



# 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 9 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**

|           |         |             |
|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Craighead | Miller  | St. Francis |
| Jefferson | Pulaski | Union       |
| Lonoke    | Searcy  | Washington  |