

Education is now

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Together, we can help young people realize their full potential.

As Heart of Arkansas United Way looks to better measure and communicate our impact, we've updated our language. Our Youth Opportunity impact area encompasses what was formerly our Education focus area - but our priorities haven't changed.

Heart of Arkansas United Way's Youth Opportunity partners are focused on setting up children (18 and under) up for success. The continuum of work begins at birth, ensuring that children enter kindergarten ready to learn, and continues through high school graduation.

Efforts may include:

- Early childhood education: investment in preschool and/or quality childcare, or support for parents of young children.
- Tutoring, mentoring, or other resources aligned with age-appropriate metrics (i.e., reading on grade level, math proficiency, school transitions, career pathways).
- Leadership, character, and durable skill development.

Focused on ALICE

28% of hardworking Arkansans are ALICE: **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. ALICE households have incomes which exceed the Federal Poverty Level, but are not high enough to cover their basic needs. An additional 16% of Arkansans live below the Federal Poverty Level.

We rely on ALICE, and yet ALICE is too often making critical sacrifices to make ends meet.

United Way Community Investment grants in Youth Opportunity are focused on helping children living below the ALICE threshold to thrive. From providing educational resources that may feel out of reach in a typical ALICE household budget to offering support for students facing barriers, we want to know how your work is focused on ALICE.

For more information about ALICE families in our state, visit unitedforalice.org/state-overview/Arkansas.

Research and Resources

Want to learn more? Check out the resources we use to guide our strategy and decision making.

Excel By 8

excelby8.net

The Excel By 8 resource grid shows that supportive educational services in education are holistic and not limited to the classroom. They may extend to out-of-school enrichment activities or the home.

Aspire Arkansas

aspirearkansas.org/education

Aspire Arkansas tracks Relevant Indicators Marking a Child's Path Toward Graduation at a local level:

- Access to Quality Seats for Infants and Toddlers
- Access to Quality Childcare Seats for Preschoolers
- Grade 3 Reading
- Grade 8 Math
- Graduation Rate
- Remediation Rate

Forward Arkansas: The State of Education in Arkansas

forwardarkansas.org

Forward Arkansas's 2023 report outlines priorities for Arkansas students, including early childhood and Pre-K, Literacy, Durable Skills, and Career Pathways.

Research of your own!

We'd love to learn about the research and data you're using to guide your strategy! If your organization is conducting its own research to demonstrate your program's impact, or utilizing other respected sources, please share that with us in your application.