



Building Community Engagement of Self-Determined

July 9, 2023

What is S

Seamless Transition in Arkansas (STAR) is a collaboration focused on improving employment outcomes for youth with disabilities and fostering partnerships with state agencies, educational institutions, and community organizations. STAR focuses on advancing collaborative efforts and innovative collaborations to support the success of

Partners work together to create a comprehensive, coordinated system of services for youth with disabilities in achieving success after high school.



arkansas
Transition

How STAR is

Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) Programs

Purpose: “fund model demonstration projects designed to evaluate, and disseminate, for easy adoption, new strategies or programs to transition youth and adults with disabilities into integrated employment (CIE).”

Key agents of change and required collaborating partners

1. State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies
2. State educational agencies
3. Local educational agencies

Current Priorities

Fragmented Collaboration and partnerships at state, regional, and community levels, compounded by accessibility challenges in under-resourced areas

STAR Goals

1 Develop and refine an innovative and accessible model for collaboration and training for service system partners

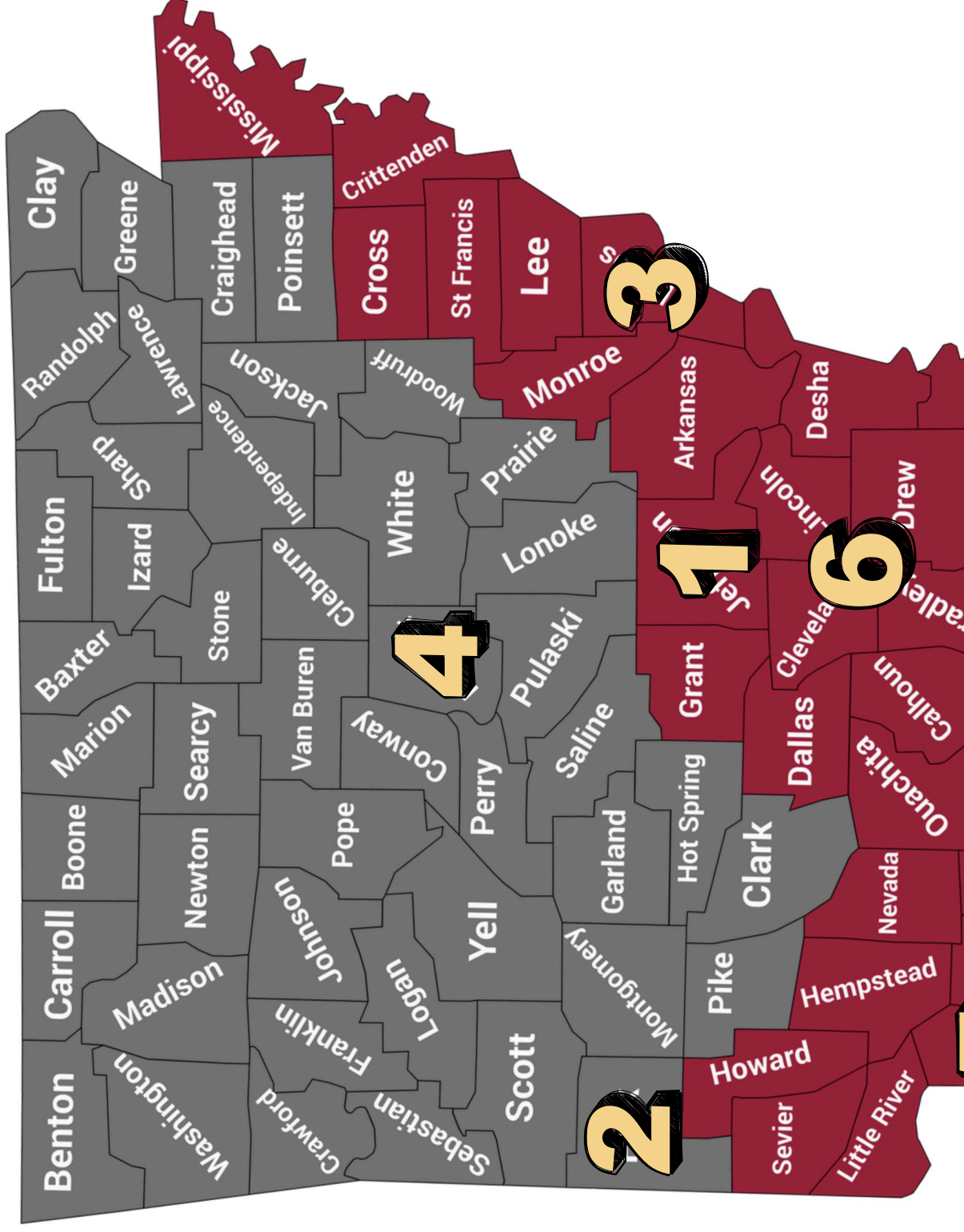
Lack of community-specific supports to problem-solve issues that thwart seamless transition (e.g., move from school-based to adult services)

