



Expansion Grants

GRANTEE ABSTRACT

Arkansas

Arkansas' Preschool Development Grant will combine their Federal grant award with state, local, and philanthropic funding to fund an average of 1,673 children in preschool improvement slots and an average of 2,241 children in preschool expansion slots each year.

The primary goal of Arkansas' plan is to expand access to High-Quality Preschool Programs in Arkansas for Eligible Children in 10 High-Need Communities. To accomplish this goal, the State is proposing a number of Ambitious and Achievable Plans, including:

- Changes to improve the quality of the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) preschool program
- A revision of the State's Early Learning and Development Standards and Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework
- Improvements to the Arkansas professional development and training system
- A statewide family engagement initiative
- Strengthening the State's monitoring and continuous improvement system
- Improvements to the State's Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) system
- The development of a birth-through-third-grade continuum of learning using School Readiness Teams currently in place in each High-Need community
- Sustaining the grant funding after the grant period

Lead Agency

Arkansas Department of Human Services - Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

Year 1 Federal Award Amount

\$14,993,000

Plan Period

January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

Preschool Development Grants will support states to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families.

There are two types of grants.

Development Grants are for states that currently serve less than 10 percent of four-year-olds and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant.

Expansion Grants are for states that currently serve 10 percent or more of four-year-olds or have received an RTT-ELC grant.

The outcome of this project will be to serve 3,914 children annually in preschool programs that meet the Federal definition of a High-Quality Preschool program. The funding will improve the qualifications of ABC lead teachers, classroom quality, enrollment diversity, and child outcomes.

High-Need Communities to be served under Arkansas' Plan

Pulaski	Lonoke	Union
Washington	Miller	St. Francis
Craighead	Jefferson	Searcy