

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

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

Heart of Arkansas United Way's Youth Opportunity partners are focused on setting up children (18 and under) from ALICE families 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 and academic resources aligned with age-appropriate metrics (i.e., reading on grade level, math proficiency, school transitions, career pathways).
- Mentoring and leadership development.

Focused on ALICE

Beginning in 2026, additional weight will be placed on the ALICE component of our grant application.

44% of Arkansas households live below the ALICE threshold. We believe our community has a role to play in filling gaps for ALICE youth, from providing educational resources that may feel out of reach in a typical ALICE household budget to offering support for students facing barriers.

Our grants support work that is focused on ALICE.

Grant applicants can demonstrate their focus on ALICE families and individuals in a number of ways, including location data, program eligibility, household survival budgets, etc. We're looking for data-driven detail about how your work supports ALICE children and youth.

For more information about ALICE in our state, visit unitedforalice.org/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.