

Arkansas Better Chance (ABC)

2024-2025 Provider Call



Introductions – Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Staff



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Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Agenda



- Introductions – Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Staff
- Curriculum and CLASS Updates – Lori Bridges
- Local Leads – Coordinated Funding
- Updated Federal Poverty Guidelines and Sliding Fee Scale
- Parent Portal (COPA)
- Reports Due by January 31st
- FAQs
- Questions



Coordinated Funding by Local Leads

Key Details of the New Process:

- **Extension of Current ABC Application:** The 2025-2026 funding request process will be an extension of the existing ABC application and agreement, with additional components to cover the other funding streams (Federal Pre-K, Infant & Toddler Slots, Early Head Start Partnerships, and Home Visiting).
- **Local Lead Organizations (LLOs):** LLOs will be directly involved in gathering and submitting the necessary data and documentation to formally request their child care slots for the upcoming year. They will be reaching out to their respective partners to gather this information, ensuring that all requests are accurate and reflective of community needs.
- **Streamlined Funding Request:** The unified application process will be a more efficient method of securing funding, reducing redundancies, and ensuring better coordination between various early childhood programs and funding sources.
- **Timeline for Submissions:** Detailed instructions and a timeline for submitting funding requests will be shared with all Local Lead Organizations in the coming weeks. We will be gathering this information through the month of January.

Please feel free to contact Jennifer Douglas at [@Jennifer Douglas \(OEC\)](#) (501-698-4336) for any questions or further clarification about this new process. You may also reach out to your local lead. Local lead information may be found at [ADE: DESE Local Leads](#).



Federal Poverty Guidelines & Sliding Fee Scale

- The updated **2025 – 2026 FPL and Sliding Fee Scale** will be posted on our website here: [Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Offices - Early Childhood - Arkansas Better Chance Program \(ABC\) - ABC Program Forms and Documents](#)

2025 - 2026 Family Poverty Level (FPL) Guideline *

Family Size	100% of FPL	150% of FPL	200% of FPL	212.5% of FPL	225% of FPL	237.5% of FPL	250% of FPL
1	\$15,650.00	\$23,475.00	\$31,300.00	\$33,256.25	\$35,212.50	\$37,168.75	\$39,125.00
2	\$21,150.00	\$31,725.00	\$42,300.00	\$44,943.75	\$47,587.50	\$50,231.25	\$52,875.00
3	\$26,650.00	\$39,975.00	\$53,300.00	\$56,631.25	\$59,962.50	\$63,293.75	\$66,625.00
4	\$32,150.00	\$48,225.00	\$64,300.00	\$68,318.75	\$72,337.50	\$76,356.25	\$80,375.00
5	\$37,650.00	\$56,475.00	\$75,300.00	\$80,006.25	\$84,712.50	\$89,418.75	\$94,125.00
6	\$43,150.00	\$64,725.00	\$86,300.00	\$91,693.75	\$97,087.50	\$102,481.25	\$107,875.00
7	\$48,650.00	\$72,975.00	\$97,300.00	\$103,381.25	\$109,462.50	\$115,543.75	\$121,625.00
8	\$54,150.00	\$81,225.00	\$108,300.00	\$115,068.75	\$121,837.50	\$128,606.25	\$135,375.00

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person.

**U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

2025 - 2026 Sliding Fee Scale * [Yearly Income]

Family Income is based on "monthly gross income"

Family Size	up to 200%	up to 212.5%	up to 225%	up to 237.5%	up to 250%	Not eligible
1	\$0 - \$31,300.00	\$31,300.01 - \$33,256.25	\$33,256.26 - \$35,212.50	\$35,212.51 - \$37,168.75	\$37,168.76 - \$39,125.00	\$39,125.01
2	\$0 - \$42,300.00	\$42,300.01 - \$44,943.75	\$44,943.76 - \$47,587.50	\$47,587.51 - \$50,231.25	\$50,231.26 - \$52,875.00	\$52,875.01
3	\$0 - \$53,300.00	\$53,300.01 - \$56,631.25	\$56,631.26 - \$59,962.50	\$59,962.51 - \$63,293.75	\$63,293.76 - \$66,625.00	\$66,625.01
4	\$0 - \$64,300.00	\$64,300.01 - \$68,318.75	\$68,318.76 - \$72,337.50	\$72,337.51 - \$76,356.25	\$76,356.26 - \$80,375.00	\$80,375.01
5	\$0 - \$75,300.00	\$75,300.01 - \$80,006.25	\$80,006.26 - \$84,712.50	\$84,712.51 - \$89,418.75	\$89,418.76 - \$94,125.00	\$94,125.01
6	\$0 - \$86,300.00	\$86,300.01 - \$91,693.75	\$91,693.76 - \$97,087.50	\$97,087.51 - \$102,481.25	\$102,481.26 - \$107,875.00	\$107,875.01
7	\$0 - \$97,300.00	\$97,300.01 - \$103,381.25	\$103,381.26 - \$109,462.50	\$109,462.51 - \$115,543.75	\$115,543.76 - \$121,625.00	\$121,625.01
8	\$0 - \$108,300.00	\$108,300.01 - \$115,068.75	\$115,068.76 - \$121,837.50	\$121,837.51 - \$128,606.25	\$128,606.26 - \$135,375.00	\$135,375.01
FEE %	No Fee	20%	40%	60%	80%	Full Rate
Monthly Center/FCCH Fee (per child)	\$0	\$102.10	\$204.20	\$306.30	\$408.40	\$510.50
Monthly HIPPI/PAT Fee (per child)	\$0	\$37.88	\$75.76	\$113.64	\$151.52	\$189.40

For family households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person.

