

## **School Readiness Assistance (SRA) Waitlist Frequently Asked Questions**

*On February 15, 2025, the Arkansas Department of Education established a waitlist for School Readiness Assistance funding. Please review the FAQ below for more information.*

### **1. What does a waitlist mean for families?**

Families currently participating in SRA will retain their spots as long as they remain eligible and continue to recertify their eligibility. New families who apply and are eligible for SRA will be placed on the waitlist unless they are exempt.

### **2. Who is exempt from the waitlist?**

The following populations will receive services without being placed on the waitlist:

- Teen parents
- Families experiencing homelessness
- TANF Families
  - Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA)
  - Extended Support Services (ESS)
- Guardian/Custodians
  - May be over 85% of SMI but less than 100% of SMI
- Adoptive Families
  - May be over 85% of SMI but less than 100% of SMI
- Child Care Workers
  - May be over 85% of SMI but less than 100% of SMI
  - Must work a minimum of 10 hours per week at a licensed, CCDF approved program
- Children with Special Needs
- Children transitioning from Foster Care

### **3. Why was a waitlist necessary?**

A waitlist is necessary as the number of eligible families Arkansas is serving has reached the budgeted funding level. The SRA waitlist has been established so eligible families can access assistance as soon as funding is available.

### **4. What does a waitlist mean for providers?**

Providers should be prepared for potential enrollment impacts and understand how prioritization/waitlist exemptions will affect funding distribution. ADE will not pay for the cost of care for an eligible family while that family is on the waitlist. Providers may experience changes in their enrollment as a result of the waitlist.

**5. What does a family need to do to be placed on the waitlist?**

New families must submit a completed SRA application and all required supporting documentation for review. If a family is determined to be eligible, they will be placed on the waitlist. When funding becomes available, families will be contacted by ADE regarding next steps to access funding.

**6. Is there a limit to the number of families that can be placed on the waitlist?**

No. All eligible families will be placed on the waitlist and will remain on the waitlist until funds become available.

**7. How can families know they are on the waitlist and receive updates on changes to their status?**

Waitlist notifications and status changes will be sent to all eligible families via email. Families are encouraged to keep their email addresses updated in SRA.

**8. How do I report household changes, such as an increase/decrease in household income and/or members while on the waitlist? Will I need to reapply?**

Families on the waitlist are not required to report changes unless they have been contacted by the Office of Early Childhood.

**9. When it is time for a currently served family's eligibility to be redetermined, will they be placed on the waitlist?**

No. Families currently enrolled in SRA that are up for redetermination of eligibility will retain their spots as long as they remain eligible and continue to recertify their eligibility on time.

**10. Will Presumptive Eligibility and Front-End Jobs Search continue during the waitlist period?**

No. All eligible families will be placed on the waitlist and will remain on the waitlist until funds become available.

**11. How long can a family receive SRA?**

- All CCDF eligible families will receive a minimum of 13 months of SRA per redetermination period regardless of the Lifetime Limit.
- Families who remain eligible for CCDF may receive a total of 72 months, per casehead, of SRA.

**12. Who do I contact for more information?**

For more information, please contact the OEC team at [OEC.familysupport@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:OEC.familysupport@ade.arkansas.gov).