



HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE/
ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION

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Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office Fact Sheet



The purpose of the project is to create a visible presence at the state level, which can assist in the development of significant, multi-agency and public private partnerships between Head Start and the state. The Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) methods by which they coordinate and lead efforts for diverse entities to work together include:

- ✚ **Communication:** Convene stakeholder groups for information sharing and planning. Be a conduit of information between the regional office and the state and local early childhood system.
- ✚ **Access:** Facilitate Head Start agencies' access to, and utilization of, appropriate entities so Head Start children and families can secure needed services and critical partnerships are formalized.
- ✚ **Systems:** Support policy, planning, and implementation of cross agency state systems for early childhood that include and serve the Head Start community.

The Arkansas office is located at:
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1400 West Markham Street, Suite 406
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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Head Start-State Collaboration Projects play an important role in helping the Administration and the Governors make progress toward goals, which improve the lives of young children. Collaboration Projects assist with these and other relevant state initiatives and bring the support and perspective of Head Start to the development of early childhood systems. All fifty states were funded as of 1997.

Collaboration grantees build and strengthen linkages among Head Start, child care, education and health care systems in order to build an effective child development and early childhood system. Head Start-State Collaboration grantees are encouraged to consult broadly with the early childhood community, and in particular with the State Head Start Association, as they carry out these projects.

The Head Start - State Collaboration Office funding in Arkansas flows to the Department of Human Services- Division of Child Care/Early Childhood Education and then to the Arkansas Head Start Association. The Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Project began in 1996. The Arkansas Head Start Association has the responsibility for implementing the collaboration project in Arkansas.

There are twelve federal priorities for the HSSCO. These priority areas include:

- ❖ Health Care
- ❖ Welfare/Child Welfare
- ❖ Child Care
- ❖ Family Literacy
- ❖ Education (School Readiness Partnership Dev.)
- ❖ School Transitions & Alignment with K-12
- ❖ Professional Development
- ❖ Community Services
- ❖ Services for Children with Disabilities
- ❖ Services to Homeless Children
- ❖ Services to Military Families
- ❖ Early Childhood Systems Development

Priority Areas: The Head Start Act requires the HSSCO to conduct a needs assessment of the Head Start/EHS grantees in the areas of coordination, collaboration alignment of services, and alignment of curricula and assessment. The Head Start Act also requires the HSSCO to use the results of the needs assessment to develop a strategic plan outlining how the office will assist and support Head Start/EHS grantees in meeting the requirements of the Head Start Act. The needs assessment and strategic plan must be updated annually. The HSSCO will continue to work on all priority areas as required by the funding agency, the Administration for Children and Families and the Office of Head Start.

Arkansas Head Start Association Fact Sheet



2014-2017 Goals

1. The AHSA will exhibit strong support and collegiality by strengthening the leadership in EHS/HS programs across the state.
2. The AHSA demonstrates effective governance procedures by monitoring of the AHSA and the HSSCO policies and procedures.
3. The AHSA shows active participation in the Association through an increase in class membership (directors, staff, parents, and friends) annually.
4. The AHSA will showcase a variety of high-quality training sessions by implementing an annual training institute based on training needs identified.
5. The AHSA will increase capacity on the local level by encouraging each Head Start Class (parents, directors, staff, and friends) to engage in local meetings to discuss specific topics or issues that may affect the operation of their local program.
6. The AHSA will continue to build strong partnerships and high-quality comprehensive services to children and families through ongoing collaboration.
7. The AHSA supports and fully participates in the national Dollar per Child Campaign in order to receive ongoing support from NHA on Capitol Hill for EHS/HS programs.
8. The AHSA supports and encourages all EHS/HS programs to become state quality approved through the Arkansas' Better Beginnings Quality Rating Improvement System.
9. The AHSA works closely with the HSSCO in providing better support and services for children of military, homeless, and foster care families who are identified in the HS, EHS, and MSHS programs.
10. The AHSA supports and encourages grantee participation in all state-level events in order to enhance their program systems and services.

For more information, please visit the website at www.arheadstart.org or call 1-866-371-0740.

The **Arkansas Head Start Association** is a non-profit membership organization dedicated

to meeting the needs of Arkansas children and families. It represents more than 10,000 children, 3,000 staff, and 22 Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant-Seasonal Head Start programs in Arkansas. Directors, Staff, Parents, and Friends work together to promote Head Start and support initiatives that affect children and families.

Mission Statement

The Arkansas Head Start Association's mission is to promote structured leadership and collaboration on the state and local levels by planning, informing, advocating, and delivering innovative and quality trainings, technical assistance, and support to Early Head Start, Head Start, and Migrant-Seasonal Head Start directors, staff, parents, and friends in the state of Arkansas.