** Calculations based on U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*



COPA Parent Portal

- Welcome to Public Recruitment
- The COPA Parent Portal can be used to recruit new families through an online application process.
- The system will allow families to apply online to your programs, upload documentation, input income, and other eligibility information.
- Once the application is submitted, programs may view submitted applications under the “Enrollment” tab.

A screenshot of the COPA Parent Portal login page. The page has a blue header with the "DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION" logo and name. The main content area is white with a blue sidebar on the right. The sidebar contains the following text: "Welcome to the online application for the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Program!", "Please create an account, or login to update your application information. All documentation must be uploaded at the time of submission for your application to be processed.", a "Username" input field, a "Password" input field, a "Login" button, a "Forgot Password" button, a "Forgot Username" button, "OR", "If you do not have an account yet you can create one here.", a "Register" button, and "If you have any questions regarding the application process, please reach out to your local community lead agency. You can locate those on our website, [Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Offices - Early Childhood - Local Leads](#)." The main content area is empty.

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

Welcome to the online application for the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Program!

Please create an account, or login to update your application information. All documentation must be uploaded at the time of submission for your application to be processed.

Username

Password

Login

Forgot Password

Forgot Username

OR

If you do not have an account yet you can create one here.

Register

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please reach out to your local community lead agency. You can locate those on our website, [Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Offices - Early Childhood - Local Leads](#).

COPA Parent Portal



- The Family Recruitment List allows programs to view uploaded documents, review applications, and place applications on their waitlist for the next school year.
- Using the Parent Portal will speed up the enrollment process by reducing the amount of data you enter each year after rollover.
- There is a Parent Portal guide for families on the COPA website under Tutorials, and a video for programs.

The screenshot displays the COPA Parent Portal interface. At the top, the COPA logo is on the left, and navigation links for Calendar, Notifications, myDashboard, Support, Tutorials, Admin, and Sign Out are on the right. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for Assessment, Grant Application, eDocs, Sign-in, Family, Child, Enrollment, Agency, and Reports. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Enrollment Page > Recruitment > Elig. Application > Eligibility Waiting List > Eligible/Accepted List > Inelig./Terminated List > Pre-enrolled List > Assign Advocate. The 'Eligible/Accepted List' tab is active. Below the breadcrumb trail is a filtering section with various dropdowns and checkboxes for refining the search. The 'Family Recruitment List' is displayed below the filters, showing a table of applicants for the next year. The table has columns for Family Name, Family / Applicant ID, Application Date, Child Name, Child ID, Child Desired Agency, Child Desired Site, Elig. Points, and More. A single record is shown for 'Great, Alexander' with application date 01-28-2025 and child ID 9000113.

Filtering [Customize](#) [Sort](#)

Enrolling Agency: All Agencies Enrolling Site: All Sites

Application Date From: To: Applicant For: Next Year

Service Category: Please Select

☐ Display Duplicate Flag ☐ Display All Families

Family Last Name: Family First Name: Family ID: [Child Lookup](#)

Max Results/Page: 50 [Filter](#) [View All](#) [Convert Recruitment Forms to Regular Application](#) [Delete](#)

Note: Application Dates displayed in RED font are more than 90 days old. Children who are not applicants for the selected school year, are not clickable.

Family Recruitment List (1 records)

Applicants for Next Year


	More	Family Name	Family / Applicant ID	Application Date	Child Name	Child ID	Child Desired Agency	Child Desired Site	Elig. Points	More
<input type="checkbox"/>		Great, Alexander	9000146	01-28-2025	Greater, Alexandria	9000113	1ABC Test Preschool	1ABC Test Center	0	






COPA Parent Portal



- Programs can view the uploaded documents, income, missing information, and make notes.
- Once programs are ready to convert to a regular application, this child will appear on the waitlist.
- Video and Guides are available on the COPA website under “Tutorials”

Note: Application Dates displayed in RED font are more than 90 days old

Family Recruitment Application					
<input type="checkbox"/>	More	Family Name	Family / Applicant ID	Application Date	Child Name
<input type="checkbox"/>				01-28-2025	Greater, Alexandria

 Notes  Missing Info  Income  Documents  Assessment



Reports Due by January 31st

Reminder, two reports are due in January. You can find updated templates for both reports on our [website](#).

- Staff Qualification Plan (SQP) Progress Report
- Mid-Year Expenditure Report
- These can be submitted to copasupport.mailaccount@ade.arkansas.gov.

- Do we need to use the updated Arkansas Better Chance/School Readiness Assistance application.
 - Yes, please use the updated application.
- Will home visiting programs receive additional funding?
 - At this time, we have no confirmation of any funding increases.
- How will programs be funded if they go less than 178 days?
 - When your calendar and grant renewal is submitted, you should put the number of days you plan to attend. Your rate will be prorated based on those days.
 - For example, \$28.67 per day X 160 days, equals \$4,587. You would receive that prorated amount per child.

Topic Survey

Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Topics





Questions?