2 Foster grass-roots community support through Career Councils, Youth Leaders, and Transition Navigators

Inequitable access to career, postsecondary education, and independent living for youth in high-

3 Expand high-quality career, post-secondary education, and independent living for youth in high-need, rural

Need for Support in



STAR Goal 1: S

Develop and refine an innovative and accessible STAR project website and training for service providers

- Creating a project website to house transition and career resources



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Seamless Transition in Arkansas (STAR)

Career Experience

Self-Determination

Family Engagement

Transition Skills

Collaboration

Trainings

Additional Resources

Seamless Transition in Arkansas (STAR)

SEAMLESS TRANSITION FOR ARKANSAS

Seamless Transition in Arkansas is a comprehensive, collaborative initiative that aims to address the underemployment of youth with disabilities and enhance their opportunities for competitive integrated employment. By leveraging existing strengths and partnerships with various state agencies, educational institutions, and community organizations, the STAR project focuses on critical areas such as college preparation, skill development, and innovative collaboration models. Key stakeholders include the Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Centers for Independent Living, and the University of Arkansas, allowing for a multi-faceted approach to supporting youth with disabilities in achieving post-school success.

See what's happening with STAR schools!



STAR

Share

STAR Goal 2: Com

**Foster grassroots community supports through
Career Councils led by Youth Leaders**



Establishing
opportunities, o
transition

1

Establish a
strong Corpora

STAR Goal 3: St

Expand high-quality career, postsecondary living for youth in high-ne

- Offering youth hourly wages for work-based experience and expanding work-based experience opportunities
- Establishing pre-employment transition services impacting approximately 600 students (82 in Year 1)
- Enhancing partnerships with two-year public colleges
- Hiring Centers for Independent Living (CIL) Transition Counselors to coordinate and provide independent living training

Career Council

Purpose

Representative community group that works together to identify goals and action steps to improve transition for youth with disabilities.

Members

10-12 members with diverse roles and backgrounds (youth with disabilities, family member, teacher, employer, faith leader, etc.)

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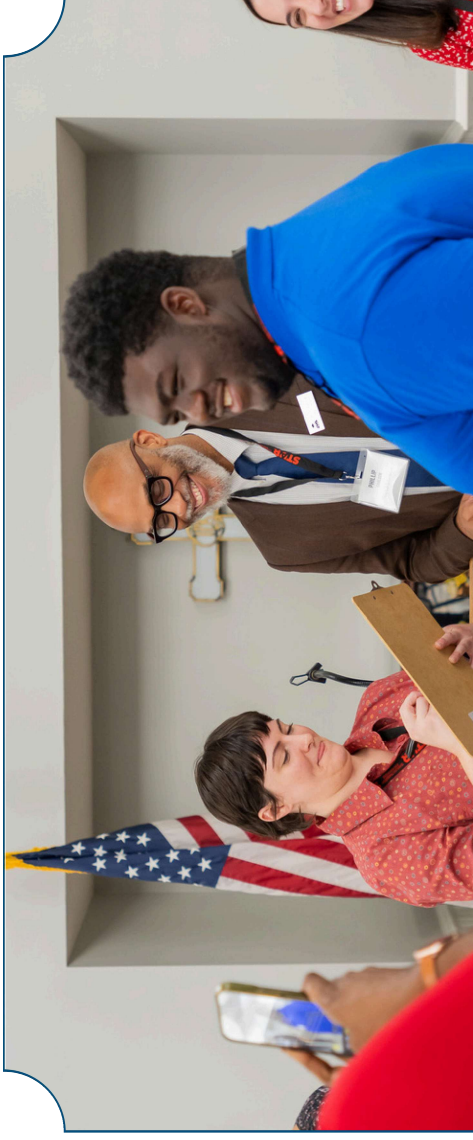
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Kick-Off Event



