

# ARKANSAS HEALTH BEAT

*A Statewide Reporting Lab to  
Improve Health Outcomes*



## The Challenge

Arkansans face some of the most urgent health challenges in the nation.

- Arkansas ranks among the worst states in the nation for overall health outcomes.
- It has been named the “hungriest state” in the country for three consecutive years.
- Nearly half of households struggle to afford basic necessities, including health care.
- Maternal and infant mortality rates remain high, with deep disparities in access to care.
- Rural hospitals across the state are at risk of closure.

**These issues affect every community across our state.**

## What We Will Do

Local journalism can do more than highlight problems — it can drive solutions. How can we as a state address the problem if our community doesn’t first know or understand the problem? Informed communities make better decisions and stronger systems.

**Arkansas Health Beat** will scale that impact statewide. With your support, we will:

- Produce 250+ health stories annually.
- Dedicate two reporters and an editor to focus on maternal and child health and rural health care access.
- Deliver reporting through articles, explainers, visuals and video.
- Host community forums and events across Arkansas.
- Distribute clear, accessible guides to the hardest-to-reach areas of the state.

## Join Us

We are seeking **\$350,000 annually for three years (\$1.05 million total)** to fund this new team and reporting lab.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette brings unmatched reach and impact with 200+ years of public service journalism and newsrooms across the state. All reporting from this lab will be **free and shareable statewide** so our reporting can have the biggest impact possible.

*Will you join us?*



Arkansas Democrat  Gazette  
**COMMUNITY**  
JOURNALISM PROJECT