

# Arkansas Better Chance (ABC)

Provider Call





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# Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Agenda



- ABCSS Changes – Act 504
- Act 504 – Home Visiting ABC Programs
- Grant Renewal (COPA)
- Work Sampling Finalization Reminder
- Pre-Rollover Reminder
- Questions & Answers



# ABCSS Changes – Act 504

House Bill 1733 has been signed into law, creating **Act 504**.

## *What does this mean?*

Programs that receive ABCSS funding, will now follow the same eligibility criteria as original ABC funding.

- **You may serve children Birth – 5.**
- **You may use the eligibility criteria found under Section 6 in the ABC Program Guide.**

*Eligible children for the ABC program shall have at least one of the following qualifications:*

- Family with gross income not exceeding two hundred percent (200%) of FPL;
- Parents without a high school diploma or GED;
- Low birth weight (below 5 pounds, 9 ounces);
- Parent is under eighteen (18) years of age at child's birth;
- Immediate family member has a history of substance abuse and or addiction;
- Has a demonstrable developmental delay as identified through screening;
- Eligible for services under IDEA;
- Income eligible for Title I programs;
- Limited English Proficiency; or
- Parent has history of abuse or neglect or is a victim of abuse or neglect.

# Additional Qualifiers



Income exceptions may still be used.

- Foster child (at the time of enrollment)
- Child has an incarcerated parent (during the child's lifetime)
- Child is in the custody of or living with someone other than father or mother (at the time of enrollment)
- Child has an immediate family member arrested for or convicted of drug-related offenses (within the lifetime of the child)
- Child has a parent deployed away from their home base for a minimum of 30 days duration (at the time of enrollment)

# Act 504 – Home Visiting ABC Programs



- There is no additional change in Home Visiting programs (HIPPIY or PAT) eligibility requirements in relation to Act 504.
- Home visiting programs that wish to utilize Parents as Teachers (PAT), may do so. Please reach out to the Arkansas Home Visiting Network team if you are interested in utilizing PAT.



# Grant Renewal (COPA)


You will receive the following: After the call today, we will be sending you an email with instructions on updating the COPA grant application. **The COPA grant application will be due May 16, 2025.**

- ✓ **Instructions on completing the application update.** *Please pay close attention as several steps have changed from previous years.*
- ✓ **Notice of Award**
- ✓ **Grant Agreement**
- ✓ **Finance Budget Templates**

# Grant Renewal (COPA)

You will receive a *Notice of Award*, as well as your Grant Agreement with your COPA instructions.

Please be aware, the grant agreement should be signed and uploaded to your COPA Agency eDocs no later than **May 16, 2025.**



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
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White Hall

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Sheridan

Leigh Keener  
Little Rock

04/14/2025

RE: 2025-2026 ABC Grant Award Letter and Agreement

Dear,

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) made recommendations regarding your Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Grant Award to the State Board of Education. On March 13, 2025, the State Board of Education approved the following recommendation. Please see the details of your grant below:

Program Type: Center Based  
Number of Total Slots Awarded:  
Maximum Funding Amount: \$

Please review the attached 2025-2026 ABC Program Grant Agreement and complete the 2025-2026 ABC Grant Renewal in COPA. Instructions are attached to this notice.

The signed ABC Grant Agreement is due to be uploaded by May 16, 2025. Should you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact [copasupport@mailaccount@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:copasupport@mailaccount@ade.arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,  
Kayla Bodi  
Program Administrator, Arkansas Better Chance

CC: Tonya Williams, Assistant Commissioner  
Brandy Ishmon, Assistant Director

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# Questions & Answers



**Q: Does this change the funding award amount per child?**

*A: No.*

**Q: Are we getting additional slots?**

*A: No.*

**Q: Do we have to serve infants and toddlers?**

*A: No. Your program may serve children Birth – 5.*

**Q: When does this go into effect?**

*A: This will go into effect for the 2025-2026 school year. The ABC team will be putting out updated program guides to assist you. The Office of Early Childhood will also have updated Rules Governing the Arkansas Better Chance program.*

**Q: When does the COPA Grant Application open?**

*A: After today's call, you will receive an email with your award amount and instructions on updating COPA.*

# Work Sampling Finalization Reminder

Please reach out to your WSS coach if you have any questions!

## Work Sampling Collection Period 3 Finalization Reminders



- 2 COMPLETED AND SIGNED PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE FORMS (SUMMARY REPORT)
- RUN CLASS OUTCOMES REPORT TO CHECK DATA FOR ACCURACY
- CP3 CHECKLIST COMPLETED AND FLAGGED AS FINAL.
- PRINT AN INDIVIDUAL CHECKLIST REPORT FOR EA. CHILD.

**FINALIZATION DEADLINE  
MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025**



# Pre-Rollover in COPA



As a reminder, you may begin your pre-rollover in COPA at any point in time! This will save you time so that you are not rushed to complete the task in COPA.

- To perform pre-rollover, you will need ***Admin*** access.
- The OEC team will send out additional pre-rollover instructions by email. Please email us if you do not currently have Admin access.
- [copasupport.mailaccount@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:copasupport.mailaccount@ade.arkansas.gov)

## Pre-Rollover Activity

### 1. Child Next Year Preparation

- [Assign Enrolled Children to Eligible, Waitlist or Archive list, after rollover](#)
- [Review Returning Children List \(Back to Eligible List after rollover\)](#)
- [Review Recertify Children List \(Back to Waiting List after rollover\)](#)
- [Review Scheduled For Archive List](#)
- [Optional: Pre-Enroll Children Coming Back \(Class Assignment for Next Year\)](#)

### 2. Family Next Year Preparation

- [Review List of All Active Families](#)
- [Review List of Returning or To Be Archived Families](#)

School Year End & Rollover



# ABC Provider Call

The ABC provider call will meet the third Tuesday of every month.

The link for the monthly call will be sent via email, and posted to our website.  
You will also see reminders via the COPA data system.

**Next Call May 20, 2025! 12:00 – 1:00**

Please continue to use the survey link to add your input on topics of discussion going forward.

## **Topic Survey**

Arkansas Better Chance (ABC)  
Topics





**Questions?**