Kick-Off Event Pool



Step 1: Establish a Strong

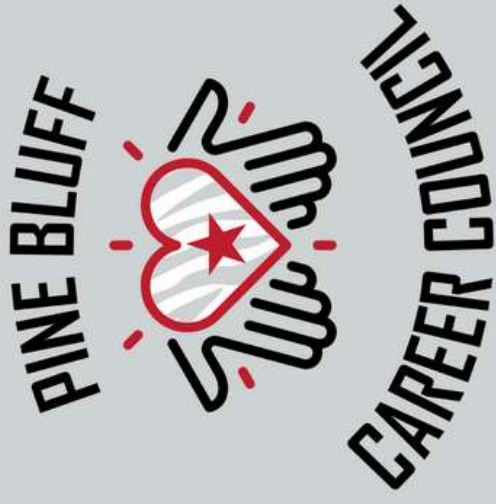
Leadership Structure

- Co-led by youth with disabilities with support from a “Transition Navigator”
- Paid leadership opportunities for youth (and supporter, if needed) and Transition Navigator

Role

- Monitor
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MEETING NORMS

Agree to disagree

Be reliable

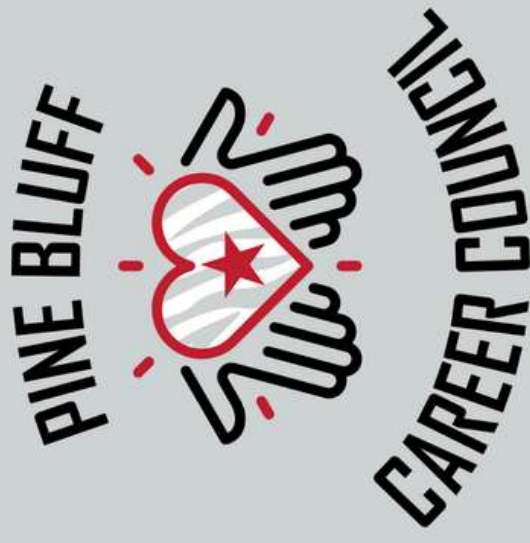
Celebrate milestones and successes

Be dependable

Assume positive intent

Share the air

Be on time, stay on time



VISION

Create inclusive employment
for our community

MISSION

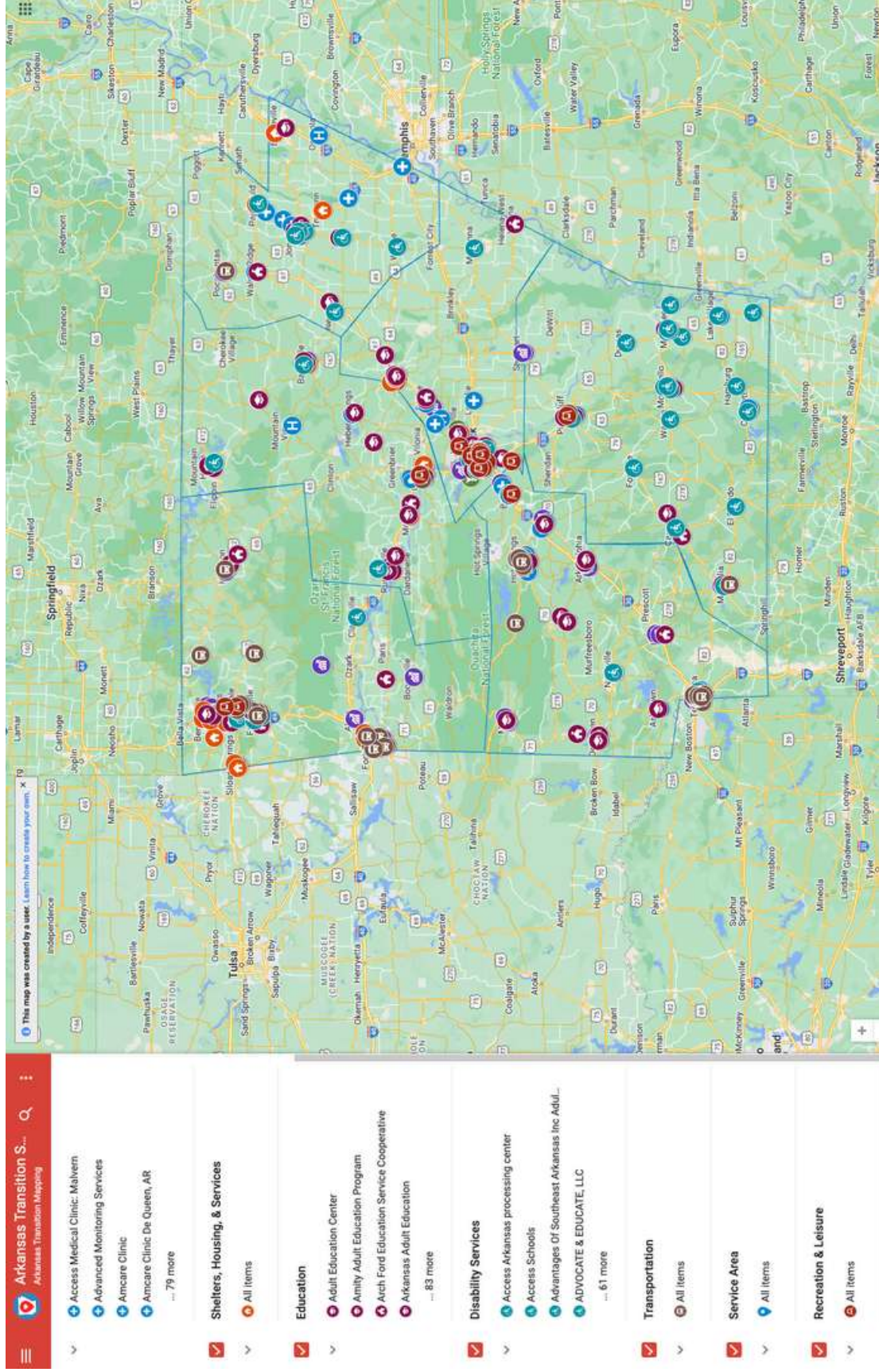
Create connections for youth to
become **independent, employable,**
and **successful** change agents

