

# Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Updates

September 21, 2022

Tonya Williams

[Tonya.I.Williams@dhs.Arkansas.gov](mailto:Tonya.I.Williams@dhs.Arkansas.gov)

(501) 320-8953



# Licensed Child Care/Early Childhood Programs in AR

- Currently 2,128 licensed programs
  - 1,574 Centers
  - 229 Family Child Care Homes
  - 143 Out of School Time
  - 9 Registered Family Child Care Homes
  - 173 Early Intervention Day Treatment (EIDT)
- Capacity=181,258
- <https://arkdhs.force.com/elicensing/s/search-provider/find-providers?tab=CC>

# Quality of Child Care in AR

- Better Beginnings/AR Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Currently 3 Levels
  - 380 Not participating
  - 550 Level 1
  - 478 Level 2
  - 720 Level 3
- Military Child Care/Department of Defense

Ranked by WalletHub overall as number 1 in Early Education Systems:

[2022's States with the Best & Worst Early Education Systems \(wallethub.com\)](https://wallethub.com)

# Child Care during the Pandemic

- 48 Licensed programs permanently closed
    - 4 Family Child Care Homes
    - 7 School Age/Out of School Time
    - 37 Centers
  - 260 programs approved during the same time
    - 45 Licensed Family Child Care Homes
    - 4 Registered Family Child Care Homes
    - 26 School Age/Out of School Time
    - 185 Centers
- Data from March 20, 2020-September 16, 2022

# COVID Relief Funding

- \$ 41 million-CARES
- \$119 million-CRRSA
- \$464 million ARPA
- \$624 million Total
  
- We have expended \$478 million of the COVID Relief Funds directly to child care/early childhood programs since late spring of 2020
  
- In comparison, the state's annual federal child care funding is \$80 million

# American Rescue Plan Funds

- Expansion to date:
  - 1,755 Infants
  - 2,119 Toddlers
  - 2,964 School Age
  - 80 Family Child Care Homes
  - 30 New sites
- Supporting the Child Care and Early Childhood Workforce
  - TEACH Scholarship
  - WAGE
- Served over 17,000 children/families in essential jobs
- Provided supports to programs for operational, quality improvement, and sustainability

# School Districts with an early childhood license including infants/toddlers

Bald Knob  
Batesville  
Beebe  
Cedar Ridge  
Clarendon  
Cleveland County (Rison)  
Clinton  
Concord  
Deer/Mt Judea  
Drew Central  
Fort Smith  
Highland  
Jackson County

Little Rock  
Magazine  
Marmaduke  
Melbourne  
Midland  
Pangburn  
Paragould  
Rector  
Smackover  
Southside (Batesville)  
South Side Bee Branch  
Two Rivers

We Care. We Act. We Change Lives.

