



Uncommon Communities FAQ

How do I apply?

Groups of 5-7 citizens from communities in the southwestern region of Arkansas are invited to apply (see *shaded counties in map*). Groups should work together with one of the following entities to submit a single application to the Institute:

- 📍 city council
- 📍 mayor's office
- 📍 county judge's office
- 📍 community-based nonprofit organization
- 📍 or the local chamber of commerce



See tips for recruiting a community working group and visit rockefellerinstitute.org/UC22Apply for more details and to apply. Applications must be received by **March 15, 2021**.

When does the program begin?

The program is scheduled to begin in **August 2021**.

If selected as a participant, how much time will I be expected to commit to the program?

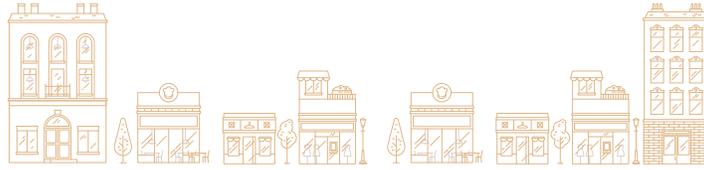
The cohort will meet monthly for a period of one year. Meetings occur at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute campus atop Petit Jean Mountain, within communities in the southwest Arkansas region, and online. They are typically held on Fridays and/or Saturdays, and span 1-2 days.

Is community development experience required for participation?

No. Uncommon Communities focuses on team development, so all levels of community development experience are welcomed.

What will I learn?

Participants learn how to build and sustain support for community-wide initiatives, connect with a broad network of people, gain access to technical expertise such as grant writing, facilitation, and assessment strategies, and practice turning a problem into an opportunity for community growth and revitalization.



How will my community benefit?

Community development is economic development. Through the Uncommon Communities program, teams of citizens identify and develop community assets and are prepared to mobilize those assets to grow and strengthen local economies. Teams plan and implement projects designed to build community momentum. Past projects include hosting festivals/events, sprucing up local businesses, and organizing community volunteer days. Uncommon Communities strengthen regional ties, discover and connect with next-level development programs throughout the state, and continue to receive resources and information through the alumni cohort even after completion of the one-year program.

How much does it cost to participate?

The fee for participation is **\$600** per person (*due by December 15, 2021*), plus a total of **\$240** in registration fees (*to be paid at the time of event registration throughout the course of the year*) and minimal travel costs. As a program participant, you will have access to resources and receive assistance with raising funds to cover participation costs within your community.

When can I expect a selection decision?

Communities will receive notice of selection by **May 1, 2021**.

How will the pandemic impact this program?

The program is designed to be flexible, and our nimble programs team has the skills and capacity to facilitate engaging virtual events as needed.

What are the requirements for completing the program?

Each community team member must attend at least 75% of program sessions, volunteer at least 40 hours within their community, and contribute to at least one community-wide project within the program time-frame.