Step 2: Identify Community

1. What are the assets—the people, providers, programs, and places—in the community that support the transition process?
2. What partnerships might need to be strengthened or assets introduced to improve transition outcomes?

1.	Ex D
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7.	

Step 2: Identify Community Assets



Step 3: Document the Trajectory

Milestones Timeline

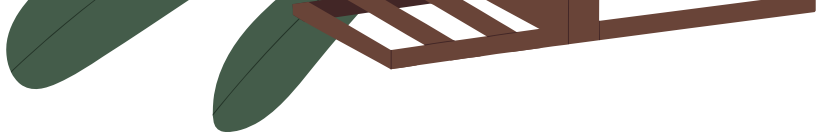
14-21	• Referrals to Community Resources and services • Complete applications according to needs and preferences	Transp "Part A http://www.kdhe.gov Recrea
Prior to age 18	• Explore guardianship / estate planning issues	Kansas Guardi
Recommended Age/Time	Action Steps	
18 months before exiting school Services	• Complete adult Kansas Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) application	Availa (If elig prepar Websti http:// Service
The month they turn 18 yrs. old, Call for an appointment	• Apply or reapply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) SSI provides a monthly case benefit. Eligibility is based on disability and student income • If denied for SSI, contact Disability Professionals:	Social Phone Websti (866) 8
Age 18	• Males are required to register for Selective Services	Registr
Age 18	• Re-Apply for Kancare (Kansas Medicaid) as an adult. This will provide funding for some medical services, and I/DD Case Management	Apply www.kdhe.gov

