**Arkansas Department of Health**

**American Rescue Plan Act Appropriation Request**

**Requested Amount: $4,747,500**

**"Increase COVID-19 Hospital Bed Capacity with UAMS - Proposal"**

**Overview**

As of January 7, 2022, COVID-19 cases in Arkansas continue to increase, as do hospitalizations, due to the Omicron Variant. In less than 4 weeks, hospitalizations related to COVID-19 have increased over 120%. At no point during the pandemic thus far in Arkansas has such a rapid rise in COVID related illness and hospitalizations been observed. The demand for nursing and other caregivers has skyrocketed and there is a significant need for additional bed capacity across the state.

To help mitigate the stress that hospitals are experiencing statewide, there is an immediate need to create additional capacity to care for Arkansans suffering from COVID- 19. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and UAMS have partnered to develop a proposal to request $4,747,500 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Steering Committee to increase hospital bed capacity. Utilizing existing hospital staff, a total of 27 beds can be made available. These beds will consist of 20 negative-pressure, medical COVID beds at $4,500 per bed for a period of 30 days and 7 negative pressure, ICU COVID beds at $6,500 per bed for a period of 45 days.

ADH will execute a memorandum of agreement with UAMS in accordance with the proposed ARPA proposal and verify compliance prior to processing reimbursement for services.