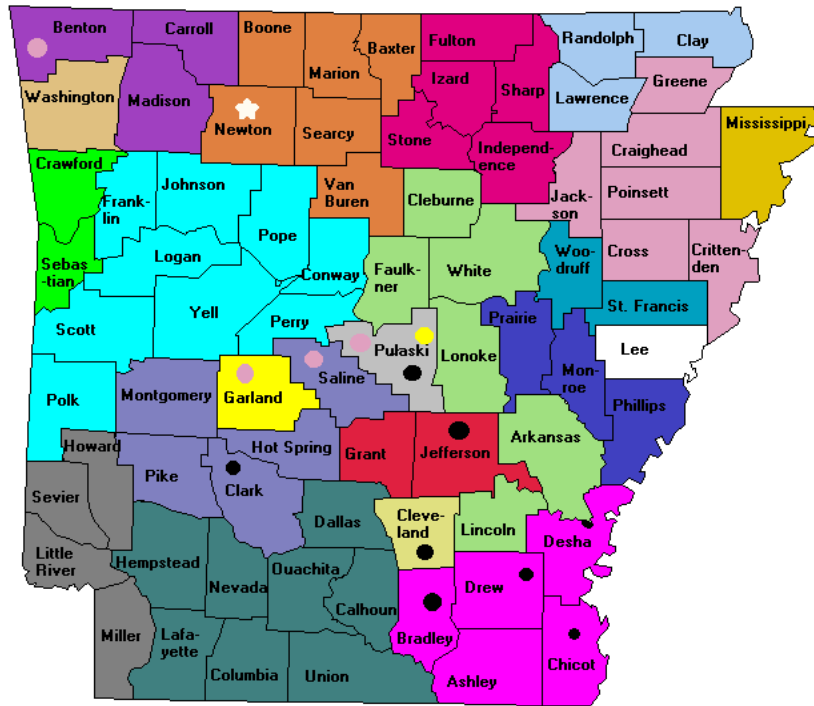
Vision Statement

The vision of the Arkansas Head Start Association is to demonstrate excellence through Early Head Start, Head Start, Migrant-Seasonal Head Start, and local communities, exhibiting compliance in providing high-quality services to children birth to five and their families, while maintaining a strong commitment to building competent and dependable staff.

Arkansas Programs

- ✚ **Head Start programs** serve low-income three and four year old children and their families. The purpose is to promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. There are 20 Head Start grantees in Arkansas serving 7,558 children and families.
- ✚ **Early Head Start (EHS) programs** serve low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women. The purpose of EHS is to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote healthy family functioning. There are 14 EHS grantees serving 1,870 children and families.
- ✚ **Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS/CCP)** serve low-income families with infant and toddlers in a child care setting with wraparound services from Early Head Start. There are 3 grantees serving 380 children and families.
- ✚ **Migrant/Seasonal Head Start programs** serve children birth to five years of age and their families. Migrant families move from one geographic location to another for agriculture work. Seasonal families work primarily in seasonal agriculture and have not moved in two years. There are 2 Migrant-Seasonal Head Start grantees serving 447 children and families.

Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant/Seasonal Head Start in Arkansas



Agency	Headquarters	Phone	Counties Served
Arkansas Early Learning, Inc. HS/EHS/EHS-CCP	Jonesboro	(870) 931-1172	Benton (EHS Only), Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Garland (EHS Only), Greene, Jackson, Poinsett, Pulaski (EHS Only), Saline (EHS Only)
Black River Area Development Corporation HS/EHS	Pocahontas	(870) 892-4547	Clay, Lawrence, Randolph
Central Arkansas Development Council HS/EHS	Malvern	(501) 332-5426	Clark, Hot Spring, Pike, Montgomery, Saline
Cleveland County School/Cleveland County HS	Rison	(870) 325-6324	Cleveland
Community Action Program of Central Arkansas HS/MSHS/EHS	Conway	(501) 329-0977	Arkansas, Cleburne, Faulkner, Lincoln, Lonoke, White, (MSHS: Bradley, Desha, White)
Little Bitty City Enrichment Center HS	Hot Springs	(870) 330-7916	Howard, Little River, Miller, Sevier
Community Services Office, Inc. HS/EHS/EHS-CCP	Hot Springs	(501) 623-3545	Garland, Pulaski (EHS-CCP Only)
EOA of Washington County HS/EHS	Fayetteville	(479) 521-5571	Washington
Families and Children Together, Inc. HS/EHS	El Dorado	(870) 862-4545	Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Lafayette, Nevada, Ouachita, Union
Head Start Child and Family Services, Inc. HS/EHS	Van Buren	(479) 474-9378	Crawford, Sebastian
Mid Delta Community Services HS	Helena	(870) 338-6406	Monroe, Phillips, Prairie
Mississippi County Arkansas EOC HS/EHS/MSHS	Blytheville	(870) 776-1054	Mississippi (MSHS: Craighead, Greene, Mississippi, Poinsett)
★ Newton County Special Services Corporation EHS	Jasper	(870) 446-2682	Newton (EHS Only)
Northcentral Arkansas Development Council HS	Batesville	(870) 793-3234	Fulton, Independence, Izard, Sharp, Stone
Northwest Arkansas HS	Bentonville	(479) 636-7317	Benton, Carroll, Madison
Ozark Opportunities, Inc. HS/EHS	Harrison	(870) 741-9406	Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton, Searcy, Van Buren
Pine Bluff Jefferson County EOC HS	Pine Bluff	(870) 536-0046	Grant, Jefferson
Save the Children (East AR) HS	Forrest City	(870) 494-4010	Lee, St. Francis, Woodruff
Save the Children (West AR) HS/EHS	Russellville	(479) 567-5701	Conway, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Perry, Polk, Pope, Scott, Yell
Southeast AR Community Action Corporation HS	Warren	(870) 226-2668	Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, Drew
UAMS HS/EHS	Little Rock	(501) 570-5000	Pulaski
UAPB EHS-CCP	Pine Bluff	(870) 575-8809	Bradley, Clark, Chicot, Drew, Jefferson, Pulaski

For more information on Head Start in Arkansas, contact the Arkansas Head Start Association and Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office at 1-866-371-0740 or go to www.arheadstart.org.