Step 3

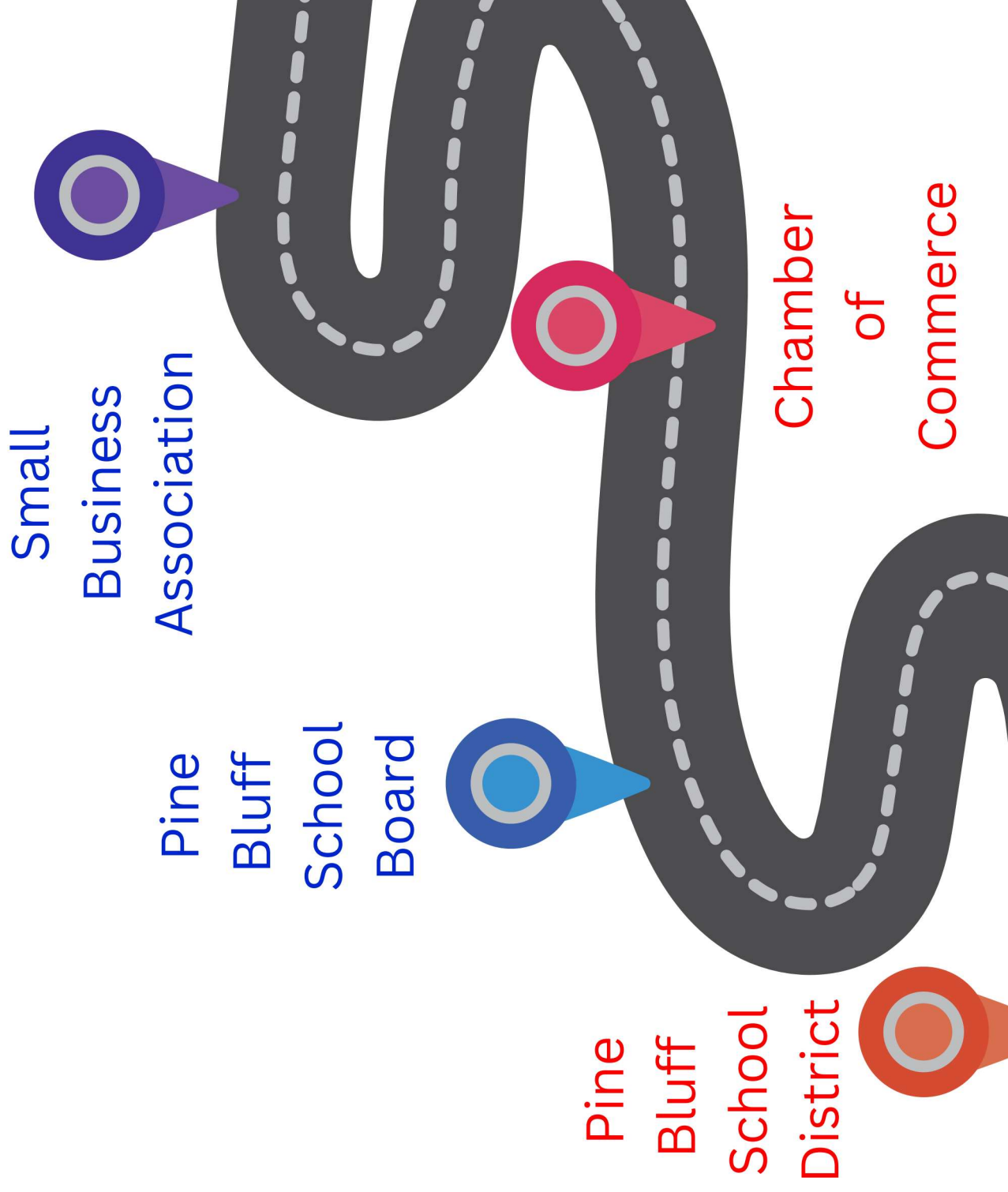
Document the Transition Process

Step 4: Share and Learn w

1. What kinds of **topics** should we cover during our community event (such as sharing the digital asset map and transition flowchart)?
2. What **structure** for our community event would work best (informal gathering or more formal presentation)?
3. Which **community members** should be invited?



Step 4: Share and Learn



Step 4: Share and Learn



Step 5: Track Progress and Plan

Evaluate Progress

- Review outcomes from community event (survey data) and evaluate and share with key stakeholders to inform next steps (example on next slide)

Plan

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Set Goals

- SMART goals with action steps, who is responsible and a timeline



Step 5

Track Progress and Plan for Sustainability

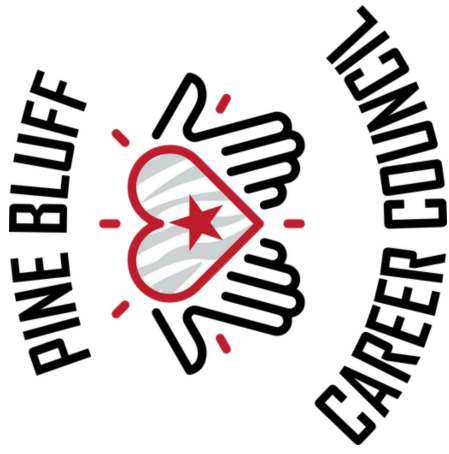


GOAL 1

**Increase
community
engagement
on the career
council**

GOAL 2

**Increase
visibility of
bluff career
& the di
resource ma
the nine**



Pine Bluff Career Leadership

Youth Leader(s)

Mentor

Youth Leader(s)

Mentee

Secretary

Treasurer

PINE BLUFF



CAREER COUNCIL



Career Council

- **How often will the Career Council meet?**
 - The County Career Council will meet **once a month**.
- **How long is a term on the Career Council?**
 - The Career Council is at least a 1-year commitment to meetings.
- **What are the benefits of being a member?**
 - Be an agent for change in your community to improve
 - Networking and partnership opportunities
 - \$30 Thank You check after every monthly meeting



STAR

Seamless Transition for Arkansas



For More Information,



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