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**Contact Information:**

Jamal Williams  
423 Main St., Little Rock AR 72201  
[Jamal.Williams@adhe.edu](mailto:Jamal.Williams@adhe.edu)  
(501) 537-9722



## **Engage Arkansas Joins Nation in Volunteer Action for 25th MLK Day of Service**

**Little Rock, Ark** - Engage Arkansas AmeriCorps programs will lead Arkansas residents state wide, in volunteer service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy. This year Engage Arkansas has invested \$6,500 in service day projects across the state. Citizens will participate in service projects, joined by hundreds of thousands of service and community members across the country as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual MLK Day of Service.

"Today we answer Dr. King's call to serve and are making a difference in the lives of Arkansas residents," said Shana Chaplin, the Executive Director of Engage Arkansas. "A resourceful way to meet local needs, citizens service is a powerful tool that builds strong communities. We are putting the core American principles of citizenship and service into action." DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director of Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a partner Division to Engage Arkansas said, "Dr. King once said, 'everybody can be great because anybody can serve.' During his lifetime, Dr. King taught others that the road to greatness was paved with footsteps of service. We commit this day to service and youth involvement to make sure that the next generation of young leaders know about the King legacy of service and how he dedicated his life to making the world a better place. The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission also observes the Day of Service as a "Day of Impact." As we commit our lives to service, we make an impact in the lives of others."

AmeriCorps members across the state will host collaborative service projects ranging from serving the homeless population, providing healthy food and futures for youth, and educating citizens on financial literacy resources. For more information on how to find a MLK Day Service project near you, visit <https://www.volunteerar.org/MLK-Day-Of-Service>.

The MLK Day of Service encourages all Americans to improve communities through volunteer service. This year marks the 25th celebration of the annual service event since Congress designated the MLK holiday the first ever National Day of Service. With an emphasis on creating opportunity for all, Americans of all ages and backgrounds in all 50 states will re-commit themselves as citizens by volunteering in service to one another.

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### About EngageAR – Arkansas Service Commission

EngageAR serves as the State Service Commission whose mission is to foster a culture of service to strengthen communities and solve local problems. Civic engagement encompasses service and volunteerism and is foundational to establishing a collaborative programmatic initiative to create a culture of service in Arkansas that permeates activities of family, education, business, government and the nonprofit.

EngageAR partners to provide training, consultation and best practices to equip state agencies, county government, municipalities and private organizations to develop, launch and maintain civic engagement programs, including AmeriCorps programs. For more information on civic engagement, or to find out more Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, visit <https://www.volunteerar.org/MLK-Day-Of-Service>.

**As part of Governor Asa Hutchinson's Transformation Plan, effective July 1, 2019, EngageAR is housed in the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.**