the *Arkansas Space Grant Consortium*- \$222,653 in state funds; and the *Arkansas Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation*- \$70,000 in state funds). An additional \$1,500,000 was released by the Governor from the General Improvement Fund for a Center of Applied Technology and matching funds for the second year of a three-year award from the National Science Foundation for the Arkansas EPSCoR project, *Advancing & Supporting Science, Engineering, & Technology (ASSET I)*.

In fiscal year **2010** to date, the Authority has again invested \$70,000 of General Revenue Funds in the second year of the *Arkansas Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation* to match a project awarded by the National Science Foundation. An additional \$1,500,000 released by the Governor from the General Improvement Fund was used again to match the third year of a three-year award from the National Science Foundation for the Arkansas EPSCoR project, *ASSET I*. An additional \$668,008 released by the Governor from the General Improvement Fund was used to match the first year of a three-year award from National Science Foundation for a Center of Applied Technology Cyberinfrastructure Center project called the NSF Track II *Cyberinfrastructure for Transformational Scientific Discovery in Arkansas and West Virginia (CI-Train)*.

Please see Table 1 for a summary of these awards.

Table 1. ARMF Funding: FY 2009 & FY 2010

Project ID	Federal Agency	Institution	Fiscal Year	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Date Awarded	Resolution Number	Federal Award
09-ARMF-01	NSF	UAPB	2009	ARK- Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (Year 1 of 5)	\$70,000	11/21/2008	09-08	\$700,000
09-ARMF-02	NASA	UALR	2009	Arkansas Space Grant Consortium	\$200,000	11/21/2008	09-13	\$200,000
09-ARMF-03	NASA	UALR	2009	NASA EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Development	\$22,653	11/21/2008	09-13	\$22,653
Multiple Awards	NSF EPSCoR	UAF, UALR, ASU	2009	Arkansas ASSET Initiative (Year 2 of 3)	\$1,500,000	Multiple	Multiple	\$3,000,000
10-ARMF-01	NSF	UAPB	2010	ARK- Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (Year 2 of 5)	\$70,000	1/15/2010	10-28	\$700,000
Multiple Awards	NSF EPSCoR	UAF, UALR, ASU	2010	Arkansas ASSET Initiative (Year 3 of 3)	\$1,500,000	Multiple	Multiple	\$3,000,000
10-CAT-01	NSF EPSCoR Track 2	UAF, et al.	2010	CI-TRAIN (Year 1 of 3)	\$668,008	1/15/2010	10-16	\$1,336,016

The federal awards indicate the quality of research taking place in Arkansas and illustrate that Arkansas scientists and engineers are competitive at the national level for large awards. This is important as the transformation to a knowledge-based economy continues. In this 21st Century economy, talent and innovations – including those from research – drive economic growth. The continuing challenge is to find the required resources to match the federal awards that Arkansas scientists and engineers are increasingly able to generate. This is a particular problem with some federal research programs that do not specifically require a match to be included in the proposal, but base their funding decisions on the amount of matching funds pledged from either campus or state sources. The inability of campuses, especially smaller campuses, to pledge adequate matching funds reduces competitiveness and places a financial burden on those campuses that are able to compete.

The Authority is pleased that it was able to support the projects reported in Table 1. The needs, however, are greater than the research matching funds available, which limits the state's competitiveness at the very time that research is viewed as essential for economic competitiveness.

ARMF Investment History

The Arkansas Research Matching Fund (ARMF) was established in 1999 and first funded in fiscal year 2000. In the eleven-year history, \$16,180,202 of state matching funds has been invested (as shown in Figure 1) to leverage \$36,966,470 in federal funds. The immediate return on investment is \$2.28 for every state dollar invested.

Figure 1. ARMF Investment History

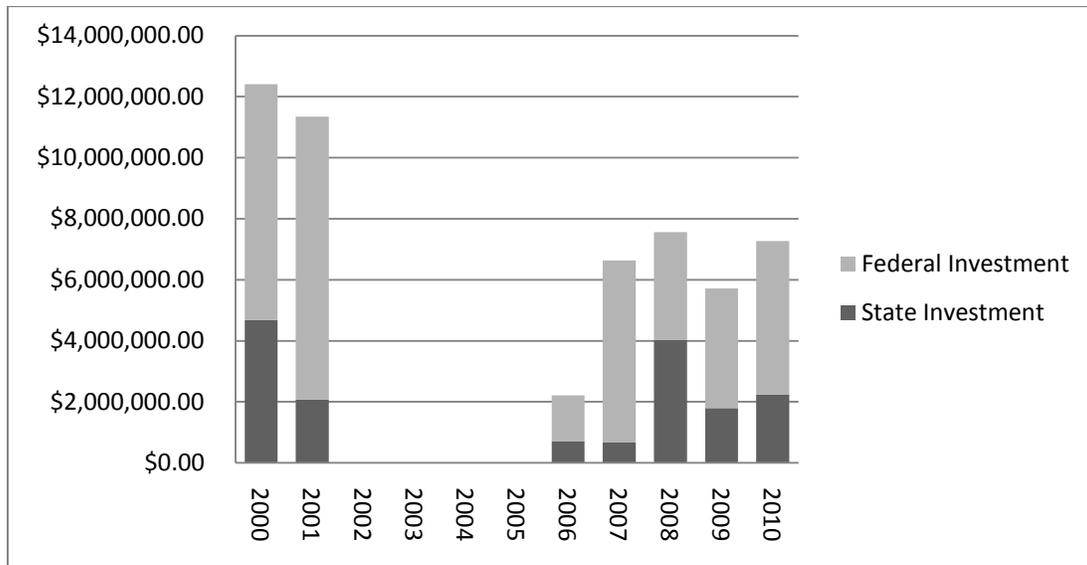


Figure 1 also shows how state investments in the research matching fund dropped to zero in the wake of September 11, 2001. Accelerate Arkansas, a statewide volunteer group, which developed five core strategies for knowledge-based economic growth, including a strategy for job-creating research, proposed restoring the state's investment in matching funds. Accelerate Arkansas was able to secure an annual General Revenue appropriation of \$292,653 for research matching in the 2005 session. These annual funds have been valuable in opportunistically generating other state research funds, from other available appropriations, which have also been used for research matching.