



## Weekly News Round-up

IN THIS ISSUE: ACA Best Practices Symposium | Meet the Lenders: Arkansas | IRT Planning for MO Bootheel Care



### Connecting Consumers to Coverage: Best Practices Symposium will use lessons learned to inform open enrollment efforts

On November 6, DRA-in partnership with Seedco and Strong Cities Strong Communities, will host ACA Navigators, In-Person Assistors, Certified Application Counselors, small business owners, and other health care leaders and stakeholders for a symposium to identify strategies for successful outreach and enrollment for the Healthcare Marketplace. Open enrollment for health insurance begins on November 15.

The C<sup>3</sup> Best Practices Symposium-to be held in Memphis-will present varied perspectives from thought leaders and experts on the Healthcare Marketplace. Attendees will also participate in workshops designed to enhance consumer outreach, education, and enrollment during the second ACA open enrollment period. All conference participants will have opportunities

### Upcoming Events:

*Register or Apply Today*

#### Register by October 24 **Lean Startup: LaunchPad by Southeast Economic Development Fund (SEED\$)**

Park Hills, MO | November 4-February 3 | 6:00-8:00pm  
LaunchPad is the premier training program offered by Paradi.me Founders Academy. This 12-week course is ideal for you if you have a passion to start a business or enhance an existing one.

#### October 29 **Reimagining the Delta Workforce Summit - Illinois**

John A. Logan College  
Carterville, IL | 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### October 30 **Reimagining the Delta Workforce Application Webinar**

3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Reimagining the Delta Workforce Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Fund

#### October 30 **Positioning, Planning & Profiting: M/WBE Business Growth Seminar**

Monroe, LA | 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Informative seminar that introduces existing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs

to discuss challenges and share experiences and best-practices identified in the first round of open enrollment.

[Learn More >](#)



## Meet the Lenders: Arkansas Connects Small Business with Funding

The Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce was the site for Thursday's Meet the Lenders: Access to Affordable Capital workshop connecting area small business owners with loan officers from participating Treasury-supported lenders. The afternoon featured representatives from federal and state business programs, federal small business loan programs, and community bank lenders.

The workshop concluded with a networking session allowing small business owners and entrepreneurs to share their business plans with loan officers from local banks for feedback and advice in their search for various capital and funding streams.

[Learn more about DRA's Small Business & Entrepreneurship Initiative here >](#)



## DRA, Military begin preparing for 2015 IRT Mission in Missouri

Planning has begun for the Innovative Readiness Training medical mission Bootheel Care to be

to global dynamics that impact business growth locally.

### November 3

#### **Application Deadline: Delta Community Capital Initiative**

HUD/USDA/CDFI program providing direct investment and technical assistance to community development lending and investing institutions.

### November 6

#### **C-3 - Connecting Consumers to Coverage Best Practices Symposium**

Memphis, TN | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Participants will hear varied perspectives from thought leaders and experts on the Healthcare Marketplace.

### November 10

#### **EXTENDED DEADLINE**

Applications due for DRA's Reimagining the Delta Workforce Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Fund

### November 21

#### **Application Deadline: Promise Zones Round 2**

Communities selected will receive direct support from federal government agencies to help the Promise Zones access the resources and expertise to help communities thrive.

*\*If you have an event that you would like featured in our Upcoming Events section, send event information to [news@dra.gov](mailto:news@dra.gov)*

## Announcements From Our Partners:

**Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program accepting applications for entrepreneurial support program | Deadline October 27**

**SBA provides new online tools to navigate HUB Zone programs**

held in July 2015. The mission will come to four Missouri communities- Sikeston, Malden, Kennett, and Dexter-but will provide free medical, dental, and optical care to residents from all over the southeast Missouri.

Bootheel Care will be one of three IRT medical missions in the Delta region this coming summer. Reserve forces will also provide care to communities in the Alabama Black Belt. This will be the seventh year of partnership between the U.S. Department of Defense and DRA to serve communities with low levels of access to quality health care.

[Read More >](#)

**USDA Awards \$2.5 million grant for communications infrastructure improvements in Powhatan, LA**

**USDA announces \$342,000 to support small and emerging rural businesses and transportation projects in AL, AR, LA, TN**

**USDA announces \$10 million in loans and grants to upgrade rural water and wastewater systems in AL, AR, MO**

**USDA Seeks Applications for Grants under the Rural Community Development Initiative | Application Deadline November 12**



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