



Goodwill
ARKANSAS

**PRESS
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Goodwill Arkansas Receives \$77,000 Grant to Expand Access to Google Career Certificates Across State

Scholarship funding will help connect Arkansans to high-demand skills, industry-recognized credentials and stronger online access in rural communities

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (March 25, 2026) — Goodwill Arkansas is proud to announce it has received \$77,000 in scholarship support through the Caterpillar Foundation and Google’s Career Certificates initiative, helping expand access to high-demand training and industry-recognized certifications for Arkansans across the state.

This funding will support scholarships through Goodwill’s Training and Education Centers (GTEC) and provide participants access to certificate programs in fast-growing fields including IT support, project management, data analytics and AI essentials, the newest course added to GTEC’s program. In addition to online coursework, learners can also receive in-person support for enrollment and program navigation.

The investment is especially significant for rural Arkansas, where access to workforce training and career advancement opportunities can be more limited. By expanding online access and pairing it with in-person support, Goodwill Arkansas is helping ensure more Arkansans gain the skills needed for today’s workforce, regardless of where they live.

“Access to workforce training should not depend on your ZIP code,” said Edie Stewart, senior vice president and chief mission officer of Goodwill Arkansas. “This funding allows us to expand access to high-demand digital skills and certifications for Arkansans who are ready to build a better future for themselves and their families. For many people in rural communities, online training can be the bridge between where they are and where opportunity is growing. We are proud to help make that bridge stronger.”

The program aligns with Goodwill's broader mission of serving individuals facing barriers to employment, including those with a history of justice involvement, housing instability or other challenges to economic mobility. By combining flexible online training with personalized support, Goodwill is creating more accessible pathways to employment and long-term success.

This effort builds on the long-standing partnership between Goodwill and Google, which has helped expand digital literacy and workforce training opportunities across North America through the Goodwill Digital Career Accelerator.

For questions, to learn more, or to enroll, visit www.GoodwillTEC.org or contact Academy@GoodwillAR.org.

About Goodwill Arkansas

Goodwill Arkansas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing lives through education, training and employment. In the last fiscal year, our career services team helped 870 people find work at companies around the state. Through our various education, training and employment programs, GIA provided services to 8,417 Arkansans. Since opening in 2017, 351 adults in Arkansas have graduated high school and earned their diplomas tuition free through The Excel Center[®], Goodwill's high school for adults 19 years or older. The Academy at Goodwill, licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education, is a trade school that provided training and certifications to 1,151 individuals in FY25 to secure new employment and advance careers. Goodwill also offers reentry services for those coming out of justice-involved situations to help train and find employment.

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