

Arkansas Head Start Association Fact Sheet

The **Arkansas Head Start Association** is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to meeting the needs of Arkansas children and their families. It represents more than 11,000 children, 3,000 staff, and 21 Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant-Seasonal Head Start programs in Arkansas. The Arkansas Head Start Association includes five classes: Directors, Staff, Parents, Friends, and Associate Members. These classes work together to promote Head Start and support initiatives that affect children and families. The Arkansas Head Start Association also provides training and networking opportunities for grantees in Arkansas.



Mission Statement

The Arkansas Head Start Association promotes the leadership to local grantees in achieving the identified goals:

- **Striving for Excellence** -The Arkansas Head Start Association promotes a high quality, comprehensive child development program for economically deprived children birth to 5 years of age, thus ensuring school and life successes.
- **Targeting At-Risk Families** -The Arkansas Head Start Association addresses the issues of child care, family literacy, alcohol and substance abuse, violence, adolescent and child health, and the multi-faceted needs of families in a changing society through a comprehensive approach. Focus on each issue is accomplished through a partnership for parents, Head Start programs and the community.
- **Building Strong Partnerships** -The Arkansas Head Start Association fosters an approach to program development utilizing broad-based linkages and community partnerships involving public, private and corporate sectors

Vision Statement

As a professional organization, the Arkansas Head Start Association, a collaborative group of agencies and programs pledges to advocate, communicate, and partner at the community and state levels to enhance and ensure the provision of high quality outcome-oriented services to children and families.

Arkansas Programs

- **Head Start program** serves 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 19 Head Start grantees in Arkansas serving 10,011 children and families in all 75 counties.
- **Early Head Start (EHS) program** serves 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 10 Early Head Start grantees serving 1,196 children and families.
- **Migrant/Seasonal Head Start program** serves 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. Community Action Program for Central Arkansas serves as the lead grantee with two delegate grantees. They serve 388 children and families.

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