Fund IRL ARKANSAS

Real Opportunities. Stronger Futures.

INVESTING IN ARKANSAS KIDS BEYOND THE SCREEN.

AFTERSCHOOL | SUMMER | MENTORING | SPORTS | YOUTH WELLNESS | OUTDOOR LEARNING

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Turning Meta's $172 Million Into a Lasting Legacy

Fund IRL Arkansas Champions Investment in Kids

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Following Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin's historic settlement with Meta, a new statewide coalition is coming together around a simple idea: resources recovered should be reinvested in opportunities that help young people connect, grow and thrive.

The settlement is expected to bring more than $172 million to Arkansas over the next decade, creating a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a lasting investment in Arkansas children and youth.

Fund IRL Arkansas is part of the growing national Fund IRL ("In Real Life") movement, which advocates for resources recovered through social media litigation to be invested back into young people and their communities.

In Arkansas, the coalition will advocate for a meaningful investment of settlement funds in afterschool and summer programs, mentoring, youth mental health and wellness, sports and recreation, arts and STEM, outdoor experiences, career-connected learning, and other community-based opportunities that help young people build relationships, develop skills and thrive beyond the screen.

These are more than activities that keep kids busy. High-quality youth programs create safe, supportive environments where young people form positive relationships with peers and trusted adults, build confidence, develop skills and strengthen the protective factors that support long-term health and well-being. They are an important part of a broader strategy to reduce harm and invest in healthier youth development.

Investing in these opportunities is particularly important in rural and underserved communities, where cost, transportation and limited program availability can leave too many young people without access to enriching experiences beyond the regular school day.

The Meta settlement includes important new protections designed to make online spaces safer for young people. Fund IRL Arkansas believes protecting kids online should be paired with meaningful investment in their lives offline: in the programs, people and places that give kids a sense of belonging, help them discover their interests and allow them to spend more time being kids in the real world.

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“This settlement represents an important step forward in protecting young people online, but it also gives Arkansas an extraordinary opportunity to invest in our future,” said Arkansas Out of School Network Director Dr. Laveta Wills-Hale. “Fund IRL Arkansas is about taking this moment and turning it into something that help young people feel connected, build confidence, and grow into healthy, thriving adults. If these resources are invested thoughtfully, the impact of this settlement can reach Arkansas children, families and communities for generations.”

Fund IRL Arkansas will bring together organizations, community leaders, youth advocates and other Arkansans to champion this opportunity and help build a shared vision for investing these resources in ways that create long-term benefits for children, families and communities.

The goal is bigger than responding to social media. It is about turning accountability into opportunity and ensuring this historic $172 million settlement creates a lasting legacy for Arkansas kids.

About Fund IRL Arkansas

Fund IRL Arkansas is a statewide coalition of organizations and advocates working to ensure resources recovered through social media litigation are invested in opportunities that support the health, development and well-being of Arkansas children. The coalition is part of the national Fund IRL movement advocating for investments that help young people build relationships, develop skills, strengthen protective factors and thrive in real life.

The growing list of partners represent afterschool and summer programs, youth mentorship, education, outdoor and environmental education, and faith-based orgs.

Contact

Dr. Laveta Wills-Hale
Arkansas Out of School Network Director, Coalition Lead
(501) 660-1012
lwillshale@astate.edu